

Dominican Institute, Ibadan
Course: Hebrew III TH 300
Instructor: Mr Peniel Momoh
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Class hours: 8.25am to 11.05am
Office hours: Appointment or chance

Course description

In this course the fundamentals of Biblical Hebrew grammar and syntax are taught through reading the Hebrew Bible. The student attains more knowledge of the morphology of constituents within the text of the Hebrew Bible. The aim is translating the Hebrew Bible text clearly and semantically. The course builds on the foundations laid in the Biblical Hebrew I and II courses. It increases your knowledge of Hebrew grammar, syntax and vocabulary. The course enables the student to read and understand the Hebrew Bible with insight and pleasure.

Course objectives

In this course, the student will learn:

- to read the Old Testament in the Hebrew language
- to analyze the morphology of the constituents of the assigned texts
- more Biblical Hebrew vocabulary
- more about the various parts of speech (nouns, verbs, particles)
- more about the derived stems
 - (Niphal, Piel, Pual, Hiphil, Hophal, Hitpael)
- the weak verbs
- to use Biblical Hebrew grammars, lexicons and concordances
- to translate a selection of OT texts from Genesis, Exodus, Deuteronomy, 1 and 2 Samuel, Ruth, and Psalms
- to engage and appreciate exegetical research on the Hebrew Bible

Course requirements

Hebrew I and II are prerequisites for this course. Participation and class attendance is very important. Preparation before class is also crucial. Each student is expected to look at the topic for each week prior to the lecture and get acquainted with it. Online resources are very helpful for learning languages today. Part of this preparation involves preliminary note taking.

Academic integrity policy

You are encouraged to undertake your work yourself. Mere copying of each other's assignment answers is not permitted. If you seek clarification or study assignments with colleagues, it is important instead that you do as much as you can to understand the topic you are tackling.

Plagiarism is prohibited and will not be tolerated. You are expected to respect intellectual property, and value honesty and integrity. Sources you use should be duly acknowledged and properly cited. This is a noble culture we teach at the Dominican Institute, Ibadan.

Grading

Final Exam	60 marks
Term Paper	20 marks
Weekly Quiz	10 marks
Class attendance	10 marks

Course Outline

We shall study the following texts over the course of thirteen (13) weeks. We shall identify new words, study the morphology of certain verses closely, and reflect on the general semantic and pragmatic meanings of the text.

Gen 1.1-28

Gen 2.1-24

Ex 3.1-22

Ex 20.1-26

Num 6:1-27

Deut 5:1-33

Deut 6.1-25

Ruth 1:1-22

1 Sam 1:1-27

1 Sam 16:1-23

2 Sam 12:1-31

2 Sam 13:1-39

Psalm 1

Psalm 8

Psalm 100

Psalm 110

Psalm 150

Bibliography

Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia (BHS) The Hebrew Bible (TaNaK)

Cook, John A. & Robert D. Holmstedt, *Biblical Hebrew: A Student Grammar (draft copy)* (2009).

Dr John Cook and Dr Robert Holmstedt are reputed scholars with significant contributions in Biblical Hebrew studies. Their grammar presents essential material of Biblical Hebrew with insights from modern linguistics. It has thirty lessons to match a thirty week academic year. More importantly, it was written for the classroom. Their exercises are drawn from biblical texts. This grammar has been published as *Beginning Biblical Hebrew: A grammar and illustrated reader* (2013).

Deiana, Giovanni & Ambrogio Spreafico, A guide to biblical Hebrew. Trans. Luke Joseph. Rome: Urbaniana University Press/ Società biblica britannica & forestiera, 1998.

This grammar is the work of two well-published biblical scholars in Rome. It is an excellent *vademecum* for students of Biblical Hebrew. The merit of this elementary grammar lies in its comprehensive brevity. Its exercises are insightful. It has a chrestomathy that introduces the text itself to the students.

Coffey, Henry A. *Accidence of Hebrew Grammar with Exercises*. St. Louis, MO: B. Herder Book Co., 1918.

This 1918 book is excellent for presenting the material in a brief package. This brevity suits a learning curve that does not overwhelm many beginning students.

Lambdin, Thomas O. *Introduction to Biblical Hebrew*. London: Darton, Longman and Todd, 1973.

Lambdin's work is a classic reference grammar. Well utilised in many academic programs, it lies in a class of its own. It is beneficial for its use of transliteration as an aid. It distributes the topics in such a way students meet difficult material gradually. Its exercises are detailed and enlightening. The appendices are a very helpful resource. Working through the fifty-five lessons of the book is with huge rewards. It will take time, discipline and effort.

Weingreen, Jacob. *Practical Grammar for Classical Hebrew*.

Weingreen's grammar offers a clear explanation of each of the various topics. Its exercises are engaging and rewarding for the student who works through them.

Randall Garr, W. *In His Own Image and Likeness: Humanity, Divinity and Monotheism* (Culture and History of the Ancient Near East, eds. B. Halpern, M. H. E. Weippert, Th. P. J. Van den Hout, I. Winter, vol. 15) (Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2003), pp. 1-9, 17-21, 85-92, 117-176, 179-200.

Randall Garr is a Professor of Religious Studies at the University of California in Santa Barbara. His book explores Genesis 1 and its theme of human creation. He argues that within the Priestly tradition humanity is created as a replacement of God's divine community; "human creation marks the decisive moment that P's God separates himself from other gods and institutes monotheism." He discusses the references of God's self-inclusive yet plural first person speech pattern and examines its ramifications within other biblical texts, Randall Garr discusses the divine-human relationship as it is represented by carefully analysing the prepositions and nouns that characterize it. The work highlights some themes and theological concepts elaborated in Gen 1, and then situates the creation of humanity within the programmatic agenda of the Priestly tradition.

(<https://brill.com/view/title/8207>)

Kvam, Kristen E., Linda S. Schearing and Valarie H. Ziegler. *Eve and Adam: Jewish, Christian and Muslim Readings on Genesis and Gender* (Bloomington, IND: Indiana University Press, 1999), pp. 1-40, 371-387.

Kristen E. Kvam is a Professor of Theology at St Paul School of Theology. Kvam's research interests are in Christian doctrine, narrative theology, feminist theory, Luther studies and interfaith relations. Dr. Linda S. Schearing is Professor of Hebrew Bible at Gonzaga University, where she has taught since 1993. Her research interests are Hebrew Scriptures, Biblical Interpretation, Bible and Popular Cultures, and Gender Studies. Valarie Ziegler is Walter E. Bundy Professor of Religious Studies at DePauw University. She is the author of *The Advocates of Peace in Antebellum America* (1992 cloth; 2001, paper), and coeditor of *Eve and Adam: Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Readings on Genesis and Gender* (1999).

Their anthology looks at the interpretation of the Eve and Adam story in Genesis 1-3 by Jewish, Christian and Muslim writers and its relation to determining gender roles. It is a fascinating volume.