

**2021 SPECIAL SEMESTER PROGRAM FOR CONSULTANTS AND CONSULTANTS-IN-TRAINING**

***Accredited by the Hebrew University in Jerusalem***

***Rothberg International School***

***Advanced studies in the Translation of the Hebrew Bible  
taught by experienced translation consultants.***

A five-month study program at the Jerusalem Center for Bible Translators in Israel with an option for online studies from anywhere in the world. All participants are expected to come to Israel for the Historical Geography course in May.

Dates: Wednesday, January 27 – Wednesday, June 30, 2021

**The courses are taught in sequence in modules of about one month each so individual courses cannot be taken separately.**

Each course will be taught by experts in their specific areas of Biblical Hebrew.

**1. Spoken Hebrew** - An Introductory Ulpan

Wednesday, January 27 – Thursday, February 18

[The 3 week course of *Modern Hebrew* will be taken via Zoom because of Covid 19 restrictions.]

The student is challenged to begin learning Hebrew as a living language via instruction in Hebrew which aims to enhance the development of 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. 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.

**Hebrew University Instructors**

**Class Hours: 100 Credits: 5**

**2. Living Biblical Hebrew**

Sunday, February 21 – Friday, April 30

**Taught at the same time with courses 3 & 4 during March and April**

The instructor, Eyal Nahum, is an experienced Hebrew teacher. Eyal has developed his own method for teaching Living Biblical Hebrew. He uses modern techniques for rapid language acquisition as applied to Biblical Hebrew.

Classroom instruction and interaction is conducted in Biblical Hebrew. This allows students to internalize the language by building both their memory and their analytical skills in the language, by exploiting all four of the major language skills: reading, listening, speaking and writing. The book to be used in the course (“מבראשית”) was written by Eyal Nahum and is the fruit of many years of teaching Biblical Hebrew as a foreign language.

**\*Note:** *this course can be taken by Zoom in March and April.*

**Instructor:** Eyal Nahum, native Israeli, MA in linguistics (Hebrew University), linguist, *Polis Institute*, Jerusalem.

**Class Hours:** 100 **Credits:** 5

### **3. Biblical Texts and Semantics**

Monday, March 1 – Wednesday, March 31

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.

Extensive readings will focus on the full verbal system and syntax.

*\*Note: this course can be taken by zoom.*

**Instructor:** *Dr. Reinier de Blois*, Director of Nida Institute, American Bible Society.

**Class Hours:** 45 **Credits:** 3

### **4. Discourse Analysis of Biblical Hebrew**

Thursday, April 1 - Friday, April 30

In this course, participants will learn how to analyse the ways in which Biblical Hebrew narrative texts are structured. We will concentrate on participant reference, the verb system, default and marked word order, as well as the effect of text structure on non-chronological arrangement and paragraph division. We will compare narrative with dialogue and other genres, such as found in prophetic texts. Longer stretches of narrative texts, like the Samson and Balaam narratives, will be among the texts studied during the course. Participants will learn more about how they can help teams to translate biblical texts while respecting fully the discourse features of the Hebrew text.

**Instructor:** *Dr. Léonart de Regt*, UBS Global Translation Advisor; Research Fellow, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein; Affiliated Researcher, Free University of Amsterdam.

*\*Note: this course can be taken by zoom.*

**Class Hours:** 45 **Credits:** 3

### **5. Historical Geography, Archaeology and Cultural Backgrounds of the Land of the Bible**

Saturday, May 1 – Monday, May 31

One-month course with comprehensive study tours throughout the land with Hebrew Bible in hand and an eye on Bible translation issues. 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 and vividly. 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, Brian Kvasnica, Dr. Adam Focht and other academic guides and lecturers.**

**\*Note: Attendance in Israel is required for this course.**

**Class Hours: 120    Credits: 6**

## **6. Workshop on Biblical Hebrew Poetry**

Tuesday, June 1 – Wednesday, June 30

Using their own newly revised handbook, *Hebrew Poetry: a guide for understanding and translating* (UBS, 2020), Drs. Wendland and Zogbo walk students through the various genres and characteristics of biblical Hebrew Poetry. Emphasis is placed on learning to identify and understand the functions of important stylistic features on different levels of discourse. As a case-study, participants will be invited to analyze the prophetic poetic book of Joel in an in-depth way, to see how form contributes to meaning, and also to explore what means they can use to create a powerful poetic rendering in their own language (or a language they know).

### **Instructors:**

**Dr. Ernst Wendland**, UBS Translation Consultant; Lutheran Theological Seminary, Lusaka, Zambia; Professor in the Department of Ancient Studies at Stellenbosch University

**Dr. Lynell Zogbo**, UBS translation consultant; former professor at FATEAC, Cote d'Ivoire; and current UBS handbook author

**\*Note: Attendance in Israel is recommended, but optional, for this course.**

**Class Hours: 60    Credits: 4**

## **Summary of Special Study Program for Translators of the Hebrew Bible:**

The **Hebrew Language Studies** offers 350 class hours of Hebrew – 20 academic credits.

The **Historical Geography** course offers 18 days of field trips and 40 class hours of lectures, 120 academic hours - 6 academic credits.

Semester Summary of Hours: 470 academic hours and 26 academic credits from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.