

SEMESTER BEGINS JANUARY 21, 2025

HOW TO ENROLL

STEP ONE: COURSE SELECTION

- Browse the list of eligible courses, taking note of any prerequisites and the course number and title.
- The cost for a 3-credit course is \$750; a 6-credit course is \$1,500.
- All courses are held on the JTS campus unless otherwise noted.
- Open Classroom auditors in Hebrew language courses must complete all required homework and take tests.

STEP TWO: THE APPLICATION

- Before applying for a Hebrew Language course, contact our office regarding the required placement exam.
- Complete the online application. Applications will be accepted through January 7, 2025.
- A \$50 deposit is due upon application. This amount will be applied to tuition and is refundable only if a class is oversubscribed or canceled due to insufficient enrollment.
- **Please note that enrollment is not guaranteed; classes may be oversubscribed or canceled.**

STEP THREE: ENROLLMENT

- Your application will be reviewed as soon as possible, but not later than January 10, 2025. If your selection is approved, you will receive an email with registration and payment instructions.

REFUNDS/WITHDRAWALS

- To withdraw from your course(s), send an email to openclassroom@jtsa.edu.
- For refunds (minus the \$50 deposit), notification of withdrawal must be received by February 4, 2025.

Questions? Contact us at openclassroom@jtsa.edu.

PARSHANUT: PENTATEUCH WITH RASHI (BIB 5013 Z)

Markose, Howard

M, 10:10 AM–12:55 PM

TAUGHT ONLINE VIA ZOOM

The course is methodologically oriented, designed to help students acquire and refine skills of close reading of the biblical text by integrating a modern literary approach with the study of Rashi and other traditional Jewish commentaries. Students will learn to identify the questions that have been asked for centuries, creating an ongoing dialogue with ancient, medieval, and contemporary close readers. Note: while all of the material is in translation, the course will explore Hebrew nuances (Rashi's lessons in Biblical Hebrew Grammar, translations into Aramaic and Old French, plays on words, gematria, etc.), so you should be comfortable reading in Hebrew.

THE BOOK OF GENESIS (BIB 5327)

Sommer, Benjamin D

T, 10:10 AM–12:55 PM

A close reading of Genesis 1–11. The main goals of this course are (1) to improve students' knowledge of biblical Hebrew grammar, syntax, and narrative style through careful parsing of the text; (2) to examine modern theories pertaining to the composition of these chapters, with particular attention to three modern commentaries on this block of material; and (3) to carry out a close literary reading of these chapters in light of ancient Near Eastern parallels. Prerequisites: (1) Within the JTS Hebrew curriculum, student should have completed Hebrew Level 2 Gimel or completion of BIB 5560. (2) Student should have some familiarity with modern approaches to the composition of the Pentateuch (the Documentary Hypothesis and sources-and-supplements approaches that build on and revise the Documentary Hypothesis).

MEDIEVAL ART, GENDER, AND RELIGIOUS PRACTICE IN ILLUMINATED HEBREW MANUSCRIPTS (HIS 5134)

Siegmund, Stefanie

W, 10:10 AM–12:55 PM

The portrayals of men, women, and children in Jewish manuscript art of medieval Spain, Ashkenaz, and Italy may look like illustrations of their texts or great sources for learning about daily life, but upon closer study they can be seen to reflect and shape the way gender roles, rituals, rabbinic law, and midrash were interpreted. Our readings from gender studies, art history, and medieval studies will take us into the textual and visual representation of women and of gender difference as well into the history of manuscript production. Our primary texts will be the illustrated and illuminated manuscripts available on-line from great special collections of JTS and libraries and museums world-wide. Students will engage in collaborative and individual research work on specific images and themes in the manuscript art or on rabbinic texts such as midrash related to the images.

IS IT STILL POSSIBLE TO BELIEVE IN REVELATION? (JTH 5157)

Bloch, Emmanuel

T, 10:10 AM–12:55 PM

We will examine, compare, and analyze a vast array of Jewish responses to Bible Criticism, including David Zvi Hoffmann, Louis Jacobs, Heschel / Rosenzweig / Buber, Mordechai Breuer, David Weiss Halivni, Yeshayahu Leibowitz, Asa Kasher, Tamar Ross, Norman Solomon, Barukh Schwartz, James Kugel, Ben Sommer. The course will present an examination of the challenges posed by biblical criticism to traditional Judaism, followed by an overview of the main solutions that have been proposed since the nineteenth century. These “older” solutions revolve around assessing the credibility of religious truth claims by their alignment with empirical reality. The course will then delve into recent “constructivist” perspectives on truth, which prioritize the role and significance of religious truth claims in the believer’s life, as a way to address and mitigate the challenges by the academic study of the Hebrew Bible.

INTRODUCTION TO THE PHILOSOPHY OF HALAKHAH (JTH 5195)

Bloch, Emmanuel

R, 10:10 AM–12:55 PM

This course will present a little-known area of research within the larger discipline of Jewish studies. Sometimes called “Philosophy of Halakhah”, this field rests upon the fundamental intuition that Jewish law often serves as the medium through which the rabbis engage the “weightier” matters of life. Halakhic discussions frequently merge with biblical exegesis, theological reflection, social criticism,

folklore, and more. Building from this insight, the course will demonstrate how Jewish legal texts can be mined for non-legal insights of various natures (philosophical, anthropological, and so forth).

DIVINE JUSTICE (RLC 5520)

Kiesele, Eva

T, 2:45-5:25 PM

This course will explore different facets of divine justice through close readings of rabbinic aggadot. Is God the founder, or arbiter of justice? Is God even subject to it? Can God be held responsible for injustice wrought in the world? A central argument of the course will be that to fully appreciate differing conceptions of divine justice, we must consider both human action, and ideas of how injustice ought to be addressed. Can action be undone by retributive measures? Is it the human mind that must be purged? In this way, our sources will shed light not only on varying conceptions of distributive or retributive justice, but also on shifting moral anthropologies. Prerequisite of HEB 5203 or with permission of the instructor.

HEBREW LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

HEBREW ALEF 1 (HEB 1001_Z)

Anzi, Achia

M, W, Th, 6:00-7:40 PM

6-credit course

TAUGHT ONLINE VIA ZOOM

The course covers the 7 Introductory Units and Lessons 1-8 of *Hebrew from Scratch, Vol. 1 (Ivrit min ha-Hathala Alef)*. It takes the student from learning the mechanics of reading and writing unpointed Hebrew to active mastery of 500 words; knowledge of the present tense and infinitive verb forms; reading and enactment of dialogs relating to everyday life; and reading comprehension of short descriptive, narrative and informative texts. Additional course materials, daily assignments and unit tests will be delivered and submitted via Canvas.

HEBREW ALEF 2 (HEB 1101_1)

Rydel, Rebeca

M, T, W & Th, 8:40–9:55 AM

6-credit course

This course, a direct continuation of Heb 1001, brings students near the end of the first volume of *Hebrew from Scratch (Ivrit min ha-Hathala Alef)* with the same emphasis on reading comprehension as well as the development of communication skills. Students will continue to expand their vocabulary and learn—among other basic language forms—the past tense. Additional readings will be assigned from the folktale anthology *Sipur ve-Od Sipur*.

HEBREW ALEF 2 (HEB 1101_2)

Rydel, Rebeca

M, T, W & Th, 10:10–11:25 AM

6-credit course

This course, a direct continuation of Heb 1001, brings students near the end of the first volume of *Hebrew from Scratch (Ivrit min ha-Hathala Alef)* with the same emphasis on reading comprehension and the development of communication skills. Students will continue to expand their vocabulary and learn—among other basic language forms—the past tense. Additional readings will be assigned from the folktale anthology *Sipur ve-Od Sipur*.

HEBREW ALEF 3 (HEB 2103)

Nesher, Nina Brennan

M, T, W & Th, 10:10–11:25 AM

6-credit course

Using the second volume of *Hebrew from Scratch (Ivrit min ha-Hathala Bet)* as textbook, supplemented by additional readings, this course is designed to seamlessly follow Heb 1101 by building on the comprehension and oral-aural skills previously acquired, and continuing to develop vocabulary and grammar knowledge (including the future tense); special attention will be given to dictionary look-up skills.

HEBREW ALEF 3 (HEB 2103 Z)

Allon, Cila

M, T, W, 2:20–3:45 PM

6-credit course

TAUGHT ONLINE VIA ZOOM

Using the second volume of *Hebrew from Scratch (Ivrit min ha-Hathala Bet)* as textbook, supplemented by additional readings, this course is designed to seamlessly follow Heb 1101 by building on the comprehension and oral-aural skills previously acquired, and continuing to develop vocabulary and grammar knowledge (including the future tense); special attention will be given to dictionary look-up skills.

HEBREW BET 1 (HEB 2201_1)

Hochfield, Sarah

M, T & Th, 8:40–9:55 AM

This course continues with the second volume of *Hebrew from Scratch (Ivrit min ha-Hathala Bet)*, complemented with online listening comprehension modules. Students will continue to expand their vocabulary and advance their aural-oral skills. In grammar, the study of the future tense and major prepositions begun in the previous semester will be concluded, and new topics in syntax and the verb system will be introduced.

HEBREW BET 1 (HEB 2201_2)

Hochfield, Sarah

M, T & Th, 10:10–11:25 AM

This course continues with the second volume of *Hebrew from Scratch (Ivrit min ha-Hathala Bet)*, complemented with online listening comprehension modules. Students will continue to expand their vocabulary and advance their aural-oral skills. In grammar, the study of the future tense and major prepositions begun in the previous semester will be concluded, and new topics in syntax and the verb system will be introduced.

HEBREW BET 1 (HEB 2201 Z)

Allon, Cila

M, T, W, 10:00–11:45 AM

TAUGHT ONLINE VIA ZOOM

This course continues with the second volume of *Hebrew from Scratch (Ivrit min ha-Hathala Bet)*, complemented with online listening comprehension modules. Students will continue to expand their vocabulary and advance their aural-oral skills. In grammar, the study of the future tense and major prepositions begun in the previous semester will be concluded, and new topics in syntax and the verb system will be introduced.

HEBREW BET 2 (HEB 5203_1)

Ben-Moshe, Ilona

M, T & Th, 8:40–9:55 AM

This intermediate-level course will bring students to the end of *Hebrew from Scratch (Ivrit min ha-Hathala Bet)*, supplementing the textbook with materials from level gimel books and other readings in Hebrew from various periods (e.g., adapted stories, poems, selections from parashat *hashavua*, midrash, and biblical commentary). Students will learn new grammar topics, develop strategies for reading comprehension and word recognition, and practice conveying ideas and opinions in both speech and writing.

HEBREW BET 2 (HEB 5203_2)

Achia Anzi

M, T & W, 10:10–11:25 AM

This intermediate-level course will bring students to the end of *Hebrew from Scratch (Ivrit min ha-Hathala Bet)*, supplementing the textbook with materials from level gimel books and other readings in Hebrew from various periods (e.g., adapted stories, poems, selections from parashat *hashavua*, midrash, and biblical commentary). Students will learn new grammar topics, develop strategies for reading comprehension and word recognition, and practice conveying ideas and opinions in both speech and writing.

HEBREW GIMEL 2 (HEB 5206)

Zalis, Chana Batya

M, T, W & Th, 11:40 AM–12:55 PM

The second course in a year-long intermediate-level Hebrew language course designed for Division of Religious Leadership students. The course aims to develop reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. It includes a focus on reading comprehension of informative and narrative texts in Hebrew of various periods, classical Hebrew grammar (phonology and the verb system), topics in syntax, vocabulary development, and dictionary usage skills.

HEBREW DALET 2 (HEB 5303)

Meir, Miriam

M, T, W & Th, 11:40 AM–12:55 PM

The goals of this course are to prepare rabbinical students for participation in Hebrew-instructed content courses during their year in Israel and to familiarize them with the cultural and political discourse of Israel. A direct continuation of Hebrew 5301, the course provides further practice in reading advanced materials as well as training in lecture comprehension and listening strategies through authentic video lectures. Students will read unabridged sources relevant to the culture and history of Zionism and the State of Israel.

HEBREW POETRY IN SONG (HEB 5572)

Meir, Miriam

T, 2:45–5:25 PM

The goal of this course is to introduce Hebrew poetry to students who have reached an advanced level. Taught in Hebrew, the course will focus on developing linguistic skills necessary to understand and appreciate poems in Hebrew. In addition to reading works by major modern Hebrew poets, we will discuss their reception in Israeli culture and evaluate musical treatments of these poems in popular Israeli music. Readings are in Hebrew, and students are encouraged to write their papers in Hebrew. Prerequisites: HEB 5203 or the equivalent.

INTRO TO READING ACADEMIC HEBREW TEXTS (HEB 5998 Z)

Krohn, Nitza

By arrangement

In this advanced reading course, students make the transition from modified Hebrew texts on topics of general interest to discipline-specific academic texts, and are trained to move from a general understanding of text to precise, grammar-based comprehension. Special attention is given to the expansion of academic vocabulary. The course also prepares students for the doctoral translation exam. A digital copy of the textbook *Reading Academic Hebrew: An Advanced Learner Handbook* (Krohn, 2011) is available from JTS library. The course is for M.A and Ph.D students, or students who require additional credit in Hebrew Language, and who have completed HEB 5203 or the equivalent. Note: Class meetings are held once a week for 100 minutes and office hours are also offered weekly for one-on-one work on students' special projects. The day and hour of the synchronous weekly online meetings (via Zoom) will be determined by the availability of the majority of the course participants. The timing options are Monday through Thursday from 8am to 1pm EST; please email the instructor ASAP with your preferences.