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Office: 309  
Office Hours: M 12:00-12:50  
M 2:00-3:00

**NEJS 10a: Biblical Hebrew Grammar and Texts**  
Fall 2011 MWTh 1:00-1:50 pm Lown 202

This course offers a systematic, detailed foundation in Biblical Hebrew grammar, reinforced and practiced through reading biblical texts. The understanding of Biblical Hebrew grammar acquired in this class facilitates a deeper and more accurate analysis of biblical texts, sharpening the reader's interpretation and allowing for a fuller appreciation of this ancient corpus of literature.

Students taking this course must have a minimum of one year of college-level Hebrew language study, or its equivalent. Jewish day school knowledge will also usually suffice. You will be asked to complete an ungraded diagnostic on the first day to evaluate your preparedness.

If you have either taken or placed out of Hebrew 20, you will satisfy the University language requirement by taking this course. NEJS 10a satisfies requirements for the major in biblical and ancient Near Eastern studies and the minor requirement for a pre-modern course. If you are uncertain about the appropriateness of this course for you, please consult your adviser or see me.

This course follows a rigorous schedule and swift pace. It will be impossible to do well unless you attend classes regularly and keep up with the work. We will cover a large amount of detailed material, a portion of which you will recognize. However, most of the material will likely be new to you, as we will approach the language according to Semitic philological conventions. We will therefore focus on phonological and grammatical aspects of the language than are not part of Modern Hebrew instruction. Please do not assume that this will be a particularly easy course. If you are worried about your ability to excel in this class, feel free to discuss these concerns with me.

*Required Books* (available in the Brandeis bookstore, online, and in Judaica Reference):

Brettler, Marc Z. *Biblical Hebrew for Students of Modern Israeli Hebrew*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2002.

Brown, F., S. Driver, and C. Briggs. *The Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1997.

*Study and Evaluation:*

Normally, we will cover new material from the textbook on Mondays and Wednesdays. On most Thursdays there will be a brief in-class quiz, which will cover the most recent new material (grammar and vocabulary). The remainder of each Thursday's class will usually be taken up

with reading biblical texts (please plan to bring your BDB to class) and/or reviewing certain concepts covered in class that week (including exercises from the textbook). Biblical readings will focus on the material covered to date.

In preparation for class each day, you should read in advance the assigned material that we will be covering. I strongly recommend that you complete the exercises in the book *after* the relevant class session. An answer key for the textbook will be available on Latte. Unless otherwise stated, exercises from the textbook will not be handed in or graded, although we will go over some of them in class.

Class Preparation and Attendance: 10%

Quizzes: 36%

Midterm Examination: 20%

Final Examination: 34%

Attendance is required at all class sessions, and failure to show up will affect your participation grade. But don't worry, a *reasonable* number of *excused* absences will not have a negative effect on your grade. Please e-mail beforehand if you will not be able to attend.

I will be available for office hours and by appointment. You can also email me at [jmgaines@brandeis.edu](mailto:jmgaines@brandeis.edu). There will also be a Latte page available online for this course for registered students at <http://latte.brandeis.edu>. This page will include the syllabus, copies of handouts, reminders and review notes, the answer key to the textbook, and other useful material.

*Please Be Aware:*

I do not allow cell phones or laptop computers in class. They can be disruptive to you and your classmates. You may bring a dedicated tape recorder to class if you wish. If you have a documented disability that requires you to use a laptop, please see me to discuss an exception.

The university and I require the highest level of academic honesty. You are to complete all quizzes and exams by yourself unless permission is otherwise explicitly given. I would, however, encourage you to collaborate with your classmates while studying and completing non-graded homework.

Any student with a documented disability that will affect his or her work for this course should see me immediately so that I can make proper and reasonable arrangements and accommodations.

*Calendar:* (subject to change)

Please complete readings BEFORE coming to class that day.

1. Thursday, Sept. 1	First day of instruction and diagnostic exam; read <i>Introduction</i>
Monday, Sept. 5	NO CLASS (Labor Day)

2. Wednesday, Sept. 7	Consonants and Vowels: <i>Read chs. 1-2</i>
3. Thursday, Sept. 8	<b>Quiz.</b> Reading and Review
4. Monday, Sept. 12	Marks and Symbols: <i>Read chs. 3-4 and "Pause" on pg. 47</i>
5. Wednesday, Sept. 14	Syllabification: <i>Read ch. 5</i>
6. Thursday, Sept. 15	<b>Quiz.</b> Reading and Review
7. Monday, Sept. 19	Phonology, Part 1: <i>Read ch. 6</i>
8. Wednesday, Sept. 21	Phonology, Part 2: <i>Read ch. 7</i>
9. Thursday, Sept. 22	<b>Quiz.</b> Reading and Review
10. Monday, Sept. 26	Definite Article and Interrogatives: <i>Read ch. 8</i>
11. Wednesday, Sept. 28	Prepositions and Conjunctions: <i>Read ch. 9</i>
Thursday, Sept. 29	NO CLASS (Rosh Hashanah)
12. Monday, Oct. 3	Nouns and Adjectives: <i>Read chs. 10-11</i>
13. Wednesday, Oct. 5	Construct State: <i>Read ch. 12</i>
14. Thursday, Oct. 6	<b>Quiz.</b> Reading and Review
15. Monday, Oct. 10	The Participle: <i>Read ch. 13</i>
16. Tuesday, Oct. 11 Brandeis Thursday	Pronouns: <i>Read ch. 14</i>
17. Wednesday, Oct. 12	Midterm Review
18. Monday, Oct. 17 Brandeis Thursday	<b>Midterm Examination</b>
19. Wednesday, Oct. 19	Suffixes on Singular Nouns: <i>Read ch. 15</i>
Thursday, Oct. 20	NO CLASS (Shemini Atzeret)
20. Monday, Oct. 24	Suffixes on Plural Nouns: <i>Read ch. 16</i>
21. Wednesday, Oct. 26	Numerals: <i>Read ch. 17</i>
22. Thursday, Oct. 27	<b>Quiz.</b> Reading and Review

23. Monday, Oct. 31	Introduction to Verbs: <i>Read ch. 18</i>
24. Wednesday, Nov. 2	<i>Qal</i> Healthy Verbs: <i>Read ch. 19</i>
25. Thursday, Nov. 3	<b>Quiz.</b> Reading and Review
26. Monday, Nov. 7	<i>Qal</i> Verbs with Gutturals: <i>Read ch. 20</i>
27. Wednesday, Nov. 9	<i>Qal</i> פ"נ and פ"ח Verbs: <i>Read ch. 21</i>
28. Thursday, Nov. 10	<b>Quiz.</b> Reading and Review
29. Monday, Nov. 14	<i>Qal</i> of Hollow, פ"ח and פ"ח Verbs, and Geminates: <i>Read ch. 22</i>
30. Wednesday, Nov. 16	<i>Qal</i> Combined Deficiencies and Verbal Suffixes: <i>Read ch. 23</i>
31. Thursday, Nov. 17	<b>Quiz.</b> Reading and Review
32. Monday, Nov. 21	The Derived <i>Binyanim</i> of Healthy Verbs: <i>Read ch. 24</i>
Wednesday, Nov. 23 Thursday, Nov. 24	NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)
33. Monday, Nov. 28	The Derived <i>Binyanim</i> of Unhealthy Verbs: <i>Read ch. 25</i>
34. Wednesday, Nov. 30	Reading Texts (TBD, probably Jonah or Ruth)
35. Thursday, Dec. 1	<b>Reading Quiz.</b> Reading Texts
36. Monday, Dec. 5	Reading Texts
37. Wednesday, Dec. 7	Reading Texts
38. Thursday, Dec. 8	Cumulative Review
39. Monday, Dec. 12	Final Review
TBA	<b>Final Examination</b>