



# *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

## *Syllabus*

### *History of Hebrew Language from Ancient Sources to Modern Period - 25115*

*Last update 03-03-2016*

*HU Credits: 2*

*Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)*

*Responsible Department: hebrew language & jewish languages*

*Academic year: 0*

*Semester: 2nd Semester*

*Teaching Languages: Hebrew*

*Campus: E. Safra*

*Course/Module Coordinator: Yochanan Breuer*

*Coordinator Email: [yochanan.breuer@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:yochanan.breuer@mail.huji.ac.il)*

*Coordinator Office Hours: Mon 12-13*

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Teaching Staff:

Prof Yochanan Breuer

Course/Module description:

*The Hebrew spoken today in Israel is the final stage of a long and unique history, which started in the early history and underwent a process of revival of a non-spoken language, a phenomenon unparalleled by any other language in the world. This course will focus on a description of the history of the Hebrew language from its earliest manifestations till today. The description will include all areas of the language: phonology, morphology, syntax and lexicon. In each period, some of the typical features will be discussed, with an attempt to explain changes that occurred in this period.*

*According to the time limits, texts from every period will be read and discussed.*

Course/Module aims:

*The main purpose of this course is to teach basic elements in the history of the Hebrew Language. Some of these elements are typical of every language, but some are unique to the Hebrew Language, whose history is different than any other language known to us.*

*One of the goals of this course is also to expose the student to important topics in general linguistics and to deal with the role the language plays in the culture. These subjects will be discussed as part of the description of the history of the Hebrew Language. Some of these subjects are: the structure of the language system and its functions; the reasons for changes in languages - mainly internal changes and contact between languages; features typical of the Semitic languages; features typical of the Hebrew Language and its history; the relationship between the history of the Jewish People and the history of the Hebrew Language; and more.*

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

*To know the language system in general and the particularities of the Semitic Languages*

*To know the unique history of the Hebrew Language*

*To know the main features which typify every period in the history of the Hebrew Language*

*To discern in a text the linguistic features which typify the period of its composition*

Attendance requirements(%):

*According to the University rules University rules*

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## Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lecture

### Course/Module Content:

1. The language system, its structure and functions
2. The particularities of the Semitic Languages; the particularities of the Hebrew Language; the unique history of the Hebrew Language
3. The Bible: prose and poetry
4. Epigraphy from the Biblical era
5. The relationship between the Biblical text and the Biblical punctuation; the enterprise of the Masora
6. The Hebrew during the second temple era
7. The Dead Sea Scrolls
8. Mishnaic Hebrew
9. Epigraphy from the Mishnaic Era
10. Medieval Hebrew
11. The revival of the Hebrew in writing and in speech
12. Contemporary Hebrew
13. The contact between Hebrew and other languages
14. The norm in contemporary Hebrew

### Required Reading:

זאב בן-חיים, "לשון עתיקה במציאות חדשה", הנ"ל, במלחמתה של לשון, ירושלים תשנ"ב, 36-59  
אבא בנדויד, לשון מקרא ולשון חכמים, תל-אביב תשכ"ז-תשל"א, עמ' 1-59  
מ' בר-אשר, "לשון חכמים - דברי מבוא", ספר היובל לרב מרדכי ברויאר, ירושלים תשנ"ב  
יוחנן ברויאר, "הדיבור בעברית מן העת העתיקה ועד ימינו", עת-מול 214 (תשע"א), עמ' 1-4  
י' פלמן, "תרומתו של אליעזר בן-יהודה לתחיית הלשון העברית", קתדרה 2 (1976), עמ' 83-95  
י' קוטשר, מלים ותולדותיהן, ירושלים תשכ"א, 1-4, 48-53, 73-82  
ח' רבין, "מה הייתה תחיית הלשון העברית", בתוך: ח' רבין, חקרי לשון, ירושלים תשנ"ט, עמ' 359-376

### Additional Reading Material:

חיים רבין, "עיקרי תולדות הלשון העברית", המחלקה לחינוך ולתרבות בגולה של ההסתדרות הציונית העולמית  
שלמה הרמתי, "עברית שפה מדוברת", משרד הביטחון - ההוצאה לאור  
מאיה אגמון-פרוכטמן וד"ר עמנואל אלון, "פרקים בתולדות הלשון העברית", הוצאת האוניברסיטה הפתוחה

### Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 70 %  
Presentation 0 %  
Participation in Tutorials 0 %  
Project work 0 %

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*Assignments 30 %*  
*Reports 0 %*  
*Research project 0 %*  
*Quizzes 0 %*  
*Other 0 %*

*Additional information:*