



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Rothberg International School
Division of Hebrew Language Instruction



Syllabus for Level Aleph – Beginners

General Information

Level Aleph is the first, elementary level out of six levels of Modern Hebrew language instruction at the Hebrew University. On level Aleph, students acquire the foundations of the language; therefore this level requires more hours of instruction to complete than any other level. Hebrew classes in level Aleph are generally subdivided into *Aleph Beginners* (for absolute beginners) and *Aleph Advanced Beginners* (for students with basic knowledge, including the alphabet and a limited vocabulary).

- **Jerusalem Ulpan:** Generally 140 academic hours over up to six weeks in late June-July. Studies are held Sunday-Thursday, and occasionally on Friday, 5-6 academic hours per day.
- **Summer Ulpan:** Generally 200 academic hours over up to two months in August-September. Studies are held Sunday-Thursday, and occasionally on Friday, 5-6 academic hours per day.
- **Academic Year:** Courses are held on a semester basis. In the *Division of Undergraduate Studies*, classes extend over 11 weeks, 8 hours per week. Two additional academic hours of intensive class with emphasis on speaking are optional. Students who enroll for intensive classes will receive one grade for a total of 110 hours. In the *Division of Graduate Studies*, classes extend over 14 weeks, 10 academic hours per week, for a semester total of 140 academic hours.
- **Winter Ulpan:** Generally 100 academic hours over 3-4 weeks in between the autumn and spring semesters (January-February). Studies are held Sunday-Thursday, and occasionally on Friday, up to 6 academic hours per day.

Course Objective

The course is designed to enable students to recognize the fundamental structures of Hebrew and its basic forms, as well as to acquire the necessary vocabulary for everyday conversations, reading and writing on a limited scale.

Examinations

The Mid-term exam contains four parts: reading comprehension, Cloze exercises, grammatical exercises and an essay.

The Final exam resembles the structure of the mid-term exam and encompasses all the material learned from the beginning of the course. Classes that do not complete a level write a final exam, according to the program requirements.

The Level exam is an external exam of the RIS Division of Hebrew Language Instruction. In order to continue studies in Level Bet, the student must achieve a minimum grade of 65 on the Level Exam.

Oral Examinations are held at the end of the course. Students are tested on texts learned in class on topics prepared in advance.

Quizzes

Quizzes will be given on a regular basis.

Books and Study Materials

עברית מן ההתחלה – **Hebrew from Scratch – Part I** (*Ivrit Min Hahatchala*) - Required textbook and optional CD, to be purchased from the Academon bookstore on campus or over the Internet:
www.magnespress.co.il

Multimedia courseware is available for free on the RIS website
<http://overseas.huji.ac.il/hebrewmultimedia> : “Aleph-Bet Click” and “first five lessons in the Ulpan”.

Course Description

Absolute beginners learn to read and write the Hebrew alphabet in both block and script letters, along with very basic morphology and syntax. By the end of Level Aleph, students usually know 1000 words. They gain experience with a variety of skills:

- Comprehension: Listening to short stories and recorded conversations
- Conversation: Simple dialogues and stories
- Reading: dialogues and texts in easy Hebrew on various topics
- Writing: Short dialogues and passages on the topics taught in class
- Grammatical Skills: Elementary grammatical structures, inflection of the strong verb in the past and present tenses; frequent weak verbs

Final Grade

The final grade is based on the following:

- Attendance, class participation, homework, quizzes, oral exam 50% (exact value of each component is according to the framework of the course)
- Mid-term exam: 15%
- Final exam or Level exam: 35%

Note: In order to advance to Level Bet, the student must pass the Level exam with a grade of at least 65; this includes students with a grade average in class higher than 65.