

Course Syllabus
TRB19xx – Accessing Hebrew and Greek without Knowing the Languages
Trinity College
Toronto School of Theology
Winter/Spring (January to April) 2023

Instructor Information

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Course Identification

Course Number: TRB19xx
Course Format: *In-class and Online (Synchronous)*
Course Name: Accessing Hebrew and Greek without Knowing the Languages
Course Location: TBD
Class Times: Tuesdays, 7pm to 9pm
Prerequisites: None. (Note that any student that has completed two semesters or more of either Hebrew or Greek within the past four years is ineligible to take the class).

Course Description

Students wishing to specialize in Biblical Studies are often required to study Hebrew and Greek (and some programs even require Aramaic or Syriac). However, students not wishing to specialize in Biblical Studies tend to avoid taking courses in biblical languages. This tends to compromise their understanding of the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible, New Testament/Greek Bible, the Apocryphal texts, Talmudic texts, and Rabbinical literature.

This course offers students the chance to be familiarized with biblical languages—mainly Hebrew and Greek—tools, and resources enabling them to better understand such texts. While the mere knowledge of the Hebrew and Greek alphabet makes it possible for students to access the interlinear Bible and dictionaries, this course goes beyond that to explore basic grammar and syntax to better assist students with exegeting biblical texts. Students will also be trained to use Interlinear Bibles, Concordances, Lexicons, and Commentaries in the original languages. Biblical texts selected will aim to highlight the value of knowing the text in the original language as opposed to translation.

Course Resources

Required Course Texts

- William D. Mounce, *Greek for the Rest of Us. Mastering Bible Study without Mastering Biblical Languages*. Second Ed. Zondervan, 2013.
- Lee M. Fields, *Hebrew for the Rest of Us*. Zondervan, 2008
- *Biblical Hebrew Laminated Sheet* by Gary D. Pratico
- *Biblical Greek Laminated Sheet* by William D. Mounce

Recommended Resources

- Interlinear Bible (Hebrew – Greek)
- Either Logos or Accordance Bible Software at a package level that includes a grammatically tagged version of the Greek New Testament
- Frank X. Braun, *English Grammar for Language Students: Basic Grammatical Terminology Defined and Alphabetically Arranged*.
- William D. Mounce, *Biblical Greek: A Compact Guide*. Zondervan, 2011.
- Miles V. Van Pelt, *Biblical Hebrew: A Compact Guide*. Zondervan, 2012.
- Mounce, William D., *Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.
- Harris, R. Laird, Gleason Archer and Bruce Waltke, *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. 2 Vols. Chicago: Moody, 1980. [Abbreviated TWOT.] (Coded to Strong's numbers.)
- Verlyn D. Verbrugge, *New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology, Abridged*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan. An abbreviated version of the longer volume edited by Colin Brown. Verbrugge lists words alphabetically and by their G/K number and contains excellent discussions of words. A good alternative or addition to Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary.

Course Website(s)

- Quercus: <https://q.utoronto.ca/>

This course uses Quercus for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT Quercus login page at <https://q.utoronto.ca/> and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to Quercus using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Quercus-based courses. (Your course registration with ACORN gives you access to the course website in Quercus.) Information for students about using Quercus can be found at: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701> . Students who have trouble accessing Quercus should ask [insert college contact] for further help.]

Course Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Students successfully completing this course will be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes.

(A) IN RESPECT OF GENERAL ACADEMIC SKILLS

- Demonstrate collaboration and group work skills in language workshops
- Complete quizzes and assignments applying new language skills and techniques

(B) IN RESPECT OF THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONTENT OF ONE OR MORE THEOLOGICAL DISCIPLINES

- Recite the Hebrew and Greek alphabets in order
- Distinguish between grammatical forms (such as verbs, nouns, etc.) in Hebrew and Greek with the assistance of reference works
- Apply their basic understanding of the original languages to better understand the original text and differentiate between the original and the variations in translations and versions
- Utilize tools that better contextualize the text such as biblical archeology, biblical criticism, and manuscripts studies

(C) IN RESPECT OF PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION

- Articulate how increased access to original Biblical languages and exegetical tools contributes to critical self-awareness with regard to faith perspectives and respectful engagement with others

(D) IN RESPECT OF MINISTERIAL AND PUBLIC LEADERSHIP

- Articulate how increased access to original Biblical languages and exegetical tools can be integrated into theological reflection and applied to pastoral work

Evaluation

Requirements

The final grade for the course will be based on evaluations in three areas:

(1) Participation (10%) – Class attendance and participation in workshops

(2) Quizzes (40%) – 8 skills-based quizzes at 5% each

(3) Translation Assignments (50%) – Two assignments, one each in Hebrew and Greek. students will be provided with a few passages of which they choose one passage that they parse, translate with the assistance of a dictionary, and answer questions regarding new insights they have gathered from reading the text in the original language.

Grading System

1000, 2000 and 3000 level courses use the following numerical grading scale (see section 11.2 of the BD Handbook):

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 90-100 (A+) | Exceptional |
| 85-89 (A) | Outstanding |
| 80-84 (A-) | Excellent |
| 77-79 (B+) | Very Good |
| 73-76 (B) | Good |
| 70-72 (B-) | Acceptable |
| 0-69 (FZ) | Failure |

Please see the appropriate handbook for more details about the grading scale and non-numerical grades (e.g. SDF, INC, etc).

Late work (BD). Basic Degree students are expected to hand in assignments by the date given in the course outline. A 2% per day penalty applies (up to a maximum of 20%) for late work. This penalty is not applied to students with medical or compassionate difficulties; students facing such difficulties are kindly requested to consult with their faculty adviser or basic degree director, who should make a recommendation on the matter to the instructor. The absolute deadline for the course is the examination day scheduled for the course or the last day of exam week for the semester in which the course is taught, whichever is sooner.

This penalty is not applied to students with documented medical or compassionate difficulties or exceptional reasons (e.g., a death in the family or a serious illness); students facing such difficulties are kindly requested to consult with their faculty adviser or basic degree director, who should make a recommendation on the matter to the instructor and request an SDF. The absolute deadline for obtaining an SDF for the course is the examination day scheduled for the course or the last day of examination week, whichever is sooner. An SDF must be requested from the registrar's office in the student's college of registration no later than the last day of exam week in which the course is taken. The SDF, when approved, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. If a student has not completed work but has not been granted an SDF, a final mark will be submitted calculating a zero for work not submitted.

Late work (Graduate). The prima facie deadline for the completion of work in a course is the last day of the examination week for the trimester in which the course is taken. Students are expected to meet

the course deadlines of the instructor offering the course and are advised to plan their research projects accordingly. Students who find themselves unable to meet deadlines for completing coursework can, under certain conditions, receive extensions for completing the work after the dates set by the college in which the course is offered.

The authority to grant an extension for the completion of work in a course beyond the original TST or college deadline (whichever is earlier) for that course rests with the student's college Graduate Director, not the instructor of the course. Nevertheless, the instructor's signature is required for course extension requests to be processed. Students will petition their college Graduate Director for extensions, using a standard form provided by TST on its website. See Section 7.11 of the Conjoint Graduate Degree Handbook.

Course grades. Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor's college before being posted to ACORN. Grades are not official until they are posted to ACORN. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy found at <https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/grading-practices-policy-university-assessment-and-january-26-2012>, policies found in the TST conjoint program handbooks, or college grading policy.

Policies

Accessibility. Students with a disability or health consideration, whether temporary or permanent, are entitled to accommodation. Students in conjoint degree programs must register at the University of Toronto's Accessibility Services offices; information is available at <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as>. The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

Plagiarism. Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* and the Graduate program Handbooks linked from <http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks> and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* <https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019>. A student who plagiarizes in this course will be assumed to have read the document "Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing" published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges: <https://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/library/research/theology/avoiding-plagiarism-in-theological-writing/>

Other academic offences. TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* <https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019>.

Back-up copies. Please make back-up copies of essays before handing them in.

Obligation to check email. At times, the course instructor may decide to send out important course information by email. To that end, all students in conjoint programs are required to have a valid utoronto email address. Students must have set up their utoronto email address which is entered in the ACORN system. Information is available at www.utorid.utoronto.ca. The course instructor will not be able to help you with this. 416-978-HELP and the Help Desk at the Information Commons can answer questions you may have about your UTORid and password. Students should check utoronto email regularly for messages about the course. **Forwarding** your utoronto.ca email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from utoronto.ca addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that emails from your course instructor may end up in your spam or junk mail folder. Students in non-conjoint programs should contact the Registrar of their college of registration.

Email communication with the course instructor. The instructor aims to respond to email communications from students in a timely manner. *All email communications from students in conjoint programs must be sent from a utoronto email address.* Email communications from other email addresses are not secure, and also the instructor cannot readily identify them as being legitimate emails from students. The instructor is not obliged to respond to email from non-utoronto addresses for students in conjoint programs. Students in non-conjoint programs should only use the email address they have provided to their college of registration.

Course Schedule

Week 1: Introduction to Biblical Archeology, Biblical Criticism, Manuscripts

Week 2: Introduction to English Grammar – Different Versions of the Bible and Decay of Languages

Week 3: Hebrew fonts and Alphabet and related Semitic Alphabets (i.e., Syriac, Aramaic) – Quiz 1: English Grammar

Week 4: Reading Hebrew and Verb Parsing – Quiz 2: Hebrew Alphabet

Week 5: Reading Hebrew - Rabbinical Resources for Studying the Hebrew Bible – Quiz 3: Hebrew Verb Parsing

Week 6: Reading Hebrew - Rabbinical Resources for Studying the New Testament – Quiz 4: Hebrew Reading and Translation

Reading Week

Week 7: Development of Greek Language (from Ancient to Koine through Modern) and Greek Alphabet

Week 8: Reading Greek and Verb Parsing – Quiz 5: Greek Alphabet

Week 9: Reading Greek and Noun Declensions – Quiz 6: Verb Parsing

Week 10: Reading Greek – Hebrew Bible and Apocrypha Studies – Quiz 7: Noun Declension

Week 11: Reading Greek – New Testament – Quiz 8: Greek Reading and Translation

Week 12: Additional Resources to explore (Commentaries, Biblical Backgrounds Texts, Historical Jesus Studies/Jesus Seminar)