Modern Hebrew Placement

1. Is there a placement exam for Modern Hebrew courses? What class should I enroll in?

Students who wish to enroll in a Modern Hebrew language class and are not sure what level is most appropriate should contact Dr. Hadar Khazzam-Horovitz at hadarkh@uw.edu. The 15 credit elementary sequence (MODHEB 101, 102, 103) is offered once annually, beginning in Autumn Quarter. An intensive version of this same course, also earning 15 credits, may be offered Summer Quarter (MODHEB 105). For information on enrolling for the summer, consult the following website: http://www.summer.washington.edu/summer/enroll/.

The 15 credit intermediate Modern Hebrew course (MODHEB 201, 202, 203) is offered once annually, beginning in Autumn Quarter. To enroll in the intermediate course, students must pass HEBR 103, or pass an examination demonstrating equivalent knowledge, or have the permission of Dr. Khazzam-Horovitz.

Students who are native speakers of Hebrew cannot enroll in MODHEB 101, 102, 103; MODHEB 105; or MODHEB 201, 202, 203. Students who wish to study Modern Hebrew and who are not sure if UW considers them "native speakers" should consult with the admissions office and/or with Dr. Khazzam-Horovitz. Students who speak Hebrew at home but have never studied the language in a formal setting are often considered "near-native speakers." For placement questions, they should consult with Dr. Khazzam-Horovitz. They are usually placed in HEBR 201 or above.

Modern Hebrew classes are available to non-matriculated students and to Access students on a space-available basis. Register through UW Extension.

2. What's the curriculum?

The current curriculum for first year Modern Hebrew (and for the summer intensive course) is based on the textbook Shalom: A Comprehensive Course in Modern Hebrew (volumes 1 and 2) by Orly Shoer and Shalom Shoer. The current curriculum for second year Modern Hebrew is based on the textbook Ivrit Min Hahathalah (Hebrew from Scratch), Level II.

3. How can I meet the UW foreign language requirements?

For information on the College of Arts and Sciences foreign language requirement, visit the UW website for foreign language requirements at: http://www.washington.edu/uaa/advising/academic-planning/general-education/.

Students who are not enrolled in Modern Hebrew classes, but who wish to demonstrate knowledge sufficient to meet the undergraduate foreign language requirement, may take a Proficiency Exam. The exam is administered through the Testing Center in the Office of Educational Assessment, located in 440 Schmitz Hall; telephone: (206) -543-1171; homepage: http://www.washington.edu/oea/. Information on fees and testing dates should be available from those sources. The test covers material from all three quarters of Elementary Modern Hebrew (MODHEB 101, 102, 103), and students must pass this test with a score of 75 or higher.
Graduate students taking Modern Hebrew language classes must receive a minimum final grade of 2.7 in order to earn credit toward their degrees.

4. Can I get credit by exam?

Students who have learned Modern Hebrew outside of the University of Washington and who wish to receive Credit by Examination should consult the advising website at https://www.washington.edu/students/reg/credbyexam.html and then contact the Testing Center at the Office of Educational Assessment, located in 440 Schmitz Hall; telephone: (206) -543-1171; homepage: http://www.washington.edu/oea/. Information on fees and testing dates should be available from those sources.

Three exams are available.

1) an exam covering material from the first two quarters of Elementary Modern Hebrew (MODHEB 101,102). To receive 10 credits toward an undergraduate degree, students must pass this test with a score of 75 or higher.

2) an exam covering material from all three quarters of Elementary Modern Hebrew (MODHEB 101,102, 103). To receive 15 credits toward an undergraduate degree, students must pass this test with a score of 75 or higher; by receiving a passing mark on this exam students qualify to enroll in Intermediate Modern Hebrew and they also meet the University of Washington undergraduate foreign language requirement.

3) An exam covering material from all three quarters of Intermediate Modern Hebrew (MODHEB 201, 202, 203). To receive 15 credits toward an undergraduate degree, students must pass this test with a score of 75 or higher. By receiving a passing mark on this exam students meet the NELC requirements and the Jewish Studies Program requirements for 2 years of Hebrew language study.

6. If I want to be admitted to UW and want to show that my knowledge of Hebrew fulfills the foreign language requirement for admission, what do I do?

Individuals applying for admission to undergraduate programs at the University of Washington are required to have completed 2 years of high school foreign language classes. Those who have not met this requirement (and so have a "deficiency" in their application), may take a Deficiency Exam to demonstrate sufficient knowledge of Modern Hebrew. The exam is administered through the Testing Center in the Office of Educational Assessment, located in 440 Schmitz Hall; telephone: (206) -543-1171; homepage: http://www.washington.edu/oea/oeahome.htm. Information on fees and testing dates should be available from those sources.

7. Can I transfer credits in Modern Hebrew?

Students who wish to transfer credits in Modern Hebrew language courses from Israeli institutions should contact the Office of International Programs and Exchanges. That office can provide information on the proper procedures to follow. Credits will usually transfer as MODHEB 101, 102, 103, 201, 202, 203 or 490. In cases where students need faculty approval, contact Dr. Khazzam-Horovitz. Students should provide a transcript plus information about the textbooks or curriculum they have studied and the number of in-class hours they spent in their overseas courses. Students who wish to transfer credits from Modern Hebrew language courses at North American institutions should contact Dr. Khazzam-Horovitz.

The first year of Modern Hebrew at the University of Washington is roughly equivalent to Level Aleph at Hebrew University Ulpan; the second year is roughly equivalent to Level Bet.

8. Do Modern Hebrew courses count as VLPA? Courses numbered MODHEB 201 and above: yes! They count as VLPA. First year Modern Hebrew counts as VLPA for students who complete MODHEB 103 or the summer intensive.
Additional information on the UW Modern Hebrew program, including course offerings and funding opportunities can be found at https://jewishstudies.washington.edu/modern-hebrew-uw/courses-modern-hebrew-language-culture/ and on Professor Naomi Sokoloff's blog at https://jewishstudies.washington.edu/category/sokoloff-blog/

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