

# Ancient Languages at USJ-Macau

## Biblical Hebrew



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## Biblical Hebrew I Course Outline

### Key Features:

- The Hebrew writing system: consonants, vowel points and auxiliary signs.
- The gender and number of nouns and the changes in syllabic structure, stress and vowel quality caused by morphological inflection.
- The different forms of the article and its syntax.
- The adjective, its morphology, patterns and syntactic structures.
- The use and form of some prepositions
- The perfective of the strong verb

### Intended Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the course, participants ought to be able to:

- recognize the letters and symbols of the Biblical Hebrew writing system,
- write and to read Biblical Hebrew,
- inflect the noun and the adjective according to the correct morphological patterns which may include vocalic reduction.
- recognize the article in its different vocalizations,
- know the inflection of the perfective tense,
- recognize the typical basic Hebrew syntactic structure (SOV),
- have acquired a very basic vocabulary (ca. 50-75 words)

### Evaluation/Assessment:

The course assessment will be made by means of a final exam which will consist of 1) a few simple Hebrew sentences to be transliterated and translated into English, 2) some grammatical questions and 3) a couple of simple English sentences to be translated into Hebrew.

### Topics/Study Plan

<b>Session 1</b>	Introduction to the Hebrew Alphabet The letters for consonantal sounds Introduction to the <i>niqqudôṭ</i> system of the Masorets for denoting vocalic sounds. Hebrew vowel classification and their pointing: historically long vowels, tone-short vowel points, tone-long vowel points. The combination of vowel points with <i>matres lectionis</i> The typical syllabic structure of Hebrew
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	<p>Furtive <i>pátaḥ</i> Reading and transliteration exercises</p>
<b>Session 2</b>	<p>Introducing the shewa: simple and compound shewa. Distinguishing between <i>mobile shewa</i> and <i>quiescent shewa</i>. Rule of initial shewa. The hatephim or reduced vowels and their pointing. The <i>qāmeṣ-ḥāṭûph</i>. The stress and the syllabic structure of Hebrew. The movement of the stress and its prosodic consequences. Reading and transliteration exercises.</p>
<b>Session 3</b>	<p>The <i>dāḡēš</i>: the <i>dāḡēš lene</i> and the <i>dāḡēš forte</i>. The <i>begadkepat</i> and the guttural letters The quiescent letters. Auxiliary signs: the <i>méteḡ</i>, the <i>maqqēph</i> and the <i>mappîq</i>. The definite article and its different vocalizations. The inseparable prepositions and their use on definite nouns The syntax of the article in Hebrew Reading and transliteration exercises</p>
<b>Session 4</b>	<p>The Hebrew noun and its characteristics: gender and number. The patterns and the morphology of gender in Hebrew. The plural and the dual of Hebrew nouns. Vowel reduction in the feminine and plural nouns. The general rules for vowel reduction in nouns. The <i>segolate</i> nouns and their morphology. The reduplication and/or vowel lengthening of monosyllabic nouns. The structure of nominal sentences and the coordinative conjunction. The negation in declarative sentences. The preposition <i>וְ</i> and its different forms. Reading, translation and composition exercises.</p>
<b>Session 5</b>	<p>The adjective in Hebrew; its morphology and patterns. The attributive and predicative syntax of the adjective. The adjective used as a noun. The means of expressing degrees in Hebrew: i. the comparison with <i>וְ</i> and <i>כִּי</i>. ii. the superlative with <i>וְ</i> or with the article.</p>



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	<p>Introduction to the Hebrew Verb: the perfect tense (vs. perfective aspect)</p> <p>The perfect(ive) suffixes/endings.</p> <p>The meaning of the perfect(ive) tense</p> <p>Syntax of verbal sentences: the sign(/preposition) of the Accusative.</p> <p>Final examination</p>
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## Biblical Hebrew II Course Outline

### Key Features:

- The perfective of Guttural verbs.
- Independent pronouns and pronominal adjectives
- The construct and absolute forms of the Hebrew noun
- The morphology of construct in the regular and irregular nouns
- The construct phrase and its internal rules
- The pronominal suffixes applied to nouns and prepositions
- The pronoun and the relative clause
- The Hebrew expression for 'there is/are' and 'to have'

### Intended Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the course, participants ought to be able to:

- recognize and conjugate verbs with guttural consonants
- understand the Hebrew pronominal system with independent and suffixed forms
- recognize the pronominal suffixes applied to regular, irregular and segolate nouns and to some prepositions
- understand and translate nouns and preposition with pronominal suffixes
- express the dative in Hebrew
- translate simple verses from scripture
- have acquired a very basic vocabulary (ca. 100-125 words)

### Evaluation/Assessment:

The course assessment will be made by means of a final exam which will consist of 1) Hebrew sentences and/or simple verses from the Scriptures to be translated into English, 2) grammatical questions and 3) a few sentences to be translated into Hebrew.

### Topics/Study Plan

<b>Session 1</b>	The Hebrew Verb (cont.) The meaning of the Hebrew perfective and its translation. The perfective of Guttural verbs. Introduction to pronouns and pronominal adjectives in Hebrew. The independent and suffixed forms. The independent personal pronouns
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	<p>The demonstratives pronominal adjectives</p> <p>The attributive and predicative syntax of pronouns and their meaning.</p> <p>Translation of Hebrew sentences and simple verses from the Scriptures</p>
<b>Session 2</b>	<p>Introduction to the construct and absolute forms of the Hebrew noun.</p> <p>The construct phrase or chain; its elements and rules of formation</p> <p>Changes to the construct noun endings</p> <p>Changes to the construct noun vocalic structure</p> <p>Patterns of construct forms (aka. Hebrew declensions)</p> <p>The syntax of the construct phrase and the role of the construct phrase within the syntax of the Hebrew clause.</p> <p>The uses, meanings and translation of the construct phrase.</p> <p>Exercises of composition of construct chains.</p> <p>Translation of Hebrew sentences and verses from the Scriptures with the construct chain.</p>
<b>Session 3</b>	<p>Introduction to the pronominal suffixes.</p> <p>The forms of the pronominal suffixes according to gender and number.</p> <p>The different meanings of the pronominal suffixes applied to nouns, prepositions and verbal forms.</p> <p>The objective, subjective and genitival use of the pronominal suffixes: examples from the Scriptures.</p> <p>The Pronominal suffixes applied on to לְ and אֶל .</p> <p>The syntax of לְ + pronominal suffixes and the expression of indirect object (Lat./Gr. dative).</p> <p>The expression of possession in Hebrew (Lat. habere, Gr. ἔχειν).</p> <p>The uses of יָ and אִיךָ + with לְ + pronominal suffixes to describe possession (Lat. esse + dative).</p> <p>Introduction to the relative clause: the relative pronoun אֲשֶׁר and its syntax in Biblical Hebrew (vs וְ of later Hebrew).</p> <p>The perfective of לָ"א Verbs.</p> <p>Exercises of translation of Hebrew sentences and simple verses from the Scriptures.</p>
<b>Session 4</b>	<p>The pronominal suffixes applied to nouns according to patterns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i Pronominal suffixes on masculine singular nouns</li> <li>ii Pronominal suffixes on feminine singular nouns</li> <li>iii Pronominal suffixes on masculine plural nouns</li> <li>iv Pronominal suffixes on feminine plural nouns</li> </ul>



	<p>The definiteness of the noun with pronominal suffixes and their translation.</p> <p>Grammatical exercises and translation of Hebrew sentences and simple verses from the Scriptures.</p>
<b>Session 5</b>	<p>The pronominal suffixes applied to irregular nouns</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>pronominal suffixes applied to בן and שם</li><li>pronominal suffixes applied to אב and אה</li><li>suffixes applied to nouns with diphthongs and miscellaneous forms</li></ol> <p>The pronominal suffixes applied to segolate nouns: the patterns according to gender and number.</p> <p>The pronominal suffixes applied to prepositions (cont.):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>pronominal suffixes applied to עם and את</li><li>pronominal suffixes applied to על and על</li></ol> <p>Grammatical exercises and translation of Hebrew sentences and simple verses from the Scriptures.</p> <p>Final examination</p>



## Biblical Hebrew III Course Outline

### Key Features:

- The active and passive participles: their forms, meanings and translation
- The volitive mode in Hebrew: imperative, cohortative and injunctive
- The waw consecutive and waw disjunctive, uses and meaning
- Perfective and Imperfective in Narrative Sequence
- The nominal and adverbial use of the infinitive construct

### Intended Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the course, participants ought to be able to:

- understand the structure of complex sentences in Hebrew built with the help of the waw consecutive and the waw disjunctive, recognize the difference between the two and translate it accordingly.
- understand the role of the preterit and the imperfect in narrative sequence and translate it appropriately.
- express the different types of volition in Hebrew
- recognize the active and passive participles and the infinitive construct and understand their forms and meaning for a correct translation.
- have improved their understanding and translation skills of Hebrew verses and small texts taken from the Scriptures
- have acquired a basic vocabulary (ca. 150-250 words)

### Evaluation/Assessment:

The course assessment will be made by means of a final exam which will consist of 1) a small Hebrew text to be translated into English, 2) grammatical questions and 3) a small text to be translated into Hebrew.

## Topics/Study Plan

<b>Session 1</b>	<p>The verb in Biblical Hebrew (cont.) Introduction of the active participle: its morphology and inflection. Irregular forms of the active participle. The syntax of the active participle and its tense value. The imperfect tense of the strong verb and the 2nd and 3rd-guttural. The use of the imperfect tense in independent clauses. The directive particle <math>\text{וְ}</math> - , its meaning, stress and translation. Pronominal suffixes applied to the sign of the accusative <math>\text{אֵת}</math></p>
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	<p>Particularities of the relative clauses: semantic insufficiencies and redundancy and the translation of the relative clause in English. Grammatical exercises and translation of Hebrew sentences and verses from the Scriptures.</p>
<p><b>Session 2</b></p>	<p>Semantics and translation of complex Hebrew sentences with the perfective and imperfective: the uses of the Hebrew-“tenses” in narrative sequence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. the wāw consecutive, its vocalizations, meaning and translation:</li> <li>ii. past-time narrative sequence.</li> <li>iii. future-time narrative (and prophetic) sequence</li> </ul> <p>The verb הָיָה with wāw consecutive as a maker of narrative time Introduction to the stative verbs, their morphology, vocalic structure and meaning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. stative verbs in the perfect tense</li> <li>ii. stative verbs and adjectives</li> <li>iii. stative verbs in the imperfect tense</li> </ul> <p>The translation of stative verbs in English The interrogative particles and the interrogative clause Grammatical exercises and translation of Hebrew sentences and verses from the Scriptures.</p>
<p><b>Session 3</b></p>	<p>Introduction to the Volitive Mode in Hebrew:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Imperative</li> <li>ii. Jussive</li> <li>iii. Cohortative</li> </ul> <p>The syntax and transition of the volitional expressions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. the negative אֵל</li> <li>ii. the particle אֵיךְ</li> </ul> <p>Indirect volitives The waw disjunctive: its recognition and translation Grammatical exercises and translation of Hebrew sentences and verses from the Scriptures.</p>
<p><b>Session 4</b></p>	<p>The passive participle: its morphology, syntax and meaning. The value of the passive participle in attributive, predicative and substantivized syntax. The pronominal suffixes applied to the prepositions מִן and עַל with extended stem.</p>



	<p>Reading and translation of Hebrew sentences and verses from the Scriptures. Revision of grammatical items and their translation.</p>
<b>Session 5</b>	<p>The infinitive construct, its morphology, use and translation. The pronominal suffixes applied to the infinitive construct. The nominal and adverbial use of the infinitive construct: structure, meaning and translation. The negation of the infinitive construct. Reading and translation of Hebrew sentences and verses from the Scriptures. Revision of grammatical items and their translation.</p> <p>Final examination</p>



## Biblical Hebrew IV Course Outline

### Key Features:

- The infinitive absolute (emphatic and complementary)
- The verbal stems of the strong verb and their meaning.
- The syntax of the causative stems
- The Pronominal suffixes applied to the verb.
- The הַן אוּס הַנָּה clauses and their translation
- Pronominal Suffixes applied to שׁוֹ and אֵין .

### Intended Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the course, participants ought to be able to:

- form, understand the meaning and translate accordingly the derivate verbal stems.
- to distinguish and translate correctly the uses of the infinitive absolute
- to recognize the pronominal suffixes when applied to verbs and to recognize which verbal form is underneath the transformation prior to the application of the suffix
- translate biblical texts with a moderate degree of difficulty into idiomatic English
- know how to use the Hebrew dictionary
- have acquired a very basic vocabulary (ca. 300-400 words)

### Evaluation/Assessment:

The course assessment will be made by means of a final exam which will consist of 1) a previously seen Hebrew text from the Scriptures to be translated into English without dictionary, and an unseen Hebrew text to be translated into English with the help of a dictionary.

### Topics/Study Plan

<b>Session 1</b>	The infinitive absolute, its morphology, syntax, meaning and translation. The emphatic and complementary infinitive, their distinction and translation. Pronominal suffixes applied to אָהָה , אֵין , אֵשׁ and עוֹד. Introduction to the use of the Biblical Hebrew dictionary Reading, analysis and supervised translation of parts of the Book of Jonah.
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<p><b>Session 2</b></p>	<p>Pronominal suffixes applied to the verb. Pronominal suffixes on the perfect tense i. Changes to perfect tense ending and to the perfect tense vowels. Pronominal suffixes on the imperfect tense i. Changes to imperfect tense vowels Pronominal suffixes on the volitive Reading, analysis and supervised translation of parts of the Book of Jonah with the help of a dictionary.</p>
<p><b>Session 3</b></p>	<p>Introduction to verbal stems. The niph'al stem: its form, meaning and translation. Translation of examples of niph'al verbal forms from the Scriptures. The meaning of niph'al from intransitive and stative verbs. Reading, analysis and supervised translation of parts of the Book of Jonah with the help of a dictionary.</p>
<p><b>Session 4</b></p>	<p>The pi'el stem and its derivatives: pu'al and hithpa'el. The formation, meaning and translation of the pi'el -stems Pronominal suffixes on pi'el Metathesis and assimilation in the hithpa'el stem Clauses beginning with הַהִנֵּה or הִנֵּה Translation of pi'el, pu'al and hithpa'el examples from the Scriptures. Reading, analysis and supervised translation of parts of the Book of Jonah with the help of a dictionary.</p>
<p><b>Session 5</b></p>	<p>The hiph'il and hoph'al stems: their formation, meaning and translation. Pronominal suffixes on hiph'il Translating examples of hiph'il and hoph'al from the Scriptures. Reading, analysis and supervised translation of parts of the Book of Jonah with the help of a dictionary.  Final examination</p>