

Hebrew studies

Hebrew was first taught at the University of Melbourne in 1946. The program in Hebrew studies continues to be a significant influence on scholarly thought and the teaching of Hebrew in Jewish schools and communities throughout Australia. It is the only program in Australia that teaches Hebrew language from beginners' to advanced levels. The study of Hebrew at the University of Melbourne places great emphasis upon it as both the language of the Bible and the language of modern Israel today. Students are able to explore a variety of topics that draw on some of the most comprehensive Hebrew and Jewish archival resources available in Australia. Hebrew studies maintains formal international arrangements with universities that provide students with the opportunity to complete some of their study overseas. The program leads to an articulated structure of higher degree study and provides graduates with highly valued and transferable skills in their vocational pursuits. Hebrew studies runs special seminar and public lecture programs that seek to promote discussion of issues relevant to the Jewish community in Melbourne and Australia today.

Hebrew studies incorporates sequences of language subjects targeted at all levels of speaker proficiency, from those with no prior knowledge of Hebrew to more advanced-level speakers. Study of the language is complemented by subjects that explore Jewish culture, literature and society. Through the study of modern authors and poets, these subjects aim to provide students with knowledge of the language in contemporary contexts and to equip them with skills to undertake critical literary analysis in both Hebrew and English.

Students interested in exploring the Jewish experience in more depth are encouraged to undertake Hebrew studies as part of the interdepartmental *Jewish studies* (p.259) program.

Honours in Hebrew is only available to students as a component of combined honours in Jewish studies.

Language study streams

The School of Languages offers two streams of Hebrew language study:

Beginners

The beginners stream is for students who have little or no knowledge of Hebrew. It is available to students at both first and second year although students intending to complete a major will need to commence their language study in their first year.

Intermediate

The intermediate stream is for students who have some knowledge of Hebrew, but who have not studied Hebrew at VCE level.

Post-VCE

The post-VCE stream is usually only available to students who have obtained a pass in VCE Hebrew, or its equivalent.

The School of Languages determines the language stream in which a student is to enrol. Placement is based on VCE results, other language study record or a placement test.

Stream enrolment remains provisional until confirmed or, alternatively, altered according to the student's needs as determined by the Language Department during the first two weeks of teaching. As far as possible, the School will notify students of any change to their stream enrolment during the first two weeks of semester. Where a change is made in the third or fourth week of semester it will be reported to the Associate Dean (Academic Programs).

Diploma in Modern Languages (Hebrew)

The Diploma in Modern Languages (DML) enables students to gain a diploma in language study while completing an undergraduate degree at the University of Melbourne.

The DML usually involves a three-year sequence of language study, totalling a minimum of 100 points. It adds one year to the duration of an ordinary degree course.

The DML (Hebrew) is offered in the beginners, intermediate and post-VCE streams. Hebrew subjects are taken alongside degree subjects in an integrated sequence of study. This must be approved by a Faculty course adviser and the head of program, Hebrew studies. See *Diploma in Modern Languages* (p.44).

Attendance requirement

A threshold requirement for the acceptance of work for evaluation is attendance at all classes. This is a minimum of 75 percent attendance.

Requirements for a major

A major in Hebrew studies usually consists of 125 points comprising:

- three first year subjects in Hebrew (37.5 points) and;

- three second year subjects in Hebrew (37.5 points) and;
- four third year subjects in Hebrew (50 points).

A major must include the following subjects:

first or second year:

- 109-003 Introduction to Modern Jewish Culture (p.197)

second year:

- 109-011 Jewish National Thought (p.198)

third year:

- 109-012 Reading the Holocaust (p.199) or;
- 109-013 Exploring the World of Jewish Literature (p.198) or;
- 109-014 Special Study Research Project (Hebrew) (p.198) (or an approved alternative) or;
- 109-021 Kabbalah and Jewish Mystical Traditions (p.198).

Structuring a major

A major in Hebrew studies usually takes one of the following forms.

Beginners stream

First year	Sem.
109-001 Hebrew 1A (p.196)	1
109-002 Hebrew 1B (p.196)	2
109-003 Introduction to Modern Jewish Culture (p.197)	1
Second year	Sem.
109-004 Hebrew 2A (p.196)	1
109-005 Hebrew 2B (p.196)	2
109-011 Jewish National Thought (p.198)	2
Third year	Sem.
109-006 Hebrew 3A (p.196)	1
109-007 Hebrew 3B (p.197)	2
109-012 Reading the Holocaust (p.199)	N/A
or	
109-013 Exploring the World of Jewish Literature (p.198)	1
or	
109-021 Kabbalah and Jewish Mystical Traditions (p.198)	2

Intermediate stream

First year	Sem.
109-004 Hebrew 2A (p.196)	1
109-005 Hebrew 2B (p.196)	2
109-003 Introduction to Modern Jewish Culture (p.197)	1
Second year	Sem.
109-006 Hebrew 3A (p.196)	1
109-007 Hebrew 3B (p.197)	2
109-011 Jewish National Thought (p.198)	2
Third year	Sem.
109-008 Hebrew 3C (p.199)	N/A
or	
109-015 Hebrew 4A (p.197)	1
109-009 Hebrew 3D (p.199)	N/A
or	
109-016 Hebrew 4B (p.197)	2
109-017 Hebrew 4C (p.199)	N/A
or	
109-018 Hebrew 4D (p.199)	N/A
109-012 Reading the Holocaust (p.199)	N/A
109-013 Exploring the World of Jewish Literature (p.198)	1
109-021 Kabbalah and Jewish Mystical Traditions (p.198)	2

Post-VCE stream

First year	Sem.
109-006 Hebrew 3A (p.196)	1
109-007 Hebrew 3B (p.197)	2
109-003 Introduction to Modern Jewish Culture (p.197)	1
Second year	Sem.
109-011 Jewish National Thought (p.198)	2
and either	
109-008 Hebrew 3C (p.199)	N/A
109-009 Hebrew 3D (p.199)	N/A
or	
109-015 Hebrew 4A (p.197)	1
109-016 Hebrew 4B (p.197)	2

Third year (option A)

109-015	Hebrew 4A (p.197)	Sem.	1
109-012	Reading the Holocaust (p.199)		N/A
109-013	Exploring the World of Jewish Literature (p.198)		1
109-016	Hebrew 4B (p.197)		2
109-021	Kabbalah and Jewish Mystical Traditions (p.198)		2

Third year (option B)

109-017	Hebrew 4C (p.199)	Sem.	N/A
109-018	Hebrew 4D (p.199)		N/A
109-012	Reading the Holocaust (p.199)		N/A
109-013	Exploring the World of Jewish Literature (p.198)		
109-021	Kabbalah and Jewish Mystical Traditions (p.198)		2

Honours

There is no formal honours program in Hebrew. However, students may undertake Hebrew as a component of combined honours in Jewish studies and another area of study.

Students must satisfy the prerequisites for entry to honours in *Jewish studies* (p.259). However, some prerequisites may be waived with the approval of the Jewish studies honours convenor.

Students must also meet the prerequisites for honours in the combined area of study.

Studying overseas

For information about Hebrew programs at overseas institutions, see *Studying overseas* (p.259) in the Jewish studies entry of the Handbook.

Career opportunities

Graduates who have majored in Hebrew studies have found employment as teachers, academics, translators, interpreters, writers, journalists, editors and in various areas of the public service and professions serving local Jewish communities.

For more information

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Language subjects**109-001 Hebrew 1A**

Note: Formerly available as 150-141/241/341/441. Students who have completed 150-141/241/341/441 are not eligible to enrol in this subject. Students commencing a major in Hebrew studies with this subject must also complete 109-003 Introduction to Modern Jewish Culture (p.197) at first year.

Credit points: 12.5 **HECS-band:** 1

Coordinator: Dr Z Shavitsky

Contact: Three hours of lectures and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject covers the basic grammar and syntax of Modern Hebrew, as well as reading, writing and simple conversation. Students who complete the subject should have a sufficient grasp of modern Hebrew grammar, vocabulary and syntax to be able to read simpler modern texts; and an ability to conduct basic conversation and write short assignments.

Assessment: Written work totalling 2000 words and a 2-hour examination.

Prescribed texts: L Unveeler & N M Bronznick, *Ha-Yesod*, New Revised Edition Feldheim, 1998. • S Zilberman, *The Up-to-date English-Hebrew/Hebrew-English Dictionary*, 1996. • A Tarmon & E Uval, *Hebrew Verb Tables*, Tamir Publishing, 1991.

109-002 Hebrew 1B

Note: Formerly available as 150-142/242/342/442. Students who have completed 150-142/242/342/442 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Credit points: 12.5 **HECS-band:** 1

Coordinator: Dr Ziva Shavitsky

Prerequisites: 109-001 Hebrew 1A (p.196).

Corequisites: Students must be concurrently enrolled in 109-003 Introduction to Modern Jewish Culture (p.197) or an approved equivalent.

Contact: Three hours of lectures and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject covers the basic grammar and syntax of Modern Hebrew, including reading, writing and simple conversation. On completion

of the subject students should have a sufficient grasp of modern Hebrew grammar, vocabulary and syntax to be able to read simpler modern texts; and an ability to conduct basic conversation and write short assignments.

Assessment: Written work totalling 2000 words and a 2-hour examination.

Prescribed texts:

As for 109-001 Hebrew 1A (p.196).

109-004 Hebrew 2A

Note: Formerly available as 150-186/286/386/486. Students who have completed 150-186/286/386/486 are not eligible to enrol in this subject. Students commencing a major in Hebrew studies with this subject must also complete 109-003 Introduction to Modern Jewish Culture (p.197) at first year.

Credit points: 12.5 **HECS-band:** 1

Coordinator: Dr Z Shavitsky

Prerequisites: 109-002 Hebrew 1B (p.196).

Corequisites: Students must be concurrently enrolled in 109-003 Introduction to Modern Jewish Culture (p.197) or an approved equivalent.

Contact: Three hours of lectures and a 1-hour practical class per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject includes an advanced study of the fundamentals of Hebrew. The subject involves the enrichment of vocabulary; reading of simplified literature; and conversational and written communication. Grammatical features of Modern Hebrew are explained and reinforced by drills and exercises. Students should end the semester with a sufficient grasp of modern Hebrew grammar, conjugations of tenses, declensions and syntax to be able to read and understand simplified Hebrew newspapers or literary texts and write about them; and an ability to conduct conversation and write short assignments.

Assessment: Written work totalling 1500 words, an aural/oral test and dictation equivalent to 500 words, a 2-hour examination, and attendance and class participation.

Prescribed texts:

Material prepared by the Department.

L Unveeler & N M Bronznick, *Ha-Yesod*, New Revised Edition Feldheim, 1998. • S Zilberman, *The Up-to-date English-Hebrew/Hebrew-English Dictionary*, 1996. • A Tarmon & E Uval, *Hebrew Verb Tables*, Tamir Publishing, 1991.

109-005 Hebrew 2B

Note: Formerly available as 150-187/287/387/487. Students who have completed 150-187/287/387/487 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Credit points: 12.5 **HECS-band:** 1

Coordinator: Dr Z Shavitsky

Prerequisites: 109-004 Hebrew 2A (p.196) or an approved equivalent.

Contact: Three hours of lectures and a 1-hour practical class per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject includes an advanced study of the fundamentals of Hebrew, focusing on enrichment of vocabulary and conversational and written communication. Grammatical features of Modern Hebrew are explained and reinforced by drills and exercises. Students should complete the subject able to read simplified Hebrew literature and write about it.

Assessment: Written work totalling 1500 words, an aural/oral test and dictation equivalent to 500 words, a 2-hour examination, and class attendance and participation.

Prescribed texts:

As for 109-004 Hebrew 2A (p.196).

109-006 Hebrew 3A

Note: Formerly available as 150-143/243/343/443. Students who have completed 150-143/243/343/443 are not eligible to enrol in this subject. Students commencing a major in Hebrew studies with this subject must also complete 109-003 Introduction to Modern Jewish Culture (p.197) at first year.

Credit points: 12.5 **HECS-band:** 1

Coordinator: Dr Z Shavitsky

Prerequisites: 109-005 Hebrew 2B (p.196) and a corequisite cultural subject or VCE Hebrew or an approved equivalent.

Contact: Two hours of lectures and two hours of practical classes per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject involves the study of modern Hebrew literary texts and modern conversational idiom and grammar. Students should gain an enriched knowledge of the language through the use of modern Hebrew literature, and of the modern idiom spoken in Israel today, including its vocabulary, grammar and syntax. The subject should prepare students for a broader range of expertise.

Assessment: Written work of 1000 words, aural/oral testing equivalent to 1000 words, and a 2-hour examination, and class participation.

Prescribed texts:

Texts prepared by the Department.

O Band, *Reader: Modern Hebrew Prose and Poetry*, Behrman House, 1990. • S Zilberman, *The Up-to-date English-Hebrew/Hebrew-English Dictionary*, 1996. • A Tarmon & E Uval, *Hebrew Verb Tables*, Tamir Publishing, 1991.

109-007 Hebrew 3B

Note: Formerly available as 150-144/244/344/444. Students who have completed 150-144/244/344/444 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Z Shavitsky

Prerequisites: 109-006 Hebrew 3A (*p.196*) or an approved equivalent.

Contact: Two hours of lectures and two hours of practical classes per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject involves the study of modern literary texts and modern conversational idiom and grammar. Students should complete the subject with an enriched knowledge of the language through the use of modern Hebrew literature; of the modern idiom spoken in Israel today, including its vocabulary, grammar and syntax. The subject should prepare students for a broader range of expertise.

Assessment: Written work of 1000 words, aural/oral testing equivalent to 1000 words, and a 2-hour examination, and class participation.

Prescribed texts:

As for 109-006 Hebrew 3A (*p.196*).

109-015 Hebrew 4A

Note: Formerly available as 150-347/447. Students who have completed 150-347/447 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Z Shavitsky

Prerequisites: Two of Hebrew 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D or any one of Hebrew 4B, 4C or 4D or permission of subject coordinator.

Contact: Three hours of lectures and a 1-hour laboratory class per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject involves the study of advanced modern literary texts, including the study of contemporary Hebrew writers in prose and poetry, modern conversational idiom and newspaper and academic articles. On completion of the subject students should have acquired a knowledge of advanced literary texts in Hebrew. Students' reading skills and understanding of advanced scientific and academic articles and essays are further developed to enrich their knowledge of the modern written and spoken idiom in Israel today.

Assessment: Written work totalling 2000 words for third year, 3000 words for fourth year, a 2-hour examination, and class participation at third year.

Prescribed texts:

Material prepared by the department.

S Y Agnon, *Sippur Pashut*, Booklets for Schools: Booklet 7 Schocken. • S Y Agnon, *Ha 'Rofe u'Grushato Sipurim*, Schocken. • A Oz, *My Michael*. • S Zilberman, *The Up-to-date English-Hebrew/Hebrew-English Dictionary*.

109-016 Hebrew 4B

Note: Formerly available as 150-348/448. Students who have completed 150-348/448 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Z Shavitsky

Prerequisites: Completion of any Hebrew 3 sequence (i.e. A & B, C & D) or one of Hebrew 4A, 4C or 4D, or permission of subject coordinator.

Contact: Three hours of lectures and a 1-hour laboratory class per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject involves the study of advanced modern literary texts, including contemporary Hebrew writers in prose and poetry, modern conversational idiom, and newspaper and academic articles. Students should complete the subject with the ability to read and understand advanced scientific and academic articles and essays.

Assessment: Written work totalling 2000 words for third year, 3000 words for fourth year, and a 2-hour examination, and class participation at third year.

Prescribed texts:

As for 109-015 Hebrew 4A (*p.197*).

Optional subjects

First/second year subjects

109-003 Introduction to Modern Jewish Culture

Note: This subject is offered as a stand-alone first/second year subject or in conjunction with Hebrew 1A, 2A or 3A for students commencing a major in Hebrew studies.

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Z Shavitsky

Contact: Two 1-hour lectures and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject is an intensive introduction to contemporary Jewish life and culture, with an emphasis on Israel and the diaspora, and the key events, ideas and movements that shaped Jewish history such as, the impact of Zionism and the origins of anti-Semitism and the Holocaust. Students should become familiar with current issues facing the Jewish people such as assimilation, secular-orthodox tensions, Ashkenasim and Sephardim, and the Law of Return. The evolution of the Orthodox, Reform and Conservative religious movements is also examined. Students will encounter a selection of short stories, poems, songs, newspaper articles, critical documents and audio-visual materials to gain a better sociological, cultural, political and literary understanding of the topics explored.

Assessment: A seminar paper of 1000 words, two essays of 1500 words each, and class participation.

Prescribed texts:

Materials prepared by the Department.

922-126 MCD-Introduction to Biblical Hebrew

Note: This subject is offered by the United Faculty of Theology (UFT) and the Evangelical Theological Association (ETA) as part of the Melbourne College of Divinity and special entry conditions apply. This subject is offered as part of a two subject sequence, the second being 922-127 MCD-Biblical Hebrew: The Book of Ruth (*p.197*). Students should approach the teaching institution of the coordinator for further details.

Availability: First and second year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Mark Brett

Contact: A 2-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject is an introduction to Biblical Hebrew. It covers some essential elements of the grammar of Biblical Hebrew and introduces some basic vocabulary. It introduces students to aspects of translation of Biblical Hebrew as well as the main lexical aids. On completion of the subject students should be able to translate basic nominal and verbal sentences; have mastered about 150 basic words in Biblical Hebrew; and be able to read Hebrew script well.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words, comprising weekly exercises and vocabulary tests, and a 2-hour examination.

Prescribed texts: P Broughton, *Biblical Hebrew Grammar*, Whitley College, 1991.

922-127 MCD-Biblical Hebrew: The Book of Ruth

Note: This subject is offered by the United Faculty of Theology (UFT) and the Evangelical Theological Association (ETA) as part of the Melbourne College of Divinity and special entry conditions apply. Students should approach the teaching institution of the coordinator for further details.

Availability: First and second year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Antony Campbell

Prerequisites: 922-126 MCD-Introduction to Biblical Hebrew (*p.197*) or equivalent.

Contact: A 2-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject continues the introduction to Biblical Hebrew begun in Semester 1. It covers further elements of grammar and vocabulary and consolidates translation skills by focusing on the *Book of Ruth*. On completion of the subject students should be able to translate basic prose texts of the Hebrew Bible; have mastered about 500 basic words in Biblical Hebrew; be able to read the Hebrew script well; and be able to discuss elementary points of grammar and textual criticism.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words, comprising weekly exercises and vocabulary tests, two 150 word papers on grammatical and translational aspects of a text and a 2-hour examination.

Prescribed texts: P Broughton, *Biblical Hebrew Grammar*, Whitley College, 1991.

Second/third year subjects

109-011 Jewish National Thought

Note: Formerly available as 150-188. Students who have completed 150-188 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Z Shavitsky

Prerequisites: Any two Arts subjects or permission of the subject coordinator.

Contact: Two hours of lectures and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject will trace the development of Jewish national thought through the writings of Jewish national thinkers, from the impact of Theodore Herzl in the 19th century to the development of three streams of Jewish national thought in the first half of the 20th century. These streams include Labour (to be studied through the works of A.D. Gordon); Revisionism (to be studied through the works of Ze'ev Jabotinsky); Religion (to be studied through the works of Rav Kook). Students should become familiar with issues of the status of the Hebrew language in the Jewish national renaissance; shifts in Jewish national writing following the establishment of the State of Israel; war and peace; the Rabin assassination; Israel-diaspora relations; and future directions in Jewish national thought, including post-Zionism.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words, and class participation.

Prescribed texts:

A subject reader will be available.

109-013 Exploring the World of Jewish Literature

Note: Formerly available as 150-252/352. Students who have completed 150-252/352 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Z Shavitsky

Prerequisites: Any two Arts subjects or permission of the subject coordinator.

Contact: A 2.5 hour seminar per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject involves a review of Jewish literature from the Enlightenment to the present, featuring a variety of authors, genres and texts. One of the themes of the subject is the exploration of the role of metaphor, Biblical and modern, within Jewish literature, with particular attention to the sacrifice of Isaac and other Biblical metaphors. Students will also explore issues of Jewish literary bilingualism, and the representation of women and of non-Jewish figures in Jewish literature. Students should complete the semester with an understanding of the development of modern Hebrew literature.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words, and class participation.

Prescribed texts:

Materials prepared by the Department.

S Y Agnon, *Twenty-One Stories*, Schocken. • G Abramson, *The Oxford Book of Hebrew Short Stories*, Oxford University Press, 1996. • R Alter, *Modern Hebrew Literature*, Behrman House. • Litvinoff, *The Penguin Book of Jewish Short Stories*, Penguin. • A B Yehoshua, *The Continuing Silence of a Poet*, Weidenfeld & Nicolson.

109-021 Kabbalah and Jewish Mystical Traditions

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Z Shavitsky

Prerequisites: Any two Arts subjects or permission of the subject coordinator.

Contact: A 2.5-hour seminar per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject introduces students to the basic concepts underlying the Jewish mystical tradition, using Kabbalistic and Hassidic source materials and commentaries, and contemporary analytical writings. It covers the historical development of the tradition over 3500 years featuring both personalities and major trends/concepts and describes a cosmological structure of the nature of the universe and the function of the human being. The psycho-social implications of various mystical movements of the past and present will be analysed. Reasons for the resurgence of the Kabbalah spiritual tradition in the western world will be explored. Students will also examine the way techniques drawn from such mystical traditions might provide the modern-day persons with insight and ways of managing stress.

Assessment: An essay of 2500 words and a seminar paper of 1500 words.

Prescribed texts: G Scholem, *Kabbalah*, Meridian, 1978. • L Wolf, *Practical Kabbalah*, Random-Three Rivers, 1999. • J I Schochet, *Mystical Concepts in Chassidism Society*, 1988. • A Steinsaltz, *The Thirteen Petalled Rose*, Basic Books, 1980.

922-128 MCD-Advanced Biblical Hebrew Reading

Note: This subject is offered by the United Faculty of Theology (UFT) as part of the Melbourne College of Divinity and special entry conditions apply. Students should contact the UFT for further information.

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Morag Logan

Prerequisites: 922-127 MCD-Biblical Hebrew: The Book of Ruth (*p.197*) or equivalent.

Contact: A 1.5-hour lecture per week (*Year long*).

Description: This subject is designed to build upon a year's study of the grammar of Biblical Hebrew and introduce students to a range of texts in the Hebrew Bible from simple prose to poetry. More complex points of grammar will be discussed as they arise in the texts studied. Students should complete the subject with confidence in the translation of a variety of types of texts from the Hebrew Bible; an increase in their vocabulary; the ability to discuss more complex points of grammar and textual criticism; and a basic understanding of aspects of Hebrew poetry.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words, comprising weekly exercises and vocabulary tests and two 2-hour examinations.

Prescribed texts: K Elliger & W Rudolph (eds), *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*, Stuttgart.

Third/fourth year subjects

109-014 Special Study Research Project (Hebrew)

Note: Students are *not* permitted to enrol in this subject at both third year and fourth year.

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Z Shavitsky

Prerequisites: Admission to the Postgraduate Diploma or Fourth Year combined Honours in Jewish Studies. Departmental approval is necessary before enrolling.

Contact: Regular meetings with the supervisor (*Semester 1, repeat 2*).

Description: This is a special research project based on a subject taken previously or concurrently. It gives third year students with a strong interest in a particular field the opportunity to pursue that interest in the form of a research project. This option will suit committed and highly motivated students who wish to pursue an independent research project before fourth year.

Assessment: A research essay of 4000 words for third year, 5000 words for fourth year, in Hebrew or English on a prescribed topic.

Fourth year subjects

109-507 Hebrew and Jewish Studies Thesis

Credit points: 37.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Z Shavitsky

Prerequisites: Admission to the Postgraduate Diploma or Fourth Year combined Honours in Jewish Studies. Prospective students should contact the coordinator by September in the previous year.

Contact: Regular meetings with the supervisor (*Year long*).

Description: A topic in Hebrew language, literature or another appropriate topic in Hebrew/Jewish studies selected in consultation with the supervisor.

Assessment: A 10 000 word thesis in Hebrew or a 12 000 word thesis in English on an approved topic.

109-508 Hebrew and Jewish Studies Thesis (MYE)

Credit points: 37.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Fourth Year coordinator

Prerequisites: Mid-year admission to the Postgraduate Diploma or Fourth Year combined Honours in Jewish Studies. Prospective students should contact the coordinator at the beginning of Semester 1.

Contact: Regular meetings with the supervisor (*Semester 1, repeat 2*).

Description: A topic in Hebrew language, literature or another appropriate topic in Hebrew/Jewish studies selected in consultation with the supervisor.

Assessment: A 10 000 word thesis in Hebrew or a 12 000 word thesis in English on an approved topic.

109-019 Literature of Destruction

Note: Formerly available as 150-453. Students who have completed 150-453 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Z Shavitsky

Prerequisites: Admission to the Postgraduate Diploma or Fourth Year combined Honours in Jewish Studies.

Contact: A 2-hour seminar per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject involves the advanced study of Jewish literary texts, classical, medieval and modern, with special concern for the theme of destruction and literary representations of and responses to catastrophe. Attention is also given to major topics in the critical tradition of reading Jewish texts. Contemporary Holocaust literature forms a substantial component of the subject, including the work of writers such as Primo Levi, Elie Wiesel, David Grossman. Students should complete the subject with a deeper and more extensive understanding of the character of Jewish literature through the ages; and have developed critical skills in its analysis and interpretation.

Assessment: Written work totalling 5000 words.

Prescribed texts:

Materials prepared by Department.

A Appelfeld (ed), *Bertha in Penueli and Uchmani*, Megiddo, 1965. • A Oz, *Touch the Water Touch the Wind*, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1973. • A Oz, *Crusade and Unto Death*, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1975. • D Roskies, *Against the Apocalypse*, Cambridge, 1984. • A Appelfeld, *Badenheim*, 1939. • G Ramras-Rauch & J Michman-Melkman (eds), *Facing the Holocaust*, The Jewish Publication Society Philadelphia, 1985. • A Mintz, *Hurban*, Columbia University Press, 1984.

Subjects not offered in 2001

Language subjects not offered in 2001

109-008 Hebrew 3C

Note: Students commencing a major in Hebrew studies with this subject must also complete 109-003 Introduction to Modern Jewish Culture (*p.197*) at first year.

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: 109-005 Hebrew 2B (*p.196*) and a corequisite cultural subject or VCE Hebrew or an approved equivalent.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: In this subject students will study modern Hebrew literary texts, conversational idiom and grammar. At the completion of this subject students should have an enriched knowledge of the language through the use of modern Hebrew literature, the modern idiom spoken in Israel today, including its vocabulary, grammar and syntax, and be prepared for a broader range of expertise.

109-009 Hebrew 3D

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: 109-008 Hebrew 3C (*p.199*) or an approved equivalent.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject focuses on modern Hebrew literary texts, and modern conversational idiom and grammar. At the completion of this subject students should have an enriched knowledge of the language through the use of modern Hebrew literature, of the modern idiom spoken in Israel today and its vocabulary, grammar and syntax, and be prepared for a broader range of expertise.

109-017 Hebrew 4C

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: Two of Hebrew 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D or Hebrew 4A, 4B, 4D or the permission of the coordinator.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject focuses on advanced modern literary texts, including study of contemporary Hebrew writers in prose and poetry, modern conversational idiom and newspaper and academic articles. At the completion of this subject students should have read, and possess an understanding of, selected advanced scientific and academic articles and essays.

109-018 Hebrew 4D

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: Two of Hebrew 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D or Hebrew 4A, 4B, 4C or the permission of the coordinator.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject focuses on advanced modern literary texts, including study of contemporary Hebrew writers in prose and poetry, modern conversational idiom, and newspaper and academic articles. At the completion of this subject, students should have read, and have acquired an understanding of, selected advanced scientific and academic articles and essays.

Second/third year optional subjects not offered in 2001

109-012 Reading the Holocaust

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: Any two Arts subjects or permission of the head of the Department. This subject does not presuppose knowledge of Hebrew.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject will explore the ways in which fiction and poetry have confronted the Holocaust through the various complex responses to the Holocaust by both Israeli and diaspora authors. Students will read a collection of texts as a means to understanding the techniques, strategies, language, symbolism and perspectives that have dominated Shoah memories. Students will also examine second generation literature through the work of young writers determined to continue the legacy of literary reflection that began with the survivors. On completion of the subject students should have an understanding of the impact of the Holocaust on various genres of literature including contemporary writers; and be familiar with modes and methodologies of literary analysis.

115-007 Beginners Aramaic

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject involves the study of selected portions of the Old Testament in Aramaic, and an Aramaic translation of the latter (in the Targum). Students who complete the subject should have a reading knowledge of early and Biblical Aramaic texts; and have an understanding of the place of Aramaic within the context of ancient Western Semitic languages.

115-008 Beginners Syriac

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject is an introduction to the Syriac language and its literature. It examines the vocabulary, syntax and accidence of Syriac and provides students with a reading knowledge of classical Syriac prose, referring particularly to translations of the New Testament into Syriac from Greek. Students should complete the subject with a reading knowledge of classical Syriac prose texts, in particular translations of the New Testament from Greek; and have an understanding of the place of Syriac in the family of Aramaic and the wider family of western Semitic languages.

115-010 Computer Usage in Ancient Language Study

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: A beginners classical language.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: The study of the classical languages has already been considerably transformed by the application of various modern technologies. In particular, the ready availability of extensive databases of Ancient Greek and Latin is having a significant impact on these disciplines. This subject begins by reviewing the emergence of these phenomena and discusses why they have found such relevance in the study of classical languages. Students proceed to a detailed linguistic evaluation of the contribution made by these methods, including methodological and theoretical issues. A major component of the subject is an introduction to computer project design, including an orientation to Java as a web programming language. Students should derive some experience in developing web applications using databases and closely integrated web-serving software they write for themselves.

115-011 Ancient Language in Literary Context

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: A year of intermediate study in the relevant language or equivalent.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject is designed to allow students the opportunity to integrate their linguistic skills into their approach to reading texts. In particular, issues of semantics, syntax and accidence are addressed explicitly and the problems researching ancient languages discussed. The subject provides the opportunity to address these questions directly to students who have completed at least two years of preparation in the relevant language. Some aspect of the application of computer technologies to the teaching of texts may be pursued where relevant.

115-028 Beginners Akkadian A

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject studies the basic grammar and syntax of Akkadian and the reading of simple texts illustrative of various aspects of Babylonian culture. On completion of the subject students should have acquired the basics of Akkadian grammar; and have an initial understanding of the problems of Akkadian epigraphy (in the cuneiform script).

115-029 Beginners Akkadian B

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: Beginners Akkadian A or an approved equivalent.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject involves the study of literary and historical texts illustrating aspects of Babylonian culture and an introduction to Akkadian epigraphy. On completion of the subject students should have acquired a knowledge of Akkadian grammar; an initial knowledge of the principles of Akkadian philology and epigraphy; and have been introduced to essential aspects of ancient Mesopotamian and Near Eastern culture through the reading of genuine texts of various kinds.

115-003 Beginners Semitics A

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject is an introduction to the study of ancient Semitic languages. It moves between the general and the specific, investigating the major features of this language family as well as features specific to the north-western Semitic languages. Lectures will discuss the particular skills and techniques used to read Semitic languages, including historical reconstruction. A major focus of this subject is the core grammar, vocabulary and syntax of the reconstructed Canaanite language with a view to the further study of Biblical Hebrew, Aramaic, Syriac, Ugaritic, Ethiopic and/or other related languages. Students will read a collection of inscriptions and poetic texts.

115-004 Beginners Semitics B

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: 115-003 Beginners Semitics A or an approved equivalent.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject is designed to take students from a knowledge of core western Semitic, gained in 115-003 Beginners Semitics A to a working knowledge of one of the Semitic languages introduced in first semester. Students should extend their vocabulary in the relevant dialect; be able to discuss texts in their historical, literary and linguistic contexts; and will study the development of the corpus of relevant texts from the perspective of literary canons. The subject will focus on historical (rather than literary or ideological) aspects of the ancient linguistic task.

115-005 Intermediate Semitics A

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: 115-004 Beginners Semitics B or an approved equivalent.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject is a reading course in Semitic literary texts and inscriptions, with particular emphasis on one of the Semitic languages. On completion of this subject students should have a reading knowledge of the language dealt with, and a broad knowledge of the place of that language within the Semitic language family.

115-006 Intermediate Semitics B

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: 115-005 Intermediate Semitics A or an approved equivalent.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject is a continuation of Semester 1, with an emphasis on another Semitic language. The focus of the subject is also on detailed linguistic analysis and interpretation of selected texts and inscriptions from a wide range of literatures and especially on the literature of the language on which the class will focus. Students should complete the subject with a developed reading knowledge of the Semitic language dealt with, and a general knowledge of the grammar of the Semitic languages.

Fourth year optional subjects not offered in 2001

109-020 Jerusalem in Jewish Literature

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: Admission to the Postgraduate Diploma or Fourth Year combined Honours in Jewish Studies.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject involves the advanced study of Jewish literary texts - classical, medieval and modern - with special concern for the theme and literary representations in poetry and in prose, of the Heavenly and the Earthly

Jerusalem. Attention is also given to major topics in the critical tradition of reading Jewish texts. Students will encounter contemporary authors and poets such as A Oz, A B Yehoshua and Y Amichai. On completion of the subject students should have acquired a deeper and more extensive understanding of the character of Jewish literature throughout its history; and have developed critical skills in its analysis and interpretation.