



# **MESSIANIC JEWISH**

## THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

*Teaching and living a prophetic vision of Jewish life renewed in Yeshua*

### **BH513 - Grammar of Biblical Hebrew Level 1-3**

Robin Van Riper (robinvanriper@verizon.net)

March 29–June 7, 2020; Spring Quarter 2019–2020

Orbund (server11.orbund.com)

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

BH513 is the third and final segment of MJTI's comprehensive one-year graduate level introduction to the grammar of biblical Hebrew. As students continue to build upon the skills taught in the earlier course segments (BH511 and BH512), they encounter narrative and infinitive verb forms and the remaining major verb stems. In this course segment students continue to apply their growing body of grammatical knowledge to the translation and interpretation of larger swathes of narrative and poetic texts of the Tanakh. By the end of this course, students will have acquired a broad-based ability to study and engage Hebrew texts of every book of the Tanakh on an introductory level and will be ready for intermediate course work.

#### **RELATIONSHIP TO THE CURRICULUM**

This course is offered to equip students in the Rabbinic Studies and Jewish Studies programs to take required and elective Tanakh and Rabbinic Writings courses.

#### **RELEVANCE**

A working knowledge of biblical Hebrew is an essential foundation for in-depth Tanakh study. Subtle shades of meaning lie within biblical and rabbinic texts that are best expressed and conveyed in their original language. The nitty-gritty details of biblical Hebrew grammar provide building blocks for the student to grapple with nuanced and in-depth meanings that are simply not revealed in translation. Every “jot and tittle” is the fodder of classic biblical and rabbinic interpretation and opens floodgates for the student to enjoy Scripture and to establish a lifelong pattern of Hebrew text study for personal illumination and, where appropriate, to prepare more nuanced and in-depth public talks.

#### **PREREQUISITE**

BH512 Grammar of Biblical Hebrew Level 1-2 or permission of instructor.

#### **TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS**

Students must have a computer, internet access, and either Microsoft Word (PC or Mac) with Hebrew capability or Davka Writer.

#### **COURSE FORMAT**

The course is offered by live; online video conference meeting weekly. Each session is two hours in duration and will meet on Sundays at 2:15 pm EST.

## REQUIREMENTS

Study assigned materials prior to each session, participate actively in the live sessions; complete and submit weekly homework, and complete and submit mid-term exam and final exam by their due date.

## REQUIRED TEXTS

- Brown, Francis, D.D., D. Litt., S.R. Driver and Charles A. Briggs. *The Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 1994.
- Green, Jennifer S., G. Brooke Lester and Joseph F. Scrivner. *Handbook to A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew, Revised Edition*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2005.
- Seow, C.L. *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew, Revised Edition*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1995.

## RECOMMENDED READING

- A.P. Brown, and B.W. Smith, *A Reader's Hebrew Bible*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008.
- Hackett, Jo Ann. *A Basic Introduction to Biblical Hebrew* with CD. Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers, 2010.

## ASSIGNMENT INSTRUCTIONS AND DEADLINES

- Because learning comes from doing, written assignments are key to the student's success in mastering the course content. Weekly written assignments will be given at the end of each session and are due by Thursday, 11:59 pm Eastern.
- The textbook readings are terse and technical, but useful in that they explain valuable concepts and provide practical tools. Students are asked to read new material cursorily, not getting bogged down with detail, but gaining some general familiarity in preparation for the class session. Class sessions are designed to flesh out the technical language with clear examples and understandable English.
- Prepare assigned Scripture passage each week by reading it aloud.
- A mid-term assessment exam will be given after Unit 4 and will be due by 12:00 noon EST, Sunday, May 5, 2020.
- A final exam covering the course material will be given at the end of the quarter. Students will receive the Exam after the Unit 8 video session and will be due by 11:59 pm Eastern, Sunday, June 7, 2020.

## COURSE OUTLINE

Note: This course outline is subject to minor revision should the progress of the course demand it. All listed readings are from the Seow textbook unless otherwise specified.

Week and Date	Title of Lesson	Required Reading
Week 1 Sun, March 29	The Preterite	Lesson 20 (pp. 225 - 234)
Week 2 Sun, April 5	The Modals: Cohortatives, Imperatives, Jussives	Lesson 21 (pp. 235 - 246)
Pesach Break – April 9-16 – NO CLASSES		
Week 3 Sun, April 19	The Qal Infinitive Absolute	Lesson 22 (pp. 247 - 254)
Week 4 Sun, April 26	The Qal Infinitive Construct	Lesson 23 (pp. 255 - 263)
Week 5 Sun, May 3	The Piel Imperfect	Lesson 24 (pp. 264 - 274)

Week 6 Sun, May 10	The Hiphil Imperfect	Lesson 25 (pp. 275 - 287)
Week 7 Sun, May 17	The Niphal Pattern	Lesson 26 (pp. 288 - 297)
Week 8 Sun, May 24	The Hithpael Pattern	Lesson 27 (pp. 298 - 307)

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After completing this course successfully, the student will be able to:

1. Build upon and strengthen the skills learned in the earlier course segments (BH511 and BH512);
2. Utilize Biblical Hebrew pointing and markers for proper reading and unlocking textual meaning;
3. Understand the function and purpose of each of the seven major verbal patterns of Biblical Hebrew as well as additional minor verbal patterns;
4. Differentiate between the finite, infinitive and modal verb forms in each of the seven major verbal patterns of Biblical Hebrew;
5. Make use of a classical lexicon to explore the range of possible meaning of words and semantic relationships;
6. Appreciate the spectrum of potential meaning of texts revealed within the grammatical forms and patterns;
7. Apply one's grammatical knowledge to the translation and interpretation of segments of narrative and poetic texts of every book of the Tanakh.

### ASSESSMENTS

Grades will be awarded according to the following criteria:

- Quality of preparation and participation in study sessions (40%)
- Mid-Term Exam (20%)
- Final Exam (40%).

### GRADING SYSTEM

Letter grades and grade point equivalents

A	100-94	C+	79.9-78
A-	93.9-90	C	77.9-75
B+	89.9-87	C-	74.9-70
B	86.9-83	F	Below 69.9
B-	82.9-80		

Grades have been assigned the following numerical values for the purpose of computing grade point average:

A 4.0 | A- 3.7 | B+ 3.3 | B 3.0 | B- 2.7 | C+ 2.3 | C 2.0 | C- 1.7 | F 0.0

## STRUCTURED WORK HOURS

18 hours (2 academic hours per week)	Class time (via conference call)
8 hours (1 hour per week)	Optional homework tutorial with teaching assistant
32 hours (4 hours per week)	Written assignments
16 hours (2 hours per week)	Preliminary reading of new materials
8 hours	Mid-Term Exam
8 hours	Final Exam
<b>90 hours</b>	<b>Total structured hours</b>

## STANDARD MJTI ASSESSMENT RUBRICS

Written homework and class participation go hand in hand. Quality of class participation is dependent upon having adequately engaged the textbook material through having thoughtfully done the homework exercises and prepared the reading and oral assignments. Perfection, while valued, is not always the highest goal of these exercises; rather, learning to think through the mechanics of the exercises is the goal. Making mistakes and learning from them is prized. A weekly homework/class participation grade will be assessed based upon the following criteria.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FOR HOMEWORK AND CLASS PARTICIPATION				
	<i>A (exemplary)</i>	<i>B (adequate)</i>	<i>C (passing)</i>	<i>F (failed)</i>
<b><i>Engagement with material</i></b>	Asks insightful and relevant questions	Asks good questions	Asks superficial questions	Doesn't know enough to ask any questions
<b><i>Quality of thought</i></b>	Clearly grasps how to apply rules to exercises	Some grasp of how to apply rules to exercises	Superficial grasp of how to apply rules to exercises	No evident grasp of material
<b><i>Organization</i></b>	Well organized	Sufficiently organized	Poorly organized	Disorganized
<b><i>Accuracy</i></b>	Nearly error-free	Some errors	Many errors	Filled with errors
<b><i>Timely submission of assignments</i></b>	On time	On time	Late, but before class session	Not turned in at all before class session

## MJTI COURSE POLICIES

1. **Preparation:** Each student is expected to be prepared for and to participate in the online class discussions.
2. **Dishonesty and plagiarism:** Any form of dishonesty (copying from another student's work or allowing your work to be copied) or plagiarism (passing off another's work as your own, not giving appropriate credit to another's ideas) will not be tolerated. Such misconduct will result in an automatic "F" grade for the class and a permanent notice placed in the student's academic record. If you are unsure whether an action is permissible or not, please check with the instructor.

3. **Incompletes:** Incompletes will only be granted when the instructor and Academic Dean agree that significant extenuating circumstances have prevented a student from finishing the course work by the stipulated due date. Extenuating circumstances are major, unplanned, unanticipated, and unavoidable disruptions in one's life or work. To request an incomplete, fill out the form "Request for Grade Incomplete" on the MJTI Webpage (<http://www.mjti.org/forms>). The form will be automatically be sent to the Registrar who will request permission from the Instructor and then the Academic Dean for final approval. If the Incomplete grade is granted, the completed course work is due to the instructor within 8 weeks of the final assignment of that quarter. If the work is not completed within this time, the instructor, based on the amount and quality of the work that has been completed, determines whether a reduced grade or a grade of F is warranted. Further extensions of time, justified by extreme circumstances, are granted only by the Academic Dean.
4. **Leave of Absence/Withdrawal:** MJTI programs are designed to permit students to pursue their studies while managing the many responsibilities they have as adult professionals. MJTI will consider a leave of absence for a student who is experiencing hardships that make effective progress in her/his academic program unusually difficult. Students who, due to unforeseen and serious circumstances (including personal, family emergency, medical, and military service) are unable to take or complete a course during the academic year may submit a Request for a Leave of Absence status to the MJTI Registrar's office. Such status is granted at the sole discretion of the Academic Dean.

Students desiring to drop or withdraw from courses after registering may do so by submitting a Change of Course Status form to the Registrar. If the course is dropped before the quarter begins, the only financial penalty charged is a \$30.00 drop/withdrawal fee. If the change is requested after the quarter begins, the student will be refunded according to the refund policy stated on page 28 of the current catalog. Non-attendance does not constitute official withdrawal. A student who begins a course and does not officially withdraw will receive the grade earned for the entire course, which will usually be a failing grade. MJTI does not accept unofficial withdrawal from a class. A student who officially withdraws from a class will receive a W on their transcript.

5. **Extensions:** Extensions of the due date for the final assignments are not permitted. Students who do qualify for an Incomplete should submit as much work as possible by the due date so that the instructor has time to grade all work in time to meet the instructor's deadline for submitting grades to the MJTI office. At the instructor's discretion, work may be accepted later than the due date, with a deduction of grade for each late day.
6. **Change of Student Status:** A student who has registered to take a course for credit may switch to the status of auditor up to, and including, the last day of the fourth week of class by submitting a Change of Status request form to the Registrar (<http://www.mjti.org/forms>). The tuition differential will only be refunded if the request form is received by the end of the fourth week of the course.
7. **Discussion privacy:** The course discussion is accessible only to those registered for the class through Orbund. To ensure a positive forum for course interaction, students are asked to refrain from excerpting lessons or thread discussions from the course in any format. This will enable the cultivation of a safe and honest forum for dialogue.
8. **Instructors and Email:** Regardless of the course format, instructors shall be available during the course week for private contact from students via email. Instructors are required to respond within 24 hours of receipt (Sunday – Thursday) of student inquiries made via email. These guidelines apply both to email from students and to student questions asked of the instructor in asynchronous discussion.
9. **Questions:** If you have any questions regarding assignments, feel free to e-mail them to the instructor at [robinvanriper@verizon.net](mailto:robinvanriper@verizon.net).