

**Comments from Students Enrolled in the Erasmus Academy
Biblical Hebrew Course, May 21 – July 12, 2018
Taught by Mr. Jim Wilson**

First and foremost, that Jim is an outstanding instructor. Secondly, that the online viewing / learning experience worked quite well for me. And lastly, the quality and accessibility of the textbook in a general sense (there were a few chapters that were a tad confusing, but mostly it was very clear and to the point).

I've actually never participated in [an online course in real time] before, but I can say I was very pleased with how natural and easy it felt to interact in this one, whether that be with Jim as instructor or with fellow classmates.

It's a very strong course so this is nitpicking to the extreme. I suppose if there were one thing it'd be great to have advance notice on the one or two times where the textbook chapter is a bit more confusing (chapter on Irreal tense, for instance), just so for that week I could take it with a grain of salt and focus on the prerecorded instructional video more. But yeah, in reality this was not a big deal at all.

I learned quite a lot of Biblical Hebrew, much more than I had during my first go at the language. I also learned more about how languages function in general, as Jim seemed to have a real command of that subject, and was happy to pass along what he knew when relevant. Lastly, Jim is an awesome instructor who speaks in a very patient, measured, precise, and accessible manner—all very excellent traits to have as a language instructor. This made my job as learning the material a lot easier – especially when we dove into the more nitty gritty aspects – but it also inspired me to strive to be more accessible, precise, down to earth, responsive, etc., in the future (as I continue with teaching myself).

Be ready to work hard, don't be afraid to ask questions, and take full advantage of the resources that you find to be especially helpful to connect with (for me, the videos stand out for instance).

In addition to what's already been above, I would just add reiterate how well he seemed to have a grasp on the subject matter, and his ability to teach with clarity really stand out. Also, at all times he was very inviting of questions, which I found to be quite helpful and instrumental to my own learning process. Lastly, Jim even stayed on for a bit longer a few times (after fellow classmates had already signed off) in order to answer some miscellaneous curiosities I had about the Hebrew Bible. His responses were very well informed and fascinating, and most of all I just appreciated how he was willing to take

the time to do something like this. I sponged in every last morsel I could during these generous outside conversations!

[The] textbook was very good on the whole, and I liked that it had picture narratives. The textbook was also much more effective than a previous textbook I'd worked with, which had gotten bogged down in explaining grammatical rules to the point of overkill. But there was a still chapter that were a bit confusing, and in a few spots it would have been helpful to have further explanatory examples of what was just conveyed. All other resources were excellent and the course was very well organized and easy to navigate and browse through. Overall, I was very pleased!

Jim was very gentle and encouraging, and overall just a fun and awesome instructor to have. He made attending class online a joyous occasion each and every time. This was an absolutely stellar course (and one I am most grateful to have taken), so mostly just keep things the same, really. See above for the one or two things that could be slightly adjusted. Thank you so much!!

Michael R. July 21, 2018

The textbook for the course was good. It allowed us to get right into translating and make us familiar with biblical texts immediately. A strength was also Jim's overall attitude and teaching style. He was very relaxed and emphasized the most important things.

Sometimes we would get bogged down in details which could probably save some time. Probably the biggest thing would be to spend even more class time on the most important grammatical concepts. Although many of the key concepts do come up in the translations, they can be intermittent which makes it difficult to keep them front of mind unless you focus on them a lot out of class.

The course helped me read biblical Hebrew. Simple as that. This alleviates my upcoming schedule as well as enables me dive deeper into the Scriptures— in many ways an invaluable skill.

Jim's demeanor and teaching style were perfect for a summer course. It wasn't too stressful, and for an intensive course he helped stave off feelings of being overwhelmed. [The] videos were helpful. I think more practice handouts might be nice for practice. That would be my only suggestion. I think [the course] has gone well. More accountability is nice, but I still learned a ton without a 'letter grade' hanging over my head.

Chris D. July 22, 2018

The course instructor, Jim Wilson, created an online environment that was conducive for learning. He provided an abundance of easily accessible course resources and was open to questions, even making himself available after class for questions and/or additional assistance.

I would rank this class as EXCELLENT. I have taken other “real time” language courses. This one ranks high because of the level of background and explanatory information provided. The instructor worked to ensure that we not only received content, but equally important contextual information for the language,

I do not have any major improvements to suggest. The course provided what I needed. I would definitely take another Erasmus Academy course if needed.

The course increased my confidence in my abilities to learn a language. The book used was excellent in engaging students in the language from the first day. I feel that I am in a good position to continue building on my skills and expanding my competence. I would enthusiastically recommend this course to others.

I would advise students to make sure that they follow the recommendations for the time needed to invest in the class in addition to the online hours. The course does not provide time to fall behind and catch up latter because it is an intensive. The time recommended for outside of class is mandatory.

The instructor was knowledgeable, patient, accessible, creative, engaging, and offered clear instructive. He was aware of each learner’s strengths and weaknesses and offered responses that were sensitive to that information. He was willing to make adjustments that best suited our learning community. He was encouraging while also making sure that we sufficiently covered the course materials. He did not present himself as the “expert in the room”. Instead, he facilitated our learning and found ways for each participant to contribute.

This was my first online class. I was surprised with how it mirrored the community environment of courses I’ve taken in classrooms. No doubt the small size of the class contribute to time. Even so, the instructor was able to frame our online experience in a way that I didn’t feel as though I had lost something by not being in a classroom.

The course assignments were reasonable and helpful. Each one reinforced what we were learning, increased our competency and helped to pinpoint areas that we needed to work more on.

Karen M. July 25, 2018

This online course in real time can be a bit more difficult with technical issues sometimes, but overall, it is the best it can be. [The instructor is] friendly and always willing to engage our questions above the calling of a standard instructor. Having a document sent after every session listing homework would be helpful, but not necessary.....Consider taking the Biblical Hebrew course and be wary that it requires a

lot of your time. I do wonder if an “interlinear” translation of the assigned texts to be translated would be a more helpful answer key.

David L. July 19, 2018