

HEB 421 — School of Education Hebrew

Dr. Joel M. Hoffman

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..... Overview

We will focus on Biblical and Rabbinic Hebrew, and, in particular, on decoding and understanding Hebrew, that is to say, looking at a Hebrew text and understand what it says. By the end of the course, you will be able to read almost any pointed or unpointed Hebrew text with the help of a dictionary.

We will review all of the *binyanim*, and cover all of the Hebrew prefixes and suffixes.

We will also discuss some of ways in which Biblical and Rabbinic Hebrew differ, and some of the ways in which both of them differ from modern Israeli Hebrew.

The course will be augmented by a variety of peripheral issues, including not only the content of the Hebrew texts we use to practice, but also etymology and other issues relating to Hebrew.

Along the way, we will include discussions of how you might apply the information you learn to teaching Hebrew in Hebrew schools.

..... Requirements

Because much of the course will consist of class discussion, you should plan on attending every class. If you must miss a class, you will want to make sure to obtain class notes from someone else.

Your grade in the class will reflect class participation, a few small quizzes during the course of the semester, and a final exam.

..... How to Reach Me

You can reach me most conveniently by e-mail: Joel@Exc.Com. You can also reach me by phone: 718/834-1080. You can call as early as you like, but *please don't call after 9:00pm*.

.....Selected Bibliography.....

Most of the course consists of class lectures, handouts, and discussions. However, the following are used to greater or lesser degrees during the course, either to supplement or to reinforce material presented in class.

Of these, the books most worth having on your bookshelf are marked with an asterisk (*). Those most relevant to the course are marked with a plus symbol (+).

Davidson, A.B. 1960. *An Introductory Hebrew Grammar* Edinburgh. /no ISBN/ (+)

Even-Shoshan, Avraham. 1993. המלון העברי המרכז [hamilon ha'ivri ham'rukaz]. Jerusalem. /9651702016/ (+*)

Glinert, Lewis. 1996. *Modern Hebrew: An Essential Grammar*. London and New York. /0415101905/ (*)

Hoffman, Joel M. 2004. *In the Beginning: A Short History of the Hebrew Language*. New York. /0814736548/ (*)

Klein, Ernest. 1987. *A Comprehensive Etymological Dictionary of the Hebrew Language for Readers of English*. New York. /965220093X/ (+*)

Sáenz-Badillos, Angel. 1993. *A History of the Hebrew Language*. J. Elwolde, trans. Great Britain. /0521556341/

Weingreen, Jacob. 1959. *A Practical Grammar for Classical Hebrew*. Cambridge. /0198154224/ (+)