

# Hebrew VII (CG HEBRW 207)

Hebrew College

Fall 2014

## Instructor

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Office hours by appointment

## Prerequisites

Hebrew VI (CG HEBRW 206), Intensive Hebrew Grammar (CG HEBRW 215), or equivalent

## Course Description

The focus of this course will be an in-depth study of selected topics in Hebrew grammar, with an emphasis on the grammatical features of Biblical Hebrew. The course will build upon and assumes the students' prior knowledge of general Hebrew grammar, including mastery of the Hebrew verb system. To the extent possible, the texts from which we will draw our illustrations will be coordinated with the Rabbinical School's Shanah Aleph Tanakh Core curriculum.

Classes will consist of "frontal" presentation of grammatical concepts, and of reading texts and applying those concepts. Homework will include exercises and text preparation. The language of instruction will generally be English, although Hebrew will be used where appropriate.

Although the focus of the course will be on pre-Modern Hebrew, connections will be made to the grammar and vocabulary of Modern Hebrew.

## Course Materials

A Hebrew Bible (*Tanakh*), such as one published by Koren Publishers, that repeats pre- and post-positive cantillation marks on the stressed syllable (as will be explained in the first class session)

H.N. Bock, *The Phonology of Classical Hebrew for Students of Modern Hebrew* (instructor-supplied)

F. Brown, S.R. Driver & C.A. Briggs (ed.), *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament with an Appendix Containing the Biblical Aramaic* ("BDB"; any edition)<sup>1</sup>

Optional: J.A. Cook and R.D. Holmstedt, *Beginning Biblical Hebrew: A Grammar and Illustrated Reader* (Baker Academic, 2013)

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<sup>1</sup> A public-domain PDF copy of BDB, indexed with bookmarks to the first and second letters of the entries, is downloadable at

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/16081936/Brown%20Driver%20Briggs%20%28BDB%29.pdf>

## **Syllabus**

### Week 1 and 2

#### Introduction

- Course goals and expectations
- Required materials
- Hebrew's place among the Semitic languages
- History of Biblical Hebrew; the Masoretic text
- Archaic Biblical Hebrew

#### The consonants of Biblical Hebrew

- Inventory
- Convergence of earlier consonants and its significance
- The “gutturals”
- מִפִּיק
- בגדכפת

### Week 3

#### דְּגִשׁ חֹזֵק

The vowel system: introduction

### Week 4 and 5

The vowel system: vowel classification

The שְׁוָאִים

Syllable structure

- Stress, vowel length and syllable closure

- Impact of gutturals

- Identification of קָמֶץ קָטָן

- Final syllables in nouns vs. (i) verbs and (ii) nouns in construct

Effect of stress variation on vowel length

- Segolate nouns

Prefixed particles

### Week 6

Mid-term on Biblical Hebrew phonology

The Biblical Hebrew verb system

- The infinitive construct

- Participles

### Week 7–8

- Expression of the narrative past

- The modal use of יִקְטֹל and יִקְטַל

### Week 9

- The volitives

Week 10

Stative verbs; verbs of interior action; performative verbs

Week 11

The infinitive absolute

Pronoun object suffixes on verbs

Overview of the cantillation system

Week 12

Review

Final exam

## **Reference Materials**

### **Dictionaries**

L. Koehler and W. Baumgartner, *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (2-volume "student edition"; Brill, 2001)

### **Treatises**

J. Blau, *Phonology and Morphology of Biblical Hebrew* (Eisenbrauns, 2010)

W. Gesenius, E. Kautsch, and A. E. Cowley, *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar* (2nd ed.; Clarendon Press, 1910).

P. Joüon, *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew* (trans. and rev. T. Muraoka; Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1996)

C.H.J. van der Merwe, J.A. Naudé, and J.H. Kroeze, *A Biblical Hebrew Reference Grammar* (Sheffield Academic Press, 1999)

M. O'Connor and B.K. Waltke, *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax* (Eisenbrauns, 1990)

F.C. Putnam (ed.), *A Cumulative Index to the Grammar and Syntax of Biblical Hebrew* (Eisenbrauns, 1996)

R. J. Williams, *Hebrew Syntax: An Outline* (2nd ed.; University of Toronto Press, 1976)

I. Yeivin, *Introduction to the Tiberian Masorah* (Scholar's Press, 1980)

### **Tables**

Verbs:

S. Barkaly, S., *לוח הפעלים השלם*, (Reuben Mass, 1970)

Y. Tzedakah, *לוחות הפועל*, (Kiryat Sefer, 1971)

Nouns:

S. Barkaly, *לוח השמות השלם*, (Reuben Mass, 1969)