

ACADEMIC OVERVIEW

I. LANGUAGE OF THE BIBLE: HEBREW

HEBREW – AS A LIVING LANGUAGE

A. Winter Ulpan (*February 5-27*)

The student is challenged to begin learning Hebrew as a living language by developing both spoken and written language skills. Along with traditional approaches, this intensive course is enhanced by innovative study methods, including audio and video learning tutorials in a University language laboratory setting. Internalization of Hebrew vocabulary and grammar is encouraged through hearing, speaking, reading and writing Hebrew. This immersion approach leads to long-term retention of vocabulary and verb forms.

Instructor: Hebrew University instructors. Class Hours: 100, Academic Hours: 5

B. Living Biblical Hebrew (*March 1 – June 5*)

The student is introduced to Biblical Hebrew as a living language. The Biblical Hebrew text itself is the basis for reading, listening and speaking. An emphasis is placed on texts used during the Historical Geography study trips.

Instructor: Eyal Nahum, Linguist and Hebrew Instructor. Class Hours: 120, Academic Hours: 6

C. Grammar and Texts of Biblical Hebrew (*March 1-30, Dr. De Blois*) and (*April 1 – June 5, Dr. Notarius*)

Dr. De Blois will focus on Hebrew lexical semantics. This course teaches the student how to discover the meaning of the words they encounter in the Hebrew text. By focusing on the structure of meaning more than on grammatical structure, students will deal with prototypical meaning, metaphorical extensions, semantic domains, etc. These are aspects of the text that few students have learned before but that are essential for a good understanding of the text and for finding appropriate equivalents in the target language.

Dr. Tania Notarius will then center on close reading of Biblical Hebrew and semantic analysis. By teaching the students how to decode text into the metalanguage of semantic and pragmatic categories, she will prepare them to decide how to render this content into their mother tongues.

Instructors: Dr. Reinier de Blois and **Dr. Tania Notarius**. Class Hours: 90, Academic Hours: 6

D. Discourse Analysis of the Hebrew Bible (*May 1 – June 5*)

This course concentrates on the finer points of text analysis of the Hebrew Bible. Students learn about genres in the Bible, paragraph and strophe division, foregrounding and backgrounding devices, focusing mechanisms, etc. The aim is to help the translators identify stylistic features in the source text, determine their function and find ways of expressing equivalent meaning in the receptor language.

Instructor: Dr. Noah Lee. Class Hours: 45, Academic Hours: 3

E. Biblical Hebrew Poetry (*June 7 – July 3*)

This practical course aims to give students an increasing appreciation of how Hebrew poetry works and to help them develop their skills in unfolding the layers of meaning

embedded in the artistry of many Biblical poetical texts. A main emphasis will be on determining the meaning of units of text from within their own various kinds of context. They will learn to discover the Biblical world of the authors and their original audiences in order to read the texts through their eyes. Classes will demonstrate how to analyze and synthesize a variety of biblical poems and students will practice applying these principles and procedures to several assigned poetical texts.

Instructor: Murray Salisbury, Senior Bible Translation Consultant. Class Hours: 60, Academic Hours: 4

II. CONTEXT OF THE BIBLE ***“The Land of the Bible is our Classroom”***

F. Historical Geography and Cultural Backgrounds

Lectures are organized under three main topics: geographical regions, historical periods, and cultural issues. 18 field trips enable the translator to experience the sites of Biblical events, to see archeological evidence of life in Biblical times, as well as to observe flora and fauna of the Land. The Hebrew Bible readings on location enable the translator to understand the biblical text more accurately. This course is a learning experience that cannot be replicated anywhere else in the world! The land serves as a visual experiential dictionary of Biblical Hebrew.

Instructors: Dr. Halvor Ronning and JCBT Staff. Class Hours: 40 + 18 days of field trips

The study program offers 415 class hours of Hebrew – 23 credits

It also offers

18 days of field trips and 40 class hours of lectures in Historical Geography - 6 credits.

Semester Summary of Hours: 29 Academic credits