



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Introduction to Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible - 21200

Last update 11-09-2024

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Bible

Academic year: 2025

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Hila Dayfani

Coordinator Email: hila.dayfani@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Tuesday, 14-15h

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Hila Dayfani

Course/Module description:

The course will give an introduction to all the practical aspects of textual criticism of the Hebrew Bible. It therefore takes the features of the Masoretic Text as its point of departure, as that text is known best. Also the Dead Sea Scrolls will receive much attention. The theoretical aspects of the discipline will be covered alongside the practical analyses.

Course/Module aims:

- (1) To introduce the major procedures and phenomena of textual criticism
- (2) To introduce the primary biblical textual witnesses.
- (3) To show that many aspects of textual criticism can be learned from a study of parallel texts within the Masoretic Text.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

1. To use independently ancient sources and modern text editions.
2. To identify textual phenomena in the primary textual witnesses of the Bible.
3. To determine which textual phenomena occurred in each case.
4. To reach textual decisions and to integrate this knowledge in the exegetical activity of the Bible.

Attendance requirements(%):

Full attendance

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lectures by instructor.

All targilim should be completed within a week.

Students should use the workbook 'Textual Criticism - A Sourcebook' (eds. E. Tov and M. Segal; Academon, 2002) (can be purchased at Academon) or by PDF from the instructor).

Course/Module Content:

- 1-2. General description of MT and proto-MT (Mas-Psalms, 4QGenb,g, Mas-Lev)
- 3-4. Parallel texts within MT (2 Samuel 22 // Psalm 18; 2 Sam 23:8-39 // 1 Chr 11:11-41)

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5. Division into verses, paragraphs, chapters, Psalms, books
 6. *Puncta extraordinaria*; parallel material from the Dead Sea Scrolls
 7. Ketiv-Qere; vowels; accents
 8. Variants in small details; major differences between texts
 9. Editions of MT; critical editions
 10. Samaritan Pentateuch; pre-Samaritan texts
 11. Dead Sea Scrolls; tefillin
 12. Ancient translations
 13. Procedure of textual criticism

Required Reading:

Emanuel Tov, *Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible* (3rd rev. ed.; Minneapolis, 2012)

Additional Reading Material:

אבא בנדויד, *מקבילות במקרא* (ירושלים: כרטא, 1972)

ש' טלמון, "תנ"ך, נוסח", *אנציקלופדיה מקראית ח: 621-641*.

י' ייבין, *מבוא למסורת הטברנית* (הדפסה רביעית מתוקנת; ירושלים, תשמ"ג)

י' קוטשר, *הלשון והרקע הלשוני של מגילת ישעיהו השלמה ממגילות ים המלח* (ירושלים, תשי"ט)

א' רופא, "החשיבות ההיסטורית של גרסאות משניות בנוסחי המקרא", *בית מקרא מג* (תשנ"ח) 218-226.

J. Barr, *Comparative Philology and the Text of the OT* (Oxford, 1968; rev. Winona Lake, Ind., 1987)

F. M. Cross and S. Talmon (eds.), *Qumran and the History of the Biblical Text* (Cambridge, Mass./ London, 1976)

C.D. Ginsburg, *Introduction to the Massoretico-Critical Edition of the Hebrew Bible* (London, 1897; repr. New York, 1966)

M. J. Mulder (ed.), *Mikra: Text, Translation, Reading and Interpretation of the Hebrew Bible in Ancient Judaism and Early Christianity* (Compendia Rerum Iudaicarum ad Novum Testamentum 2/1; Assen-Maastricht/Philadelphia, 1988)

A. Rofé, "The Nomistic Correction in Biblical Manuscripts and its Occurrence in 4QSama," *RevQ* 14 (1989) 247-254

J.H. Tigay (ed.), Empirical Models for Biblical Criticism (Philadelphia, 1985)

E. Tov, The Text-Critical Use of the Septuagint in Biblical Research (Completely revised and expanded third edition; Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2015)

E.C. Ulrich, The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Origins of the Bible (Grand Rapids, Mich., 1999)

Grading Scheme:

Written Exam % 50

Submission assignments during the semester: Exercises / Essays / Audits / Reports / Forum / Simulation / others 45 %

Attendance / Participation in Field Excursion 5 %

Additional information: