

Assignments

HEBR/REL-131 & 132:

Elementary Biblical Hebrew I,

Spring 2010

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Books and Other Source Materials for the Assignments:

1. ABZUG, CHARLES (2010). *Foundations of Biblical Hebrew*. Preliminary drafts of several chapters will be provided at points during the semester.
2. SIMON, ETHELYN; RESNIKOFF, IRENE; & MOTZKIN, LINDA (1992). *The First Hebrew Primer, Third Edition*. Berkeley, CA: EKS Publishing Co. PJ4567.5.S57 1992; ISBN 0-939144-15-8.
3. UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS BIBLICAL HEBREW TEXTS (READINGS FROM THE *TaNAKH*): <http://www.laits.utexas.edu/hebrew/heblang/docs/main.shtml>
4. LANDES, GEORGE M. (2001). *Building Your Biblical Hebrew Vocabulary: Learning Words by Frequency and Cognate*. Atlanta, GA: Society of Biblical Literature. PJ4845.L25 2001; 492.4/82421 21; 00051573; ISBN 1589830032; ISBN-13 978-1589830035.
5. BEN ASHER, AARON BEN MOSES (10th century; original compiler/editor); DOTAN, ARON, editor of printed edition (2001). *Biblia Hebraica Leningradensia: Prepared According to the Vocalization, Accents, and Masora of Aaron ben Moses ben Asher in the Leningrad Codex*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc. BS715 2000; 221.4'4—dc21; 00-053907; ISBN 1-56563-089-0 (cloth).
6. Various materials posted on the web site for this course.
7. **Please note** that small but meaningful additional assignments may be given out in class in addition to the formal assignments presented here.

Note Regarding All of the Deliverables in these Assignments:

Please adhere to the following formatting directives:

- (1) Use the homework worksheet form posted on the course web page to do your homework.
- (2) Write your name **clearly and legibly** in the indicated space on the form, and fill in the spaces marked, "Course Number", "Assignment #", "Chapter Number", and "Date."
- (3) Sign your name in the indicated space on the form to certify your compliance with the JMU Honor Code.

Assignments for HEBR/REL-131 (Elementary Biblical Hebrew I), Spring 2010

- (4) Your answers to each exercise should be separated from the answers to the other exercises, and in each case the exercise should be clearly labeled.
- (5) Within each exercise, write your answer to each component (*e.g.*, A, B, C, *etc.*) on a separate line and label it clearly.

HEBR/REL-131:

Assignment 1:

Theme: Attaining Proficiency in Reading and Writing

SIMON *et al.* (1992): Read and study Chapter 1: *The Beginning of the Alphabet*, & Chapter 2: *The Last Half of the Alphabet*.

ABZUG, CHARLES (2010): Read and study **Chapter 4: Learning to Read Hebrew**.

NOTE: I have prepared a set of detailed instructions (a tutorial) to guide you in learning to write the Hebrew script. In doing your homework exercises, please follow closely the guidance provided: [Writing the Alef-Bet](#)

Write out **both** in **Hebrew Block** **and** in **Hebrew Script** style all the letters of the *Alef-Bet*, in order. For those letters that have an ender form write **both** the ordinary form (used at the beginning and in the midst of a word) **and** the ender form (used **only** at the end of a word). Repeat for a total of six times

Assignment 2:

Theme: Enhancing Your Proficiency in Reading and Writing

Part 1: Honing Your Reading Proficiency:

BASIC READING PROFICIENCY: Please take out about 20 minutes per day, **at least** five days per week, to refine and improve your basic reading proficiency. You can accomplish this by going through the set of reading exercises that I have produced for your benefit: [Exercises in the Pronunciation of Hebrew Consonants and Vowels, and in the Reading of Vocalized Hebrew Text](#). I suggest that you accumulate your twenty-minutes-per-day in five four-minute chunks; whenever you want to take a break from your studying from this or other courses, just switch over to the pronunciation exercises for a short while. Doing this for just a few minutes each time, several times per day will hopefully not feel onerous to you, yet will gradually, over time, lead to your attainment of an ever-increasing level of reading proficiency.

Assignments for HEBR/REL-131 (Elementary Biblical Hebrew I), Spring 2010

Part 2: Honing Your Writing Proficiency:

WRITING PROFICIENCY: The *Mini-Scroll of Esther* extends from pages 1049 through 1060 in your *TaNAKH*. Copy out in Hebrew Script the first paragraph of the text (1:1-8) on page 1049.

Part 3: Learning to Spell:

SPELLING PROFICIENCY: Study and practice writing the fourteen geographic names and the twenty-four personal names identified in the two lists near the middle of page 4 of the vocabulary handout given out in class on day 1. Please note that these names will feature prominently in next Thursday's quiz.

Assignment 3:

Theme: Continuing To Enhance Your Proficiency in Reading and Writing

Part 1: Honing Your Reading Proficiency:

BASIC READING PROFICIENCY: Please continue to take out about 20 minutes per day, at least five days per week, to refine and improve your basic reading proficiency. You can accomplish this by going through the set of reading exercises that I have produced for your benefit: [Tutorial and Exercises in the Pronunciation of Hebrew Consonants and Vowels, and in the Reading of Hebrew Text](#). I suggest that you accumulate your twenty-minutes-per-day in five four-minute chunks; whenever you want to take a break from your studying from this or other courses, just switch over to the pronunciation exercises for a short while. Doing this for just a few minutes each time, several times per day will hopefully not feel onerous to you, yet will gradually, over time, lead to your attainment of an ever-increasing level of reading proficiency.

Part 2: Honing Your Writing Proficiency:

WRITING PROFICIENCY: The *Mini-Scroll of Esther* extends from pages 1049 through 1060 in your *Ta-NAKH*. Copy out in Hebrew Script the second and third paragraphs of the text (1:9-15) on pages 1049-1050.

SIMON *et al.* (1992): Do the indicated exercises of chapter 1 and chapter 2.

In Chapter 1, note that *Exercises 1, 2, 4, and 7* are entirely oral; do them conscientiously, but there is nothing in them that you need to write out and hand in. Do, however, write out and hand in your answers to other Chapter 1 exercises as follows: *Exercise 5* and *Exercise 6* both in **Hebrew Block** and in **Hebrew Script** style.

In Chapter 2, note that *Exercises 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8* are entirely oral; do them conscientiously, but you need not write out and hand in anything for these exercises. Do, however, write out and hand in your answers to other Chapter 2 Exercises, as follows: For *Exercise 7*, write out **all 14** of the lines of *Exercise 6* (not just the first four lines from that exercise) in **Hebrew Script**.

Assignment 4:

Theme: Spelling of Proper Nouns

Part 1: Continuing to Hone Your Reading Proficiency:

BASIC READING PROFICIENCY: Please continue to take out about 20 minutes per day, at least five days per week, to refine and improve your basic reading proficiency. You can accomplish this by going through the set of reading exercises that I have produced for your benefit: [Tutorial and Exercises in the Pronunciation of Hebrew Consonants and Vowels, and in the Reading of Hebrew Text.](#) I suggest that you accumulate your twenty-minutes-per-day in five four-minute chunks; whenever you want to take a break from your studying from this or other courses, just switch over to the pronunciation exercises for a short while. Doing this for just a few minutes each time, several times per day will hopefully not feel onerous to you, yet will gradually, over time, lead to your attainment of an ever-increasing level of reading proficiency.

Part 2: Continuing to Hone Your Writing Proficiency:

WRITING PROFICIENCY: The *Mini-Scroll of Esther* extends from pages 1049 through 1060 in your *Ta-NAKH*. Copy out in Hebrew Script the paragraph (1:16-23) occupying the bulk of page 1050.

Part 3: Spelling of Proper Nouns

LEARNING the HEBREW SPELLING and PRONUNCIATION of a GROUP of PROPER NOUNS: Study the spelling and pronunciation of the proper nouns specified on page 7 of the vocabulary handout given out in class. Also, practice writing these proper nouns.

Assignment 5:

Theme: Early Functional Vocabulary: Personal Pronouns

Part 1: Continuing to Hone Your Reading Proficiency:

BASIC READING PROFICIENCY: Please continue to take out about 20 minutes per day, at least five days per week, to refine and improve your basic reading proficiency. You can accomplish this by going through the new set of reading exercises that I have produced for your benefit and handed out in class. I suggest that you accumulate your twenty-minutes-per-day in five four-minute chunks; whenever you want to take a break from your studying from this or other courses, just switch over to the pronunciation exercises for a

Assignments for HEBR/REL-131 (Elementary Biblical Hebrew I), Spring 2010

short while. Doing this for just a few minutes each time, several times per day will hopefully not feel onerous to you, yet will gradually, over time, lead to your attainment of an ever-increasing level of reading proficiency.

Part 2: Further Development of Reading Proficiency: Reading from the TaNAKH

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS BIBLICAL HEBREW TEXTS: This internet site contains 45 individually-clickable selections from the *TaNAKH*, each selection being several verses in length. Select and click on any text of your choice. The text that you have so selected will then be shown in a three-part view:

Part I consists of the original text printed in the Hebrew *Aleph-Bet*, including both vowel markings and cantillation marks.

Part II consists of a transliteration of the text, that is, a rendition of the Hebrew text written in the Latin alphabet that we normally use in writing English, as a guide to assist English-speaking readers in the pronunciation of the Hebrew text.

And *Part III* consists of an unusually precise translation of the Biblical text into English.

Most importantly, when the cursor hovers over a selected verse of the text in *Part I* (the version printed in the Hebrew *Aleph-Bet*), that verse is highlighted in all three parts of the view, and if you click on the Hebrew version of the verse, then you can hear it read over the audio channel reasonably slowly in *very* good (though not perfect) Hebrew. Click on it again, and you will hear it read again.

YOUR ASSIGNMENT: READING FROM THE TaNAKH:

I will ask you to study only a small number of texts from the *TaNAKH*, but to learn to read each of them very well. From the University of Texas web page of Biblical Hebrew texts (<http://www.laits.utexas.edu/hebrew/heblang/docs/main.shtml>), you are to take the following ones: *Genesis* 45: 6-9; and also *I Samuel* 17: 1-5, and 6-11. For each of these texts, go through all of the verses one by one. Attempt to sound out and pronounce the verse on your own, and then click on the verse to hear it read professionally. Compare your own reading to that of the narrator, in order to polish your ability to read and pronounce Hebrew text. Then do it again, and continue to repeat reading that verse until you can read it fairly readily. Only after you have attained proficiency at reading a particular verse should you proceed to the next verse. When you have mastered all of the individual verses in that particular selection, then go back to the first verse in the group and start all over again. The first time you go back, you will find that you must re-learn the first verse, but hopefully you will be able to re-learn it with noticeably less effort than it took you to learn it the first time. Work your way through all three texts this way, and then go back and review each of them. Manage your time carefully so that you can work on this exercise for no more than an hour or two at a time, interspersed with breaks during which you work on assignments from other courses. Once you have mastered these texts, continue to spend a few minutes each day reviewing them.

Part 3: Functional Vocabulary I. Learning the Personal Pronouns:

Assignments for HEBR/REL-131 (Elementary Biblical Hebrew I), Spring 2010

ABZUG, CHARLES (2010): Study **Section 3-5** on personal pronouns, and learn the words appearing in **Tables 3.4** and **3.5** of the 24 March 2010 draft of **Chapter 3: Introductory Vocabulary**. Also, practice writing the personal pronouns that appear in these two tables.

Assignment 6:

Theme: Further Functional Vocabulary: Adjectives and Nouns of Person

Part 1: Continuing to Hone Your Reading Proficiency:

BASIC READING PROFICIENCY: Please continue to take out about 20 minutes per day, **at least** five days per week, to refine and improve your basic reading proficiency. You can accomplish this by going through the set of reading exercises that I have produced for your benefit and handed out in class. I suggest that you accumulate your twenty-minutes-per-day in five four-minute chunks; whenever you want to take a break from your studying from this or other courses, just switch over to the pronunciation exercises for a short while. Doing this for just a few minutes each time, several times per day will hopefully not feel onerous to you, yet will gradually, over time, lead to your attainment of an ever-increasing level of reading proficiency.

Part 2: Reading from the TaNAKH:

YOUR ASSIGNMENT: READING FROM THE *TaNAKH*:

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS BIBLICAL HEBREW TEXTS: From the University of Texas web page of Biblical Hebrew texts (<http://www.laits.utexas.edu/hebrew/heblang/docs/main.shtml>), take *I Samuel* 17: 12-17. Go through all of the verses one by one. Attempt to sound out and pronounce the verse on your own, and then click on the verse to hear it read professionally. Compare your own reading to that of the narrator, in order to polish your ability to read and pronounce Hebrew text. Then do it again, and continue to repeat reading that verse until you can read it fairly readily. Only after you have attained proficiency at reading a particular verse should you proceed to the next verse. When you have mastered all of the individual verses in that particular selection, then go back to the first verse in the group and start all over again. The first time you go back, you will find that you must re-learn the first verse, but hopefully you will be able to re-learn it with noticeably less effort than it took you to learn it the first time. After you have mastered this entire section of text, then go back and review the three sections of text that you had learned previously. Manage your time carefully so that you can work on this exercise for no more than an hour or two at a time, interspersed with breaks during which you work on assignments from other courses. Once you have attained a level of comfort in the reading of this text, continue to spend a few minutes each day reviewing all of the texts whose reading you have studied so far.

Part 3: Functional Vocabulary II. Adjectives and Nouns of Person:

ABZUG, CHARLES (2010): Study **Section 3-6** on Adjectives, and learn the words appearing in **Table 3.6** of the 24 March 2010 draft of **Chapter 3: Introductory Vocabulary**. Also, practice writing all four forms of each of the adjectives that appear in the table.

Assignment 7:

Theme: Further Functional Vocabulary: Nouns of Dual Gender

Part 1: Continuing to Hone Your Reading Proficiency:

BASIC READING PROFICIENCY: Please continue to take out about 20 minutes per day, at least five days per week, to refine and improve your basic reading proficiency. You can accomplish this by going through the set of reading exercises that I have produced for your benefit and handed out in class. I suggest that you accumulate your twenty-minutes-per-day in five four-minute chunks; whenever you want to take a break from your studying from this or other courses, just switch over to the pronunciation exercises for a short while. Doing this for just a few minutes each time, several times per day will hopefully not feel onerous to you, yet will gradually, over time, lead to your attainment of an ever-increasing level of reading proficiency.

Part 2: Reading from the TaNAKH:

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS BIBLICAL HEBREW TEXTS: This internet site contains 45 individually-clickable selections from the *TaNAKH*, each selection being several verses in length. Select and click on any text of your choice. The text that you have so selected will then be shown in a three-part view:

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Part II consists of a transliteration of the text, that is, a rendition of the Hebrew text written in the Latin alphabet that we normally use in writing English, as a guide to assist English-speaking readers in the pronunciation of the Hebrew text.

And *Part III* consists of an unusually precise translation of the Biblical text into English.

Most importantly, when the cursor hovers over a selected verse of the text in *Part I* (the version printed in the Hebrew *Aleph-Bet*), that verse is highlighted in all three parts of the view, and if you click on the Hebrew version of the verse, then you can hear it read over the audio channel reasonably slowly in *very* good (though not perfect) Hebrew. Click on it again, and you will hear it read again.

YOUR ASSIGNMENT: READING FROM THE TaNAKH:

I will ask you to study only a small number of texts from the *TaNAKH*, but to learn to read each of them very well. From the University of Texas web page of Biblical Hebrew texts (<http://www.laits.utexas.edu/hebrew/heblang/docs/main.shtml>), you are to take the following ones: and also *I Samuel* 17: 18-23 and 24-29. For each of these texts, go through all of the verses one by one. Attempt to sound out and pronounce the verse on your own, and then click on the verse to hear it read professionally. Compare your own reading to that of the narrator, in order to polish your ability to read and pronounce Hebrew text. Then do it again, and continue to repeat reading that verse until you can read it fairly readily.

Assignments for HEBR/REL-131 (Elementary Biblical Hebrew I), Spring 2010

Only after you have attained proficiency at reading a particular verse should you proceed to the next verse. When you have mastered all of the individual verses in that particular selection, then go back to the first verse in the group and start all over again. The first time you go back, you will find that you must re-learn the first verse, but hopefully you will be able to re-learn it with noticeably less effort than it took you to learn it the first time. Work your way through all three texts this way, and then go back and review each of them. Manage your time carefully so that you can work on this exercise for no more than an hour or two at a time, interspersed with breaks during which you work on assignments from other courses. Once you have mastered these texts, continue to spend a few minutes each day reviewing them.

Part 3: Functional Vocabulary IV. Nouns of Dual Gender:

ABZUG, CHARLES (2010): Study **Section 3-7** on Nouns of Dual Gender, and learn the words appearing in **Table 3.7** of the 24 March 2010 draft of **Chapter 3: Introductory Vocabulary**. Also, practice writing the Nouns of Dual Gender that appear in the table. Practice writing all forms of every Hebrew word that appears in the table.

Assignment 8:

Theme: Masculine Nouns and Verbs

Part 1: Continuing to Hone Your Reading Proficiency:

BASIC READING PROFICIENCY: Please continue to take out about 20 minutes per day, at least five days per week, to refine and improve your basic reading proficiency. You can accomplish this by going through the set of reading exercises that I have produced for your benefit and handed out in class. I suggest that you accumulate your twenty-minutes-per-day in five four-minute chunks; whenever you want to take a break from your studying from this or other courses, just switch over to the pronunciation exercises for a short while. Doing this for just a few minutes each time, several times per day will hopefully not feel onerous to you, yet will gradually, over time, lead to your attainment of an ever-increasing level of reading proficiency.

Part 2: Reading from the TaNAKH:

YOUR ASSIGNMENT: READING FROM THE *TaNAKH*:

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS BIBLICAL HEBREW TEXTS: From the University of Texas web page of Biblical Hebrew texts (<http://www.laits.utexas.edu/hebrew/heblang/docs/main.shtml>), take *I Samuel* 17: 30-35, 36-40, and 41-47. Go through all of the verses one by one. Attempt to sound out and pronounce the verse on your own, and then click on the verse to hear it read professionally. Compare your own reading to that of the narrator, in order to polish your ability to read and pronounce Hebrew text. Then do it again, and continue to repeat reading that verse until you can read it fairly readily. Only after you have attained proficiency at reading a particular verse should you proceed to the next verse. When you have mastered all of the individual verses in that particular selection, then go back to the first verse in the group and start all over again. The first time you go back, you will find that you must re-learn the first verse, but hopefully

Assignments for HEBR/REL-131 (Elementary Biblical Hebrew I), Spring 2010

you will be able to re-learn it with noticeably less effort than it took you to learn it the first time. After you have mastered this entire section of text, then go back and review the three sections of text that you had learned previously. Manage your time carefully so that you can work on this exercise for no more than an hour or two at a time, interspersed with breaks during which you work on assignments from other courses. Once you have attained a level of comfort in the reading of this text, continue to spend a few minutes each day reviewing all of the texts whose reading you have studied so far.

Part 3: Pointers on the Pointing of the Biblical Text:

SIMON *et al.* (1992): Read and study Chapter 3:

Note that in Chapter 3, *Exercises 1, 3, and 9* are entirely oral; do all these exercises conscientiously, but you need not write out and hand in anything for these exercises. Do, however, write out **in Hebrew Script** (but you no longer need also to write them out in **Hebrew Block**) and hand in your answers to Chapter 3, *Exercises 2, 4, and 5*.

NOTE on Syllabification: The rules for syllabification described in your text at the top of Page 19 and that are also featured in Exercise 1 of Chapter 3 contain several errors: both the **vocal Sh'va** and the various *Chat-TAF-* or combination vowels (*Chat-TAF-Pat-TACH*, *Chat-TAF-Qa-MATZ*, and *Chat-TAF-Seh-GOHL*) are **never** considered to constitute, together with the consonants under which they reside, separate syllables. Instead, each Consonant-together-with-its-vocal **Sh'VA** or with its *Chat-TAF*-vowel, opens up a syllable which concludes with the consonant immediately following it, together with that consonant's vowel, and possibly a third consonant as well. Whenever a syllable containing a third consonant is present at the beginning or in the midst of a word, the third consonant will almost always be vocalized explicitly with a **Sh'va**. This **Sh'va**, however, has a distinctly different character from the **Sh'va** that is present at the beginning of a syllable. It is a **resting Sh'va**. If the syllable composed of three consonants appears at the end of a word, then in **almost** every case the last letter of the syllable will either be bereft of any vowel or will be vocalized with an explicitly-written **Sh'va**. This syllable-closing **Sh'va**, too, is a **resting Sh'va**. Very rarely, there occurs a different form of tri-consonantal syllable at the end of a word with a *Pat-TACH* occurring underneath the final letter, the so-called **furtive Pat-TACH** or, as it is called in Hebrew, a *Pat-TACH G'nu-VAH* (that is, a **stolen Pat-TACH**). Overall, the concept of a **syllable** in Hebrew, as is accepted by the vast majority of professional grammarians of Hebrew and described here, is distinctly different from what it is in English.

Part 4: Masculine Nouns, and Masculine Form of Verbs:

SIMON *et al.* (1992): Read and study Chapter 4:

In Chapter 4, conscientiously do the Oral Review at the beginning of the chapter, and also, orally only, *Exercises 1, 2, and 3* at the end of the chapter. For all of the above, there is nothing that you need to write out and hand in. Do, however, write out **in Hebrew Script** and hand in your answers to *Exercises 4, 5, 6, and 7*. In addition to following the instructions that are printed in the textbook for each of the assigned written exercises, **also** mark each word whose accent is *Mil'EYL* with a leftwards-pointing caret over the +-accented syllable.

Assignment 9:

Theme: Feminine Nouns, and Feminine Form of Verbs

Part 1: Continuing to Hone Your Reading Proficiency:

BASIC READING PROFICIENCY: Please continue to take out about 20 minutes per day, **at least** five days per week, to refine and improve your basic reading proficiency. You can accomplish this by going through the set of reading exercises that I have produced for your benefit and handed out in class. I suggest that you accumulate your twenty-minutes-per-day in five four-minute chunks; whenever you want to take a break from your studying from this or other courses, just switch over to the pronunciation exercises for a short while. Doing this for just a few minutes each time, several times per day will hopefully not feel onerous to you, yet will gradually, over time, lead to your attainment of an ever-increasing level of reading proficiency.

Part 2: Reading from the TaNAKH:

YOUR ASSIGNMENT: READING FROM THE *TaNAKH*:

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS BIBLICAL HEBREW TEXTS: From the University of Texas web page of Biblical Hebrew texts (<http://www.laits.utexas.edu/hebrew/heblang/docs/main.shtml>), take *I Samuel* 17: 48-51, and 52-58. Go through all of the verses one by one. Attempt to sound out and pronounce the verse on your own, and then click on the verse to hear it read professionally. Compare your own reading to that of the narrator, in order to polish your ability to read and pronounce Hebrew text. Then do it again, and continue to repeat reading that verse until you can read it fairly readily. Only after you have attained proficiency at reading a particular verse should you proceed to the next verse. When you have mastered all of the individual verses in that particular selection, then go back to the first verse in the group and start all over again. The first time you go back, you will find that you must re-learn the first verse, but hopefully you will be able to re-learn it with noticeably less effort than it took you to learn it the first time. After you have mastered this entire section of text, then go back and review the four sections of text that you had learned previously. Manage your time carefully so that you can work on this exercise for no more than an hour or two at--- a time, interspersed with breaks during which you work on assignments from other courses. Once you have attained a level of comfort in the reading of this text, continue to spend a few minutes each day reviewing all of the texts whose reading you have studied so far.

Part 3: Feminine Nouns, and Feminine Forms of Verbs:

SIMON *et al.* (1992): Read and study Chapter 5.

In chapter 5, conscientiously do the Oral Review at the beginning of the chapter and also, orally only, **Exercises 1, 2, 3, and 5** at the end of the chapter. For all of the above; there is nothing that you need to write out and hand in. Do, however, write out **in Hebrew Script** and hand in your answers to **Exercises 4, 6, 7, and 8**. In addition to following the instructions that are printed in the textbook for each of the assigned written exercises, **also** mark each word whose accent is **Mil'EYL** with a leftwards-pointing caret

Assignments for HEBR/REL-131 (Elementary Biblical Hebrew I), Spring 2010

over the accented syllable. Please note that for the substitution exercises, it is not necessary to copy laboriously each entire sentence over and over again; write down **only** those words that change.