

# Biblical Hebrew Reading: Hebrew Narrative Literature (CRST 421)

Syllabus Spring 2023 (preliminary)

## Course descriptions

Reading through Hebrew Old Testament narrative passages with a concentration on grammar and narrative flow as well as sermon and church lesson applications.

## Course goals

After these courses, successful students will be able to...

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• know the grammatical concepts underlying Biblical Hebrew narrative discourse.</li><li>• know the most common Masoretic signs and their meaning.</li><li>• know the content and structure of the book of Genesis.</li></ul>	FOUNDATIONAL KNOWLEDGE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• read Biblical Hebrew narrative texts with moderate fluency.</li><li>• translate Biblical Hebrew texts into English.</li><li>• analyze grammar and discourse features of Biblical Hebrew narrative.</li></ul>	APPLICATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• understand the interaction of syntax and narrative structure in Biblical Hebrew.</li><li>• develop and express their views on the relation of Hebrew Scripture to theological truth claims and religious practice.</li></ul>	INTEGRATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• relate the message of the book of Genesis to its contemporary reception and significance.</li></ul>	HUMAN DIMENSION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• maintain humility in working with biblical texts in their original language.</li><li>• cultivate interest in ancient texts, languages, and cultures.</li></ul>	CARING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• study Biblical Hebrew narratives using critical editions, dictionaries, and commentaries.</li></ul>	LEARNING HOW TO LEARN

## Instructor and class times

### Instructor:

Daniel Lanz, Ph.D.

Email: [daniellanz@fccollege.edu.pk](mailto:daniellanz@fccollege.edu.pk) (Note: I do not reply to emails on Sundays.)

Office hours: TBD

Office location: [G8FP+378 Lahore](#) (chapel building)

### Class times:

Tue/Thu, 12:30–1:45 PM

Classroom E-234 (E-Block, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

# Books

## Textbooks

*Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. 5th edition. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1997.

Lanz, Daniel. *Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar*. Lahore: 2022.

## Genesis commentaries

Calvin, John. *Commentaries on the First Book of Moses Called Genesis*. Trans. John King. Edinburgh: Calvin Society, 1847. Accessible at <https://ccel.org/ccel/calvin/calcom01/calcom01.i.html>.

Wenham, Gordon J. *Genesis*. 2 vols. Waco, TX: Word Books, 1987.

## Other recommended books

Lanz, Eddy. *Basic Old Testament Hebrew*. Rawalpindi: Eved Adonai, 2013. Available at

<http://www.lanz.li/index.php/hebrew>.

Younas, Saleem. *بائبلی عبرانی کا اساسی تعارف Basic Introduction to Biblical Hebrew*. Gujranwala: Gujranwala Theological Seminary, 2012.

# Grading

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Reading, Interpretation &amp; Recitation</b>	<b>50%</b>
Reading in class	16%
Verb analysis	8%
Conversation	6%
Reading at home	12%
Scripture memory	4%
Recitation	4%
<b>Capstone project (part 2)</b>	<b>16%</b>
early drafts	4%
final draft	8%
presentation	4%
<b>Quizzes and exams</b>	<b>24%</b>
Mid-term exam	8%
Final exam (written)	16%

Note: Percentage-based grading systems tend to value quantity higher than quality. To compensate for this limitation, I do not generally use grades lower than 50%.

**Important: To enter Hebrew Exegesis, students must achieve a grade of C or higher in Hebrew Reading.**

Letter grades correspond to percentage grades as follows:

A	93% and above	A-	90–92%
B+	87–89%	B	83–86%
B-	80–82%	C+	77–79%
C	73–76%	C-	70–72%
D+	67–69%	D	60–66%
F	below 60%		

# Assessments

## Attendance

After a student's second absence, each further absence reduces the *attendance grade* proportionally unless it is unavoidable due to serious illness or bereavement. It is the students' responsibility to

communicate with the professor about missed class periods. **According to university policy, students who attend less than 67 percent of class periods will not be permitted to take the final exam.**

## Reading & Recitation

Students will read texts from Genesis both in class and at home. In-class reading is assessed based equally on quality of Hebrew reading and interpretation. At-home reading is assessed based on quality of Hebrew reading only.

Additionally, students will periodically prepare a text for careful recitation in class. Recitation need not be from memory, but it should be well-prepared with adequate attention to consonants, vowels, accents, and phrasing.

## Verb Analysis

Students will analyze morphologically some of verbs from the texts being read (this includes noting verb root, stem, conjugation, person, gender, number, etc.).

## Scripture Memory

Students will choose one or more passages from Genesis to learn and recite from memory in Hebrew (about 10 verses total).

## Conversation

Participation in class conversation is encouraged and will be reflected in the conversation grade. This includes (i) Hebrew-medium conversation on the content and interpretation of the passage being read and (ii) English-medium conversation on exegetical issues raised by the passage as well as its enduring significance.

## Hebrew Capstone Project

A major focus of the fourth semester of Hebrew is on the completion of the Capstone Project, which is a culmination of each student's study and demonstrates the competency gained over the past two years. The Capstone Project has two parts, corresponding to the two fourth-semester Hebrew courses. Part 2 (literature) belongs to this course, CRST 421, whereas part 1 (language) belongs to CRST 332.

For the literature part of the Hebrew Capstone Project students will analyze a chosen passage from Genesis. Analysis should include translation, syntactic analysis, exegetical discussion, and a brief theological or homiletical reflection.

## Final Exam

The final exam has two parts, corresponding to the two fourth-semester Hebrew courses. The written part of the exam belongs to CRST 332 and focuses on grammar and translation. The oral part of the exam belongs to CRST 421 and focuses on reading, analysis, and interpretation of a text from Genesis.

## Course Calendar

Week	Tuesday	Thursday
Feb 13–17	Genesis 1	Genesis 2
Feb 20–24	Genesis 3	Genesis 4
Feb 27–Mar 3	Genesis 5	Genesis 6
Mar 6–10	Genesis 7	Genesis 8 due: Capstone project translation
Mar 13–17	Genesis 9	Genesis 10
Mar 20–24 <i>Pakistan Day Mar 23</i>	Genesis 11 due: Capstone project questions	Genesis 12
Mar 27–31	Genesis 13	Genesis 14
Apr 3–5 <i>Easter Break Apr 6–10</i>	Genesis 15	
Apr 11–14	Genesis 16	Mid-term exam
Apr 17–19 <i>Eid-ul-Fitr Apr 20–26</i>	Genesis 17	Genesis 18 due: Capstone project exegesis
Apr 27–28		Genesis 19
May 2–Jun 5 <i>Labor Day May 1</i>	Genesis 20	Genesis 21
May 8–12	Genesis 22	Genesis 23
May 15–19	Genesis 24	Genesis 25
May 22–26	Capstone project presentations	Capstone project presentations
May 20–Jun 2	due: Capstone project (pt. 2) draft	
Jun 5–9		Final Exam
		due: Capstone project

The schedule is approximate and subject to change, particularly with respect to the passages mentioned.