

Hebrew 1 Elementary Hebrew I

Dr. Gloria Pollack

As the language of the Bible and a living, foreign language that occupies a prominent position in our modern world, Hebrew is invaluable for its literary, cultural, historical and communicative content.

Hebrew 1 is a one-semester course for students with minimal or no previous training in the language, or as indicated by the Language Placement Exam. The course is designed for students to master reading and writing the Hebrew alphabet and to become accustomed to vocalized and non-vocalized script as well as to develop an understanding of the structures of the Hebrew language and to achieve the communicative skills necessary for an early level of linguistic facility.

Course objectives are to acquire the basic oral, reading, and writing skills in Hebrew; a meaningful, practical, working vocabulary for use in functional situations; a familiarity with the basic structures of Hebrew; and to acquire an appreciation for the culture of Israel.

**Syllabus – Hebrew 1**

1. Course Number and Title

Hebrew 1 – Elementary Hebrew I

2. Bulletin Description of Course

A beginners course for students with minimal or no previous training in the language; and/or for students who have completed not more than one year of high school Hebrew or its equivalent. (Hebrew 1 is not open to heritage students or to students who have completed intermediate or advanced levels of Hebrew instruction.)

3. Number of Weekly Class Hours

Three (3) hours per week

4. Number of Credits

Three (3) credits

5. Pre or Co-requisites, if any

None

6. Course Justification

7.

Hebrew is a living, foreign language which occupies a prominent position in our modern world and which is invaluable for its literary, cultural, historical, and communicative content. Hebrew 1 is offered four times with several sections during the academic year. The steady enrollment levels are projected to continue in the future.

8. Remedial, Developmental, or Compensatory: N/A

9. Textbook.

Wiederkehr-Pollack, Gloria. Reading, Writing, and Rudimentary Hebrew. New York. Sepher-Hermon Press, 1995.

10. Required Course for Major: N/A

11. Open only to students with minimal or no previous training in the language,

or to students who have completed not more than one year of high school of Hebrew or its equivalent.

12. Course Objectives

- a. To acquire the basic oral, reading, and writing skills in Hebrew.
- b. To acquire a meaningful, practical, working vocabulary for use in functional situations.
- c. To acquire a familiarity with the basic structures of Hebrew.
- d. To accustom the student to both vocalized and unvocalized written Hebrew.

13. Method of Teaching

Emphasis is on the communicative approach to language learning, where language is seen as a dynamic process of interaction.

In the classroom, language learning is made active and participatory, with students discussing and role-playing within the level of language they control. Drill and practice exercises are task-oriented.

Modern technology is integrated in the language learning through use of audiocassettes, used both in the classroom and in the language lab, computer software, and videocassette programs (especially useful for introduction of authentic cultural material).

14. Assignments to Students

Textbook exercises

Repetition assignments outside of class using recorded tapes as a guide.

Software exercises

Written compositions and dialogues

15. Method of Evaluation      Grades are determined by the following:

Preparation and Participation	20%
Exams and Quizzes	35%
Graded Assignments	15%
Final	30%

20.

Topical Course Outline

Weeks 1,2,3

Learning to read and write Hebrew  
Vocalized and unvocalized Hebrew  
Block and cursive script

Weeks 4,5

Communicative Skills: How to introduce people  
How to greet people

Language Structure: Gender features of singular nouns

Singular subject pronouns

Demonstrative singular pronouns

"Who?" "What?"

First and last names

Yes/No questions and answers

The prepositions: from, of, for, in to

Introduction to the Hebrew verb system

Present tense singular verb forms in *binyan kal*

(simple verb construction)  
Contraction of nouns with pronoun suffixes

Weeks 6,7

Communicative Skills:       How to find out from where people come.  
                                      How to find out what people study and what they do  
                                      How to describe peoples and places

Language Structure:        True or False?  
                                      "From where?"

Agreement of nouns and adjectives

Agreement of nouns and demonstrative pronouns   Predicate noun phrases  
                                      The definite and indefinite articles

Weeks 8,9

Communicative Skills:How to find out where things are on campus  
                                      How to find out about family relationships

Language Structure:

Plural subject pronouns  
Gender features of plural nouns  
Verbs in plural, present tense  
Gender and number features of adjectives  
The preposition of possession with pronoun suffixes  
Expressions of possession  
The verb of location, *lehimaze*  
Introduction of *binyan nifal* (verbs in the passive construction)

Week 10 - 12

(Supplementary Handouts)

Communicative Skills:

How to give directions  
How to count  
How to tell time  
How to express one's age

Language Structure:

Ordinal and cardinal numbers, feminine and masculine  
Use of the imperative  
Verbs, adverbs, and vocabulary related to above

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Selected Bibliography

Bergman, Bella. *Ivrit Shelav Alef*. NJ: Behrman House, 1982  
Blumberg and Lewittes. *Modern Hebrew*. NY: Hebrew Publishing Co., 1992  
Lifschitz and Yakubovski. *Be'Al Peh U'Vikhtav*. Part I. Haifa, 1984.  
Reif and Levinson. *Mastering Hebrew. Hear It. Speak It. Write It. Read It*. NY: Barron's Educational Series, 1988. Accompanying audiocassettes.  
Tirkel, E. *Everyday Hebrew. The Complete Course for Succeeding in Hebrew and Communicating with Confidence*. Chicago: Passport Books, 1991.  
Chicago: Passport Books, 1991. Four accompanying 60-minute audiocassettes.  
Software  
*Hebrew World. A Multimedia Course for the Very Beginner*. Living Israeli Hebrew. 1997.

*Learning to Read Hebrew. A Complete Course in Reading Hebrew on CD-ROM.* The Davka Corporation. 1995

VHS

*Sallah.* Ergo Media, Inc.

Sarna and Komem. *Basic Hebrew 1&2.* Arta Films, U.S.A. Includes the alphabet, pronouns, days of the week, the daily schedule, the family, transportation, the seasons, months of the year, opposites, in the restaurant, the human body, the supermarket, clothing, verb review.

*Sing Along with Israel.* Ergo Media, Inc.