



Washington University in St. Louis

ARTS & SCIENCES

Asian and Near Eastern Languages and Literatures

The Undergraduate Major or Minor

in

Hebrew Language and Literature

About the Hebrew Program at Washington University

The program enables undergraduates to become highly proficient in Hebrew language and literature. We emphasize culture, oral and written communication, and literary competence. We offer more than four years of modern (Israeli) Hebrew (advanced students may take up to four semesters of the 400-level seminar courses in literature and cultures), an introduction to Biblical Hebrew, seminars in biblical texts, seminars in Rabbinic texts, and the senior honors option. The department curriculum is enriched by courses offered in other departments and programs.

In addition to the on-campus sequence of courses, we encourage students to participate in summer programs in Israel and to study at the Rothberg International School of Hebrew University in Jerusalem for a semester or a year. (Students wishing to study elsewhere in Israel may petition International Studies) There is partial financial support available for summer study in Israel through the Dorot Foundation. We also encourage participation in extracurricular activities on campus including films, the student-run *shulchan ivrit* (Hebrew table), lectures, and the occasional series of coffee and conversation with visiting Israeli writers. Students also participate in Eta Beta Rho, the Hebrew honorary society.

Placement in the first four levels of Modern Hebrew or in Biblical Hebrew or Rabbinic texts is determined by an examination administered before the beginning of the academic year. Department policy requires even students with little or no background to take the placement exam. A student must earn a grade of at least B- to advance to the next semester in Hebrew.

The Major:

To major in Hebrew, students must complete a certain number of lower-level prerequisite courses, 27 upper-level units (courses numbered 300 and above), with no more than 12 units in language courses. A minimum grade of B- in each course is required. The capstone course (ANELL 400) is required, except if a student is writing an honors thesis for the Hebrew major or if a student is a double major doing the capstone course or honors thesis in the other major.

Lower-level courses:

Language: Modern Hebrew 105 (or 151) and 106, Beginning Modern Hebrew; Modern Hebrew 213 and 214, Intermediate Modern Hebrew. Students with previous language training may place out of these courses by taking the placement test.

Literature and Culture: JNE 208F (*Intro to Jewish Civilization*). JNE 350 may be substituted with the permission of the student's advisor and Hebrew section head.

Upper-level courses:

Students pursuing the major must take at least two semesters of MHBR 4010, 402, 420, or 421 and one semester of BHBR 384, 385, or 440. In addition, 18 units of relevant upper-level civilization and humanities courses must be completed, chosen in consultation with the advisor.

Transfer and Study Abroad Credit: No more than 9 units can be earned through transfer credit or Study Abroad.

Senior Honors: Qualified majors (students who have maintained a 3.5 GPA through the sixth semester) are encouraged to apply for senior honors before the end of the junior year. Majors must register for Biblical Hebrew or Modern Hebrew 488 (3 units) in the fall semester and Biblical Hebrew or Modern Hebrew 489 (3 units) in the spring semester. Honors work will be supervised by a three-member departmental honors committee, which plans with each student special language work as needed and an independent honors research paper. Each student must also have a primary honors advisor who is responsible, in consultation with the other members of the committee, for assigning final grades for 488 and 489.

Grade options: The Pass/Fail grade option is **not** allowed for **any** major and minor courses.

The Minor:

Students pursuing a minor in Hebrew are required to complete a minimum of two years of language taken in residence and at least nine units of literature or culture courses chosen in consultation with their minor advisor. Upon placement out of language courses, students are required to take a total of 15 units in literature or culture courses, of which at least one course should be in literature. No more than 3 units can be earned through transfer credit or Study Abroad.

Note that no more than 6 of the 27 upper-level units of the major and no more than 3 of the 15 units of the minor may be counted toward any other major or minor.

Back-credit: Students who test out of Beginning Hebrew are eligible for 3 units of back-credit **only on condition** that they successfully complete at least one semester of Intermediate Hebrew with a grade of B- or better. Students who test out of Intermediate or Third-level Modern Hebrew are eligible for 6 units of back-credit **only on condition** that they successfully complete at least one semester of Third-level Modern Hebrew, Biblical Hebrew or Fourth-level Modern Hebrew. Students for whom Hebrew is a native language may not receive back credit for any language courses.

Courses Offered:

Biblical Hebrew

BHBR 209:	Scriptures and Scripturalism
BHBR 300:	Introduction to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament
BHBR 301:	The Jews in the Ancient World
BHBR 302:	Intro to the History and Culture of Ancient Mesopotamia

BHBR 305:	Wisdom Literature of the Bible
BHBR 348:	Medieval Hebrew Travelogues, Chronicles, and Biographies
BHBR 375:	How the World Began: Creation Myths of the Ancient World
BHBR 384:	Intro to Biblical Hebrew
BHBR 385D:	Topics in Biblical Hebrew Texts
BHBR 400:	Guided Readings in Northwest Semitic Inscriptions
BHBR 4020:	Jerusalem, the Holy City
BHBR 440:	Topics in Rabbinic Texts
BHBR 488:	Independent Work for Senior Honors
BHBR 489:	Independent Work for Senior Honors
BHBR 4983:	Guided Readings in Akkadian
BHBR 4984:	Guided Readings in Aramaic
BHBR 4985:	Guided Readings in Biblical Hebrew
BHBR 500:	Independent Study
JNE 3082:	Intro to Rabbinic Judaism

Modern Hebrew:

MHBR 105DQ, 106DQ:	Beginning Modern Hebrew I, II
MHBR 151D:	Advanced Beginning Modern Hebrew I
MHBR 200:	Topics in Asian & Near Eastern Languages and Literatures
MHBR 213D, 214D:	Intermediate Modern Hebrew I, II
MHBR 320D, 322D:	Third-level Modern Hebrew I, II
MHBR 324:	Hebrew of the Media
MHBR 339C:	Exile: Jews, Literature, and History
MHBR 340:	Israeli Women Writers
MHBR 350:	Israeli Culture and Society
MHBR 385, 387:	Topics in Hebrew Literature
MHBR 4010, 402:	Fourth-level Modern Hebrew I, II
MHBR 420:	Topics in Modern Hebrew Literature
MHBR 421:	Study of Selected Texts in Modern Hebrew Literature
MHBR 488:	Independent Work for Senior Honors
MHBR 4983:	Guided Readings in Hebrew
MHBR 500:	Independent Study
JNE 3061:	Modern Jewish Writers
JNE 3273:	Intro to Israel Studies
JNE 3781:	Israeli Politics

If more information is needed, please contact the Department of Asian and Near Eastern Languages and Literatures office at (314) 935-5156 or visit our website at <http://artsci.wustl.edu/~hebrew> or <http://artsci.wustl.edu/~anell>.

Shalom!