

**The College of the Humanities
Religion Program: RELI: 2842A
“TOPICS IN JUDAISM: Reading Biblical Hebrew”**

Professor: Shawna Dolansky

Office: Paterson Hall 2a35

Office Phone: 520-2600 X 2103 (*no messages please*)

Office Hours: Thurs 9:30-11:30

Class Hours: Thurs 11:35-2:25

Class Location: Paterson 2a46

Email: shawna_dolansky@carleton.ca

Learning a language – especially an ancient, dead one – can be an intense process, and often the technical aspects of grammar and syntax frustrate and turn off those who might otherwise be interested. Many students want to learn to read the Bible in its original Hebrew; few want to spend hours memorizing linguistic rules and doing grammar exercises. This course offers a unique opportunity to immerse oneself in the ancient text of Genesis and learn the basics of Biblical Hebrew by actually reading the Bible.

The format for the class will consist of each student around the table taking a turn and reading a short passage from Genesis in Hebrew, then translating it with the help of the instructor and classmates through discussions of the grammar and content in terms of its ancient context. No prior knowledge of Hebrew is required, and each student will be able to move at his/her own pace and comfort level. All students will, however, be expected to:

- Practice reading and translating the assigned passages on their own in advance of the class in which we will be reading them together;
- Participate in reading and translating individually out loud in class.

EVALUATION:

1. Attendance and participation in every class = 80%

– if you will be missing a class you will need a medical note or advance permission from the instructor; missed classes will be expected to be made up at a time that is convenient for the instructor.

2. Individual oral final evaluations to be scheduled for the last day of classes = 20%

Required Text:

Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia – the standard reference version of the Hebrew Bible. Copies have been ordered through the campus bookstore, and this book is also available at amazon for about \$45.

Free and very helpful software that provides the Hebrew text along with concordances, commentaries and other reference works for biblical study is available at e-sword.net

Recommended Text:

Hebrew For the Rest of Us: Using Hebrew Tools without Mastering Biblical Hebrew, by Lee M. Fields. This has not been ordered through the bookstore, but is available for \$20 at amazon.ca.

SCHEDULE:

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|-----------------|---|
| Th 9/5 | NO CLASS (Jewish holiday – Rosh Hashanah) |
| | Please review the information on this website: http://www.ancient-hebrew.org/7_home.html Once you've read the intro, go through the 12 lessons (accessed by links on the left hand side of the page) – this will walk you through the basics of the alphabet and vowel system. Do not worry about learning the vocabulary listed in each of the lessons, but do try to practice some of the reading exercises as you go through. The more time and effort you put into learning the alphabet and vowel system now, the easier your class time will be during the rest of the semester! |
| Th 9/12 | Gen 1-3 |
| Th 9/19 | Gen 4-6 |
| Th 9/26 | Gen 7-10 |
| Th 10/3 | Gen 11-15 |
| Th 10/10 | Gen 16-20 |
| Th 10/17 | Gen 21-25 |
| Th 10/24 | Gen 26-30 |
| Th 10/31 | FALL BREAK – NO CLASS |
| Th 11/7 | Gen 31-35 |
| Th 11/14 | Gen 36-40 |
| Th 11/21 | Gen 41-45 |
| Th 11/28 | Gen 46-50 |
| Th 12/5 | Individual oral evaluations |

REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HUMANITIES COURSES

COPIES OF WRITTEN WORK SUBMITTED

Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as "*presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own.*" This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "*substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.*"

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course

GRADING SYSTEM

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

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|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| A+ = 90-100 (12) | B = 73-76 (8) | C - = 60-62 (4) |
| A = 85-89 (11) | B- = 70-72 (7) | D+ = 57-59 (3) |
| A- = 80-84 (10) | C+ = 67-69 (6) | D = 53-56 (2) |
| B+ = 77-79 (9) | C = 63-66 (5) | D - = 50-52 (1) |

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| F | Failure. Assigned 0.0 grade points |
| ABS | Absent from final examination, equivalent to F |
| DEF | Official deferral (see "Petitions to Defer") |
| FND | Failure with no deferred exam allowed -- assigned only when the student has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline. |

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from **FALL TERM** courses is **DEC. 9, 2013**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 8, 2014**.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by **Nov. 8, 2013** for the Fall term and **March 7, 2014** for the Winter term. For more details visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

PETITIONS TO DEFER

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a **FINAL** assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply a deferral of examination/assignment.

If you are applying for a deferral due to illness you will be required to see a physician in order to confirm illness and obtain a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or assignment deadline. This supporting documentation must specify the date of onset of the illness, the degree of incapacitation, and the expected date of recovery.

If you are applying for a deferral for reasons other than personal illness, please [contact](#) the Registrar's Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept.

Deferrals of assignments must be supported by confirmation of the assignment due date, for example a copy of the course outline specifying the due date and any documented extensions from the course instructor.

Deferral applications for examination or assignments must be submitted within **5 working days** of the original final exam.

ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

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| College of the Humanities 520-2809 | 300 Paterson |
| Greek and Roman Studies Office 520-2809 | 300 Paterson |
| Religion Office 520-2100 | 2A39 Paterson |
| Registrar's Office 520-3500 | 300 Tory |
| Student Academic Success Centre 520-7850 | 302 Tory |
| Paul Menton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937 | 501 Uni-Centre |
| Writing Tutorial Service 520-2600 Ext. 1125 | 4 th Floor Library |
| Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125 | 4 th Floor Library |