Course Syllabus
KNB1001HF – Introduction to Biblical Hebrew I
Knox College, Toronto School of Theology
Summer 2020

**IMPORTANT NOTE: *Due to the recent COVID-19 situation, adjustments will be made in order to comply with the regulations and recommendations of both the government and the university. Currently, the plan is to conduct this course through video-conferencing (Zoom) and to follow the schedule below. Course resources and materials, including quizzes and exams, will be posted on Quercus for students to complete as take-home exercises.*

While it goes without saying, please note that this syllabus is a draft and subject to revisions as we all work to find creative and effective alternatives. While we are working to prepare for the long-term, I hope that the crisis will be resolved soon and restrictions lifted, at which time this course will return to its in-class format. Either way, I am really looking forward to the coming semester and to studying Hebrew with all of you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you

Instructor Information

Instructor:	Ryan Ball
E-mail:	ryan.ball@mail.utoronto.ca
Office Hours:	After class or by appointment

Course Identification

Course Number:	KNB1001HF
Course Format:	In-class/video conference (Zoom)
Course Name:	Introduction to Biblical Hebrew I
Course Location:	Knox College. 59 St. George Street, Toronto. Room TBA
Class Times:	Mon, Wed, Fri 9:00am – 12:00pm

Course Description

This intensive course is the first of two courses designed to introduce the student to the basics of Biblical Hebrew grammar and syntax. Parts I (KNB1001HF) and II (KNB1002HS) of the course taken consecutively will give the student the equivalent of a year-long introduction to Biblical Hebrew. This course is intended for both those who wish to acquire Hebrew for use in ministry and for those who intend to go on to graduate academic degrees.
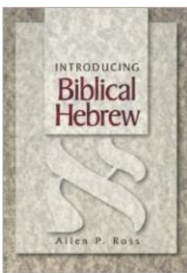
Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course. It is designed for those who have no prior knowledge of Biblical Hebrew.

Course Methodology

Lectures, readings, discussions, exercises, quizzes, and examinations.

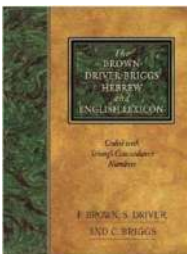## Course Resources

Course Texts

Required: Ross, Allen P. *Introducing Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2001.

Required: Elliger, Karl, and Willhelm Rudolph, eds. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. German Bible Society, 2006.
Note: Do not buy this book yet.

Optional: Brown, F., S. Driver, and C. Briggs. *The Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon.* Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1994.

Course Website

- Quercus: https://q.utoronto.ca/

This course uses Quercus for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT Quercus login page at https://q.utoronto.ca/ and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to Quercus using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Quercus-based courses. (Your course registration with ACORN gives you access to the course website in Quercus.) Information for students about using Quercus can be found at: https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701 . Students who have trouble accessing Quercus should ask the registrar for further help.

Other Resources

- Online video lectures for each of Ross's chapters are provided by Dr. Charles Grebe and are available at the following: http://www.animatedhebrew.com/lectures/index.html. This is a great source for review and in the case that a student misses a class.
- APPS: Many apps are available to assist in vocab memorization. And many are keyed to Ross's textbook. One such app is Memrise, available for both Android and Apple.
- Audio Vocab: Some apps provide audio of the Hebrew words and other do not. Here is a website that provides audio for all vocab keyed to Ross' text: https://biblicallanguages.net/language-courses-i-teach/hebrew-grammar-i-first-year-course/ross-ibh-audio-files/.

Course Learning Objectives/Outcomes

For the student who completes both KNB1001HF and KNB1002HS . . .

Course Goals	Student Outcomes	Course Elements
The aim of this course is for students to . . .	*By the end of the course, students will be able to . . .*	*These outcomes are achieved through these course elements:*
Increase basic knowledge of Biblical Hebrew	• Identify over 450 of the most common Biblical Hebrew words • Reproduce the most important paradigms • Parse verbs	Lectures, weekly quizzes, exercises, exams
Grasp the most important grammatical constructions	• Accurately identify and translate grammatical constructions and simple Hebrew sentences into English	Lectures, weekly quizzes, exercises, exams
Develop skills for academic, pastoral, and personal study	• Learn how to conduct Hebrew word studies	Lectures, discussion

Evaluation

Requirements

1) *Attendance and Participation*. In accordance with school policy, attendance is mandatory. Moreover, attendance and participation constitute a core element of the course and learning experience. Given the nature of intensive language courses, a student who misses class greatly increases the student's risk of falling behind. Students are encouraged to make every effort to attend each class and to inform the instructor if the student will be away.

2) *Quizzes*. At the start of most classes, students will receive a short quiz. While the quiz will focus on the material covered in the previous class, the study of language is unavoidably cumulative. A quiz that is missed for an *excused* absence must be made up by the next class.

3) *Examinations*. There are two exams for this course: one in the middle and one at the end. While the exams are cumulative, they will focus on material covered since the previous exam.

4) *Lesson Exercises*. Each chapter of the textbook includes exercises. These are crucial for the learning of the material. The goal of these exercises is not necessarily to get the right answer but to aid the student's learning by providing review, showing errors, and revealing gaps. Accordingly, the completion of these exercises is not for marks. However, students who diligently work through the exercises after each class generally do much better on quizzes and exams.

Grading Breakdown

Attendance and Participation	10%
Quizzes	25%
Exam 1	30%
Exam 2	35%

Grading System

The grading system for this course is in accordance with the Toronto School of Theology Basic Degree Handbook.

Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalents	Grand Point	Grasp of Subject Matter
A+	90-100%	4.0	Profound and Creative
A	85-89%	4.0	Outstanding
A-	80-84%	3.7	Excellent
B+	77-79%	3.3	Very Good
B	73-76%	3.0	Good
B-	70-72%	2.7	Satisfactory
FZ	0-69%	0	Failure

For a more detailed discussion of the grading system and for information about non-numerical grades (e.g. CR, SDF, INC, etc.), please visit the following:
https://www.tst.edu/resources/BDHandbook%2017-18%20Aug%2030-17.pdf

Late work. Basic Degree students are expected to hand in assignments by the date given in the course outline. The absolute deadline for the course is the examination day scheduled for the course or the last day of exam week for the semester in which the course is taught, whichever is sooner.

This penalty is not applied to students with documented medical or compassionate difficulties or exceptional reasons (e.g., a death in the family or a serious illness); students facing such difficulties are kindly requested to consult with their faculty adviser or basic degree director, who should make a recommendation on the matter to the instructor and request an SDF. The absolute deadline for obtaining an SDF for the course is the examination day scheduled for the course or the last day of examination week, whichever is sooner. An SDF must be requested from the registrar's office in the student's college of registration no later than the last day of exam week in which the course is taken. The SDF, when approved, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following

term. If a student has not completed work but has not been granted an SDF, a final mark will be submitted calculating a zero for work not submitted.

Course grades*.* Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor's college before being posted to ACORN. Grades are not official until they are posted to ACORN. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy found at https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/grading-practices-policy-university-assessment-and-january-26-2012, policies found in the TST conjoint program handbooks, or college grading policy.

Policies

Accessibility*.* Students with a disability or health consideration, whether temporary or permanent, are entitled to accommodation. Students in conjoint degree programs must register at the University of Toronto's Accessibility Services offices; information is available at http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

Plagiarism. Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* and the Graduate program Handbooks linked from http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019. A student who plagiarizes in this course will be assumed to have read the document "Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing" published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges https://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/library_archives/theological_resources/theological_guides/avoiding_plagiarism.html

Other academic offences. TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019 .

Back-up copies. Please make back-up copies of essays before handing them in.

Obligation to check email*.* At times, the course instructor may decide to send out important course information by email. To that end, all students in conjoint programs are required to have a valid utoronto email address. Students must have set up their utoronto email address which is entered in the ACORN system. Information is available at www.utorid.utoronto.ca. The course instructor will not be able to help you with this. 416-978-HELP and the Help Desk at the Information Commons can answer questions you may have about your UTORid and password. Students should check utoronto email regularly for messages about the course. **Forwarding** your utoronto.ca email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from utoronto.ca addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that emails from your course instructor may end

up in your spam or junk mail folder. Students in non-conjoint programs should contact the Registrar of their college of registration.

Email communication with the course instructor. The instructor aims to respond to email communications from students in a timely manner. *All email communications from students in conjoint programs must be sent from a utoronto email address.* Email communications from other email addresses are not secure, and also the instructor cannot readily identify them as being legitimate emails from students. The instructor is not obliged to respond to email from non-utoronto addresses for students in conjoint programs. Students in non-conjoint programs should only use the email address they have provided to their college of registration.

Course Schedule

Note: Topics mays be adjusted depending on how well we progress.

Week	Class	Date	Lessons	Topics
1	1	Mon, May 4	Ross 1-2	Alphabet, Vowels, Syllables
	2	Wed, May 6	Ross 3-5	Shewa, Prepositions, Dagesh, Article
	3	Fri, May 8	Ross 6-8	Quiescent and Gutturals, Nouns
2	4	Mon, May 11	Ross 9-11	Adjectives, Qal Perfect, Pronouns
	5	Wed, May 13	Ross 12, Review	The Construct Relationship
	6	Fri, May 15	**Exam**, Ross 13	Pronominal Suffixes on prepositions
3		Mon, May 18	*No Class – Victoria Day*	
	7	Wed, May 20	Ross 14-16	Suffixes on Nouns, Qal Active Participle
	8	Fri, May 22	Ross 17-19	Qal Imperfect, Consecutive, Stative
4	9	Mon, May 25	Ross 20-21	Imperatives, Volitives, Passive Participle
	10	Wed, May 27	Ross 22-23	Infinitive Construct, Infinitive Absolute
	11	Fri, May 29	Ross 25, Review	Numbers
5	12	Mon, June 1	**Exam**	

Bibliography

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