

# Attention!

This is a representative syllabus.  
The syllabus for the course you are  
enrolled in will likely be different.  
Please refer to your instructor's  
syllabus for more information on  
specific requirements for a given  
semester.

Spring 2014 ~ Hebrew 4102

# Hebrew and the Media

Meeting Time/Location:

Instructor:

Office Hours:

Office:

Email:

Mailbox:

This course aims to improve your ability to communicate in Modern Hebrew and to explore Israeli media and society in Hebrew. We will continue to develop language skills like speaking, understanding, reading, and writing as we explore many different media forms (print, internet, television, radio) and contemporary issues. In particular, we will focus on strengthening Hebrew grammar and expanding Hebrew vocabulary.

## GOALS

- To improve your ability to communicate in writing and in speech in Modern Hebrew.
- To expand Hebrew vocabulary and strengthen Hebrew grammar.
- To develop the ability to discuss issues facing Israeli society in Hebrew.
- To become familiar with the different sources of Hebrew-language media, including newspapers, radio, television and internet.
- To enjoy using Hebrew in a variety of contemporary contexts.

## HEBREW PLEDGE

A key element of this class is speaking in Hebrew! In taking this class, I expect you to use Hebrew as your primary means of communication from the time that class starts until it ends. If you have a question, ask it in Hebrew. If you have a comment, make it in Hebrew. If you want to make a joke, make it in Hebrew. If you want to ask the person sitting next to you something, ask in Hebrew. Even if you have to use English words or ask the definition of a word, speak in Hebrew as much as possible. I realize that this might be difficult, especially at the beginning. But you will be amazed to see how much this helps your Hebrew. Your grade, specifically your participation grade, will be affected if you don't try to speak in Hebrew. How well you speak in Hebrew will not affect your grade at all.

## "THE SPACE"

We will be using OSU's Center for Language, Literatures and Cultures Digital Collaborative Classroom this semester. It provides the opportunity to explore a variety of media sources and projects in a collaborative space. As you will see, the room is designed to maximize interaction and individual and group learning. This means that a lot of class sessions may be different from what you've experienced in language courses in the past. My hope is that this room will

give us the chance to explore Hebrew media in many ways. I will be asking you to work in different groups, sometimes with students of a similar language level, sometimes with those at a different level. I believe that you can often learn as much (or more) from each other as you can learn from any single instructor.

Please note that *no* food or drink is permitted in the room. You may connect your own device (laptop, tablet) to the classroom system, but you must provide your own adaptor if your device is not compatible with the pod HDMI connection.

#### **TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER MATERIALS:**

There is no required text for this course, since we will be using a variety of materials posted on Carmen and on the Internet. Please note that you will need to have regular access to a printer to print out class materials. Highly recommended, however, is a reference book for Hebrew verbs. If you do not already own one with full conjugations of a wide range of Hebrew verbs, I suggest purchasing the book below.

1. Bolozsky, *501 Hebrew Verbs* (2007) [recommended, ordered at OSU bookstore]

I will be using Carmen to distribute many other materials – please make sure that you have access to this class on Carmen and let me know *immediately* if you have trouble accessing the course website. It is your responsibility to check Carmen for readings and assignment before every class session. You will also need a google account (free) to access the class wiki, blog and to submit written assignments.

#### **REQUIREMENTS**

##### **Attendance, Participation & Homework (15%)**

- Complete assignments *before* class. Make sure to pace yourself – don't leave everything to the night before or the day of class because you'll have too much to process effectively.
- Participate in class discussions and in-class groups. This course revolves around class discussions. Come to class prepared to be an active participant: ready to talk about the readings or topics, to consider different viewpoints and to ask questions.
- You will be graded – first and foremost – on improvement, not how much you already know. Not everyone feels comfortable participating in class, but if it's difficult for you to speak up in discussions, ask questions, take an active role in group work, and speak to me outside of class.
- As in most language courses, there will be frequent homework assignments to reinforce vocabulary, grammar and topics covered in class.
- In addition to homework assignments, students are expect to review and learn new vocabulary on an ongoing basis.
- Homework assignments are due at the beginning of each class.
- Late homework will not be accepted.
- Homework assignments will be graded on a 1-10 scale.

- It is your responsibility to find out what homework has been assigned if you miss class. **Do not email me** for missed homework assignments, make sure that you can contact another student in class about what you missed.

### Class Projects (15%)

- Class Blog:
  - At the beginning of every week I'll post a question, link or image on the class blog.
  - You need to comment, in Hebrew, on the weekly post by every **Friday**.
  - Comments will be assessed based on their understandability and thoughtfulness.
  - Students will also be responsible for one blog post; details will be provided in class.
  - You will need a google/gmail account to access the blog and for class papers. Google accounts are free, let me know if you have trouble establishing one.
- Class Wiki:
  - We will be developing a class wiki on Israeli media
  - More information will be distributed in class

### Biweekly Papers (30%)

- Improving your ability to express yourself in Hebrew is one of the main goals of this course. Biweekly papers will help develop written language skills, as well as encourage you to discuss a wide range of topics related to class themes.
- Papers should be 300 words. They must be typed.
- Topics for papers will be posted on Carmen.
- Papers are due at the beginning of class every **Wednesday**, shared with me via Google documents (preferred) or submitted in Word format to the Carmen dropbox.
- Papers will be graded between 1-10 points based on clarity of expression, substance of ideas, grammar, vocabulary (*not* using dictionary words for everything), readability (including spelling), appropriate length, and timeliness. At the end of the semester, up to 10 additional points will be added for improvement.
- Please note: any paper that has been written via Google Translate or similar services will receive a 0.
- Late papers will lose 2 points/day.
- Papers may be corrected and resubmitted within 1 week of their original due date. The grade on the corrected paper will replace the original grade.
- The best **five** (out of six) papers will comprise your paper grade. You can choose to drop your lowest grade, or skip one paper without penalty.

### Tests (30%)

- There will be three short in-class tests focusing on grammar, vocabulary, comprehension and writing skills.
- Tests will take place on the following dates: February 5<sup>th</sup>, March 5<sup>th</sup>, April 11<sup>th</sup>.

### Digital Storytelling Project (10%)

- Over the course of the semester, you will develop your own digital story related to the class theme of Hebrew and the media. This will include writing and recording a script, finding images/video and a soundtrack, and putting it all together.
- The CLLC will provide technical support, inside and outside of class – don't worry if you don't know how to create a digital story.
- You may work alone or in pairs.
- Digital Stories will be presented during the final exam period,
- You must submit an approximately 300-350 word reflection of the process or explanation of your digital story.

## **GRADING**

Final grades will be calculated as follows:

Attendance, Participation & Homework	10%
Class Projects	15%
Biweekly Papers	30%
Tests	30%
Digital Storytelling Project	15%

Grading scale: A (93-100) 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 (63-66) D- (60-63) E (below 60)

## **CLASS POLICIES**

Absences: To do well in this class, you need to be present and awake. Since things do come up (illness, family issues, other commitments), you may be absent two times without penalty.

After those two absences, each additional unexcused absence will lower your overall grade, up to 5% per unexcused absence. This could potentially have a major effect on your grade – in fact, you could fail the class for missing too many classes.

- After 2 absences, please let me know by **email** if you need to miss class, preferably ahead of time. If you are ill for a significant period of time, or have other reasons that prevent you from attending class, please let me know as soon as possible. I will decide the grade penalty (up to 5% per absence) that will apply.
- 3-4 late arrivals or early departures (without explanation) will count as an absence.
- Sleeping through class will be treated like late arrival/early departure, which means the 3-4 occurrences will count as an absence.
- You are responsible for all material that you miss in class, including films, film clips, lectures, discussions and assignments. Make sure you have the contact information (email, phone number) for one or two other students in class so that you can get the information that you need.

In Class: Please do not read text messages, email, websites, newspapers, etc. during class. If I believe that you are using a computer for reasons other than taking notes or referring to course information, I will restrict your use of computers in class and lower your participation grade.

Class Cancellations: If an emergency arises and I need to cancel class, I will send an email to the class, and ask that a sign be posted on the door. Please try to check your email before class, especially if the weather is bad, in case anything comes up.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism – the representation of someone else’s words or ideas as one’s own – is a very serious offense, and will result in serious consequences. By plagiarism, I mean failing to acknowledge someone else’s work or ideas (word for word or paraphrasing), as well as cheating on quizzes and tests. All suspected cases of plagiarism will be reported to the Committee on Academic Misconduct.

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct ([http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/pdfs/csc\\_12-31-07.pdf](http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/pdfs/csc_12-31-07.pdf))

This is not to say that you cannot use other people’s ideas, just that you must **acknowledge** your sources (orally or with footnotes) and try to **build** on those ideas (agree, disagree, modify, give your own examples). Please come and talk to me if you have any questions about this.

Contact Me: Please come talk to me over the course of the quarter if you have any problems or concerns, but also if you have questions or anything else that you’d like to talk about. It’s great to have the opportunity to get to know you outside of class. Office hours are a good time to catch me, but you can also email me to set up an appointment to talk.

For quick questions or concerns, email ([brenner.108@osu.edu](mailto:brenner.108@osu.edu)) is the best way to reach me. I will do my best to respond within 24 hours.

## **DISABILITIES**

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://ods.osu.edu/>

## SCHEDULE

Topics are subject to modification, but any changes will be announced in advance. The most up-to-date assignments, as well as weekly homework assignments, will be posted on Carmen and the class blog ([hebrew4102.blogspot.com](http://hebrew4102.blogspot.com)).

In addition to regular assignments, I expect you to read the Israeli news (in English and/or Hebrew) regularly. Suggested websites will be posted on Carmen.

Week	Topic	Grammar Topic	Notes
January 6	Introduction to Hebrew and the Media	<i>Grammar overview</i>	1/10 Blog
January 13	Print & Visual Media: Headlines	<i>Pa'al</i>	1/15 Paper due 1/17 Blog
January 20	Print & Visual Media: Broadcast news	<i>Pa'al</i>	1/22 Rewrite due 1/24 Blog
January 27	Print & Visual Media: Broadcast news	<i>Pi'el</i>	1/29 Paper due 1/31 Blog
February 3	Israeli Media: Wiki	<i>Pi'el</i>	2/5 Rewrite due 2/5 Test #1 2/7 Blog
February 10	Israeli Media: Wiki	<i>Hif'il</i>	2/12 Paper due 2/14 Blog
February 17	<i>Ha-chamishiah ha-kamerit: chadashot</i> (satire)	<i>Hif'il</i>	2/19 Rewrite due 2/21 Blog
February 24	<i>Ha-chamishiah ha-kamerit: chadashot</i> (satire)	<i>Hitpa'el</i>	2/26 Paper due 2/28 Blog
March 3	<i>Ha-chamishiah ha-kamerit: chadashot</i> (satire)	<i>Hitpa'el</i>	3/5 Test #2 3/5 Rewrite due 3/7 Blog
March 10	Spring Break		Enjoy!
March 17	Ads & Commercials	<i>Nif'al</i>	3/19 Paper due 3/21 Blog
March 24	Ads & Commercials	<i>Nif'al</i>	3/26 Rewrite due 3/28 Blog
March 31	<i>Merchak negiah</i> (TV series)	<i>Passives</i>	4/2 Paper due 4/4 Blog
April 7	<i>Merchak negiah</i> (TV series)	<i>Passives</i>	4/9 Rewrite due 4/11 Blog 4/11 Test #3
April 14	TBD		4/16 Passover – no class 4/18 Last day of class!
April 23	Final Exam, 12-1:45pm		Digital Story Presentations + paper