

**HEBR 2040**  
**Intermediate Hebrew I**  
**Fall 2008**  
**Ruth Precker**

**Shalom!**

Welcome to Hebrew 2040, Intermediate Hebrew I. We are delighted you have decided to take the class. This is a three-credit-hour course, which will continue in the Spring Semester.

Classes will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. in Room 211. The final exam will be Thursday, December 11, from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in Room 211.

**Course Description**

This course will build on your basic knowledge of Modern Hebrew, as it is written and spoken in Israel today. Classes will be highly interactive, with conversations, songs and games, using as much Hebrew as possible. There will be a lot of teamwork, as we split into groups to practice new material. Most written work will be handled outside of class.

Required materials are the textbook *Hebrew From Scratch - Part I*, the CDs of *Hebrew From Scratch - Part I* and *2000+ A Dictionary For Learners of Hebrew*, which you need to buy at the UNT bookstore. You need to keep your work in a folder or binder all semester. Do not throw away any checked assignment!

**Course Objectives**

By the end of Fall Semester you should be able to:

- Improve your Hebrew speaking, reading and writing skills.
- Learn more infinitives
- Learn past tense of *pa'al* in different classes.
- Learn to decline prepositions as *otti*.

- Learn more about *smikhoot* (construct state).
- Improve your spoken Hebrew, with increased vocabulary, verb usage and slang, and conduct more sophisticated conversations.
- Increase your grasp of the history and evolution of the Hebrew language, and Israeli history and culture.

## **Attendance and Classwork**

I expect you to come to every class, to be on time, and to come prepared. Learning any language requires repetition and progression, and it is very easy to fall behind. If you cannot attend class, you are responsible for notifying me – and you are still responsible for turning in all assignments. Please do not be late to class.

Class participation is very important to learning a language and will be a significant part of your grade. This is your prime opportunity during the week to hear and speak Hebrew, and you should make the most of it. Class is conducted in English and Hebrew, with as much Hebrew as possible. The more Hebrew you speak, and the more Hebrew you hear, even if you do not understand every word, the faster your comprehension will improve.

You may bring drinks to class, but no food or gum. Hebrew sounds terrible when spoken through gum.

A lot of information, such as your syllabus, assignments and supplemental material will be posted on webCT. It is your responsibility to log into webCT daily and get updated.

## **Assignments**

All assignments should be turned in on time, preferably on graph paper, and not torn out of your book. Write the whole sentence and not only the words in the blanks. The homework must be on my desk before the class starts. If you miss a class when an assignment is due, ask a classmate to turn it in for you, or turn it in the following class.

A missed assignment will earn a zero. Even if you do not fully understand the work, you will always get some credit for trying to do the

exercise. Late homework will not earn more than a 70, and must be turned in within one week. After that, the assignment earns a zero.

You will have to visit the language lab in order to reinforce new material and to review grammatical concepts. You will be given assignments in the language lab, which you will do on your own.

You will watch several movies each semester outside of class and will be required to turn in assignments corresponding to the movie. The movies open a window to Israeli culture and expose you to usage of the language in real speed.

### **Practice Log**

You will team up with a classmate and meet with him/her a few times a week, or speak on the phone, to work on your reading and speaking skills. Each pair will submit a weekly log with the names of the participants, dates of meeting, material you worked on and the duration. This is part of your semester grade. Doing homework and studying for tests together is not considered as practice time with your classmate.

### **Tests**

All exams for this course will be given only on the announced dates. My policy is to give make-up exams only for University-authorized absences, for religious holidays (after notification to me in writing within the first 15 days of the semester), and in cases of genuine emergency, such as a serious illness or a death in the family. In cases of emergency, to be eligible for a make-up exam, you must submit to me (a) written documentation for your excuse, and (b) a phone number I can call to verify excuses.

Cheating will not be tolerated. For UNT policies concerning cheating, including plagiarism, see the "Code of Student Conduct and Discipline" in the 2008-2009 Undergraduate Catalog.

### **Quizzes**

Every week at the beginning of the lesson the students will have a quiz. Missing a quiz or being late will earn the student a zero. This reinforces both new vocabulary and the need to be on time.

## **Oral Presentation**

All students will choose a topic to present in front of the class. Presentations will start Nov 11<sup>th</sup>. At the beginning of the semester the list of topics with guidelines and a sign-up sheet for a presentation date will be posted. Failing to keep the date will lower the grade.

## **Grades**

Here are the components of your final grade:

Homework	25 percent	Tests	40 percent
Practice Log	5 percent	Quizzes	5 percent
Participation	20 percent	Oral Presentation	5 percent

## **Special Accommodation Request Procedure**

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures cooperates with the Office of Disability Accommodation to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities, as required by the American with Disabilities Act and Section 504, Rehabilitation Act. Please present your written accommodation request to your professor on or before the 6th class day.

## **TAMS Students**

If you are absent for any reason, you are required to file an absence report with Dr. Allen of the TAMS Academic Office.

## **Keep in Touch**

My office hours are on Mondays from 9-10 a.m., and on Thursdays from 10-11 a.m., in Room 203. Otherwise, feel free to call me at 565-2311, or email me at [rprecker@unt.edu](mailto:rprecker@unt.edu) to arrange a time to meet.

I hope we will have a wonderful, worthwhile semester as we build the UNT Hebrew program together. Please do not hesitate to let me know how you are doing, or what you need to succeed in this class.