

**EMB2013 HF – Introduction to Biblical Hebrew I**  
**Emmanuel College**  
**Toronto School of Theology**  
**Summer 2021**  
**May 6-June 24 (8 Weeks Intensive)**

***Instructor Information***

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Instructor: Carmen Palmer, PhD  
E-mail: carmen.palmer@mail.utoronto.ca  
Office Hours: By Zoom appointment or email

***Course Identification***

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Course Number: EMB2013HF  
Course Format: Online: Zoom and Asynchronous Activities  
Course Name: Biblical Hebrew I  
Course Location: Zoom  
Class Times: Thursdays (8 weeks) 11:00am – 1:00pm (May 6, 13, 20, 27, June 3, 10, 17, and 24 (and a take home final exam by June 29) N.B. \*\*100% attendance is mandatory.\*\*  
Prerequisites: None

***Course Description***

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The goal of Biblical Hebrew I and its adjoining course, Biblical Hebrew II, is to provide both students training for vocational positions and those students who wish to continue in advanced degree studies with a working knowledge of biblical Hebrew. This working knowledge includes an introduction to the basics of grammar, syntax, and vocabulary of the language of the Hebrew Bible. Over the span of the course, students will have increasing opportunities to practice putting these skills to use for the purposes of reading and translating from the Hebrew Bible. These translation tools can be applied readily for any of the following: homiletical exegesis, scholarly pursuit, and broadening the scriptural imagination.

***Course Resources***

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**Required Course Texts **\*\*TO BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE FROM THE U OF T BOOKSTORE\*\*****

<https://uoftbookstore.com>

- Simon, Ethelyn, Resnikoff, Irene, and Motzkin, Linda. *The First Hebrew Primer*. Third Edition, Revised with New Explanatory Notes. Oakland, CA: EKS Publishing Co., 2005 (and other reprints).
- Simon, Ethelyn. *Answer Book for the First Hebrew Primer*. Third Edition. Oakland, CA: EKS Publishing Co., 2005 (and other reprints).
- Elliger, K. and Rudolph, W., eds. *Biblica Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1967-77. (“BHS”)
- Brown, F., Driver, S. R., and C.A. Briggs, eds. *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*. (Published by both Hendrickson and Oxford University Press.) (“BDB”)

### Course Website(s)

- Quercus: <https://q.utoronto.ca/>

This course uses Quercus for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT Quercus login page at <https://q.utoronto.ca/> and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to Quercus using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Quercus-based courses. (Your course registration with ACORN gives you access to the course website in Quercus.) Information for students about using Quercus can be found at: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701> . Students who have trouble accessing Quercus should ask the Emmanuel College Office for further help (phone: 416-585-4539 email: ec.office@utoronto.ca).

- Personal Website <https://emmanuel.utoronto.ca/about-emmanuel/facultystaff-directory/>

### Course Learning Objectives/Outcomes

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#### Emmanuel College

#### BD Level

Students successfully completing this course will be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes.

#### (A) IN RESPECT OF GENERAL ACADEMIC SKILLS

By the end of Introduction to Biblical Hebrew I, students should develop the following abilities:

1. Recall and recognize Hebrew vocabulary from Chapters 1-16, and, develop a working knowledge of using the biblical Hebrew lexicon (dictionary);
2. Understand and apply introductory basics of biblical Hebrew grammar for comprehension purposes, in particular certain foundational building blocks (e.g. syllabification; roots; verbal patterns);
3. Analyze parts of a sentence with the help of syntax (sentence word order) for the sake of translation; and
4. Integrate the above in reading and translating selected passages from the Hebrew Bible.

### Evaluation

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#### Requirements

The final grade for the course will be based on evaluations in [four] areas:

Basic Degree Students:

The course includes a number of “low stakes” and “higher stakes” items, for cumulative learning that allows both student and instructor to monitor progress and quickly hone in on areas that could require further attention.

(1) *Participation (10%)* – There will be ample opportunity in class for students to work in pairs or small groups, and even to offer peer teaching on selected items. Students should arrive prepared, having completed and checked their own homework, and be ready to participate in class, in various activities in a spirit of open and inquisitive learning.

(2) *Weekly Quizzes (25% total)* (3 quizzes at 5% each, at the beginning of Weeks 3, 6, and 7; and 4 “quizzlets” at 2.5% each, at the beginning of Weeks 2, 4, 5, and 8). There is no quiz in Week 1!

(3) *Midterm (25%)* – To be completed as an asynchronous activity, following Week 4.

(4) *Take-Home Final Exam (40%)* – To be Distributed at the end of Class Week 8, and submitted NO LATER than 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 29. **This assignment is considered as an “exam” and lates will not be graded.**

*\*Whereas quizzes take place at the beginning of class and will be graded by multiple choice, the midterm and final will be graded keeping all of the following elements in mind: **content** accuracy; answer alignment with the **instructions** given; **style** (e.g., grammar in English translations); and **creativity** (as appropriate, e.g., “contribution” to questions asking for choices to be made in translations and explanations offered for those choices).\**

### Grading System - Basic Degree Students

1000, 2000 and 3000 level courses use the following numerical grading scale (see section 11.2 of the BD Handbook):

90-100 (A+)	Exceptional
85-89 (A)	Outstanding
80-84 (A-)	Excellent
77-79 (B+)	Very Good
73-76 (B)	Good
70-72 (B-)	Acceptable
0-69 (FZ)	Failure

Please see the appropriate handbook for more details about the grading scale and non-numerical grades (e.g. SDF, INC, etc).

**Late work (BD).** Basic Degree students are expected to hand in assignments by the date given in the course outline. Quizzes and exams must be taken on the day they are assigned or are due, a missed quiz cannot be taken later on. The absolute deadline for the course is the examination day scheduled for the course or the last day of exam week for the semester in which the course is taught, whichever is sooner.

This penalty is not applied to students with documented medical or compassionate difficulties or exceptional reasons (e.g., a death in the family or a serious illness); students facing such difficulties are kindly requested to consult with their faculty adviser or basic degree director, who should make a recommendation on the matter to the instructor and request an SDF. The absolute deadline for obtaining an SDF for the course is the examination day scheduled for the course or the last day of examination week, whichever is sooner. An SDF must be requested from the registrar’s office in the student’s college of registration no later than the last day of exam week in which the course is taken. The SDF, when approved, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. If a student has not completed work but has not been granted an SDF, a final mark will be submitted calculating a zero for work not submitted.

**Course grades.** Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor’s college before being posted to ACORN. Grades are not official until they are posted to ACORN. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy found at [www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/grading.pdf](http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/grading.pdf), policies found in the TST conjoint program handbooks, or college grading policy.

## ***Policies***

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***Accessibility.*** Students with a disability or health consideration, whether temporary or permanent, are entitled to accommodation. Students in conjoint degree programs must register at the University of Toronto's Accessibility Services offices; information is available at <http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/>. The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

***Plagiarism.*** Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* and the Graduate program Handbooks (linked from <http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks> and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=4871>). A student who plagiarizes in this course will be assumed to have read the document "Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing" published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges [http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library\\_Archives/Theological\\_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm](http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library_Archives/Theological_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm).

***Other academic offences.*** TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>.

***Back-up copies.*** Please make back-up copies of essays before handing them in. \*\*All documents are submitted online in this course; it is the student's responsibility to ensure successful submission.\*\*

***Obligation to check email.*** At times, the course instructor may decide to send out important course information by email. To that end, all students in conjoint programs are required to have a valid utoronto email address. Students must have set up their utoronto email address which is entered in the ACORN system. Information is available at [www.utorid.utoronto.ca](http://www.utorid.utoronto.ca). The course instructor will not be able to help you with this. 416-978-HELP and the Help Desk at the Information Commons can answer questions you may have about your UTORid and password. *Students should check utoronto email regularly* for messages about the course. **Forwarding** your utoronto.ca email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from utoronto.ca addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that emails from your course instructor may end up in your spam or junk mail folder. Students in non-conjoint programs should contact the Registrar of their college of registration.

***Email communication with the course instructor.*** The instructor aims to respond to email communications from students in a timely manner. *All email communications from students in conjoint programs must be sent from a utoronto email address.* Email communications from other email addresses are not secure, and also the instructor cannot readily identify them as being legitimate emails from students. The instructor is not obliged to respond to email from non-utoronto addresses for students in conjoint programs. Students in non-conjoint programs should only use the email address they have provided to their college of registration.

## ***Course Schedule***

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### **Week 1**

*Thursday, May 6* Introduction to Biblical Hebrew, Lessons 1 and 2 (Hebrew alphabet, incl. consonants and vowels)

### **Week 2**

*Thursday, May 13* Quizzlet #1  
Lessons 3 and 4 (Vowels cont'd, syllabification; masculine nouns and verbs, and syntax)

### **Week 3**

*Thursday, May 20* Quiz #1  
Lessons 5, 6, and 30 (Feminine and plural nouns and verbs, prepositions; finding words in the Brown Driver Briggs lexicon ((“BDB”)) using roots)

### **Week 4**

*Thursday, May 27* Quizzlet #2  
Lessons 7 and 8 (The Perfect tense ((Qal perfect aspect)); the direct object; and using the lexicon, cont'd.)

***\*\*Midterm exam\*\* Module to submit by **MONDAY, May 31 at 9:00 a.m.*****

### **Week 5**

*Thursday, June 3* Quizzlet #3  
Lessons 9 and 10 (Singular and plural word pairs ((construct chains)); and introduction to reading the Masoretic Text in the BHS)

### **Week 6**

*Thursday, June 10* Quiz #2  
Lessons 11 and 12 (The Imperfect tense ((Qal perfect aspect)); Drop letter Imperfects ((first-position weak roots in Qal imperfect))

### **Week 7**

*Thursday, June 17* Quiz #3  
Lessons 13 and 14 (Sentences without verbs ((verbless clauses)); the Adjective)

### **Week 8**

*Thursday, June 24* Quizzlet #4  
Lessons (Possessive endings: singular nouns; Prepositions with pronoun endings)

### **Take-Home Exam**

***\*\*Distributed after class on June 24 and due no later than 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 29.\*\****