# Hebrew language and literature

## Prof. Flavio Dalla Vecchia

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to illustrate the fundamental linguistic structures of the Hebrew language; it also intends to introduce, together with the philological reading of portions of biblical books, to the variety of Hebrew literature. At the end of teaching the student will be able to read, analyse and translate a Hebrew prose text.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Semester 1

The first part of the course will address classical Hebrew, outlining its main features. No prior knowledge of the language is required. Students will be introduced to the main phonological, morphological and syntactic aspects of classical Hebrew.

Semester 2

Historical literary introduction, reading and philological analysis of Book of Exodus (cc. 1-15).

In order to encourage to continue the study of Hebrew language, the course will illustrate the distinctive traits of Hebrew poetry (with the reading of some psalms) and of Dead Sea Scrolls.

***READING LIST***

T.O. Lambdin, *Introduzione all’ebraico biblico,* Gregorian & Biblical Press, Roma 2013.

K. Elliger-W. Rudolph (eds.), *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia,* Deutsche Bibelstiftung, Stuttgart, 1967-1977.

I. Carbajosa,«Il testo della Bibbia e la critica testuale», in I. Carbajosa – J. Gonzalez Echegaray – F. Varo (edd.), *La Bibbia nel suo contesto* (Nuova Introduzione allo studio della Bibbia 1) Paideia, Torino 2017, pp. 297-398.

Recommended reading:

P. Joüon, *A grammar of Biblical Hebrew. Volume I-II:* Reprint of first edition with corrections, Translated and Revised by Takamitsu Muraoka, Editrice Pontificio Istituto Biblico, Rome, 1991 (Subsidia Biblica 14/I-II).

B.K. Waltke-M. O’Connor, *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax,* Eisenbrauns, Winona Lake IN, 1990.

Á. Sáenz-Badillos, *Storia della lingua ebraica* (Introduzione allo studio della Bibbia. Supplementi 34), Padeia, Brescia 2007.

P.H. Kelley – D.S. Mynatt – T.G. Crawford, *The Masora of Boblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia. Introduction and Annotated Glossary*, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, MI 1998.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures (possibility of attending course-related academic events).

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral examination. Students shall prove the ability of reading and translating a Biblical passage among those studied during lectures. Further questions about grammatical, syntactical issues of the same document will be posed.

The mark will be out of thirty and the overall mark will consider students’ answers' accuracy and quality, as well as communicative skills and critical skills.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

As an introduction, teaching does not need to be a prerequisite for content. Interest and curiosity are assumed for the study of an ancient language.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG, or on the Faculty notice board.