

Advanced Study Program for Translation Consultants and Consultants-in-Training

Hebrew University, Jerusalem

JCBT Spring Semester: **February 1 – June 30, 2023**
Five-month program: 2 months online & 3 months in Israel

PART A: ONLINE - FEBRUARY/MARCH

1. Advanced Reading of Biblical Hebrew Texts - online (3 cr.)

This course focuses on strengthening the students' reading skills and helping them to apply these skills in their (future) role as translation consultant. In addition to a variety of grammatical issues that are relevant for translators and consultants, the students will also learn how to read and understand the critical apparatus, and how to handle textual problems. During the practical classes the students will take turns playing the role of mother tongue translator and translation consultant and discuss with each other the difficulties that emerge both while translating and consulting. The students will also learn how Paratext can be of assistance in the process.

Dates: February 1 - February 28.

2. Discourse Analysis of Biblical Hebrew - online (3 cr.)

During this course, participants will learn how to analyze the ways in which Biblical Hebrew narrative texts are structured. The program 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. Narrative discourse will also be compared in relation to other types of discourse, such as dialogues and other text genres. Longer stretches of narrative texts, like the Samson and Balaam narratives, will be among the texts studied during the course. All through the programme, attention is paid to how participants can apply what has been studied – how to help teams in practical ways to translate biblical texts while respecting fully the discourse features of the Hebrew text

Dates: March 1 – March 31

3. Living Biblical Hebrew - online in February and March, and continued live in Israel (6 cr.)

This course, which is taught concurrently with courses #1 and #2, will help the students immerse themselves in Biblical Hebrew in a way that they are unlikely to have experienced before. They will learn Biblical Hebrew as if it were a contemporary, living language. We

believe that this unique approach will serve to strengthen and deepen the students' proficiency in Biblical Hebrew.

Dates: February 1 - March 31

PART B: IN ISRAEL – APRIL/MAY/JUNE

Upon arrival in Israel the students will be given an immersive 10-day course in **modern Hebrew** along with a first tour around Jerusalem. Modern Hebrew will be continued by weekly informal tutorials (no credits).

Dates: April 3-14

4. Historical Geography and Cultural Backgrounds of the Land of the Bible (6 cr.)

A comprehensive study of the Land of the Bible as the **context of the Biblical text** via *15 days of study tours and series of lectures* covering the historical, geographical, archeological, agricultural and natural characteristics of the land of the Bible.

Dates: April 3 – June 30, alongside the other courses.

5. Semantics of Biblical Hebrew (3 cr.)

Much has been published about the grammar (morphology and syntax) of Biblical Hebrew. One of the linguistic disciplines that have been little explored, however, is Hebrew semantics. This course will use a cognitive linguistic approach to explore ways to get a deeper insight in the meaning of Biblical Hebrew words. One of our major discoveries will be that meaning is structured, and that a deeper understanding of the structure of meaning can help us get a deeper insight in the world behind the Biblical texts.

Dates: April 17 – May 12

6. Biblical Hebrew Poetry (3 cr.)

In this practical course, students will learn how Hebrew poetry works and develop skills in unfolding the layers of meaning embedded in the artistry of many Biblical poems. We will study – in context – multiple poems that have been variously translated in order to determine their most likely meaning. We will ask whether poetic structures and devices point to significant meaning connections in the poem. We will explore the Biblical world of the poets and their original audiences as well as other kinds of context.

Classes will demonstrate how to analyze and synthesize a wide variety of biblical poems, including up to nineteen short Psalms, forty very short (one-verse) Proverbs, four poems from the Prophets, and one each from the Books of Job, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs. Students will practice applying these principles and procedures to almost all of these poems.

Dates: June 1 - June 30.

RESULTS of the study program in terms of **24 Hebrew University credits:**

18 credits in Biblical Hebrew and 6 credits in Historical Geography of the land of the Bible.
