



Rothberg International School
בית הספר לתלמידים מחו"ל ע"ש רוטברג
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM
האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים



Department of Summer Courses
and Special Programs

המחלקה לקורסי קיץ
ותוכניות מיוחדות

Biblical Hebrew – Elementary Level

48527 / SPLA011

Dr. Barak Dan

June 22 – July 22, 2026

150 Academic Hours, 10 Academic Credits

Contact Details Instructor

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Tentative syllabus

Course Description

The aim of this five week intensive course is to teach the basic grammar (phonology, morphology and syntax) and vocabulary of biblical Hebrew. Starting with the Hebrew alphabet, we will eventually read from different passages of the Bible with the help of a biblical Hebrew lexicon.

Course Requirements

- ***Class attendance and participation***

It is mandatory for all students to attend classes. Failure to attend classes will result in a student being denied the right to partake of the final assignment and receive a final grade in a course. Students who have a justified reason to miss class (illness, mourning, etc.) must communicate with their instructor and the Department of Summer Courses and Special Programs, and complete the material that they have missed.

- ***Preparation of homework***
- ***Final Exam***

Assessment

The final grade of the course is given according to a final exam grade (80%) and a class grade (20%). The class grade is given according to the attendance, participation and homework preparation.

Course Outline

Monday, June 16, 2025 – registration day. Classes start on Tuesday, June 17.

- **Week 1**

Alphabet and vowel signs; Shewa, dagesh and mappiq; nouns and adjectives; the definite article; nominal sentences; prepositions; the construct state; personal pronouns; pronominal suffixes; demonstrative pronouns.

- **Week 2**

Numerals; roots and patterns; verbal stems; tenses and moods; the strong verbs (Qal stem and derived stems).

- **Week 3**

Object suffixes; weak verbs (initial aleph verbs, initial yod verbs, initial nun verbs, final aleph verbs, final yod verbs, hollow verbs and geminate verbs).

Weeks 4–5

Reading and translating.

- **Final Exam – Tuesday, July 21, 2026; 8:30–11:00**
- **Exams returned on July 22.**

The course does not follow a specific textbook. All students should bring to class a Hebrew Bible. It is strongly recommended that students be familiar with the Hebrew alphabet and its vowel signs before the course begins.

Bibliography

A. Dictionaries

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B. Beginners' grammars

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R. Halabe, *Hinneḥ – Biblical Hebrew the Practical Way*, 2 vols. + tool box, Vancouver 2010 / Jerusalem 2011². **Overseas library 492.408 H157 (Hebrew)**

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C. Grammars

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