Hebrew

Minor

The minor in Hebrew introduces students to the language, peoples, cultures, and histories of the modern Hebrew-speaking world. The minor develops the student's command of reading, writing, speaking, and comprehension in the Hebrew language and may complement the student's intended major study.

Students wishing to major in Hebrew should see the major requirements in the Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures (https://guide.berkeley.edu/archive/2024-25/undergraduate/degree-programs/middle-eastern-languages-cultures/) major.

Students minoring in Hebrew must satisfy the lower division prerequisite requirements. Students may also take a language proficiency exam to waive the elementary and intermediate language courses. Please meet with the undergraduate major advisor to discuss course options and study abroad plans.

Declaring the Minor

Students may declare the Hebrew minor as soon as they begin their study at UC Berkeley. Please find the minor declaration form in the Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures department or email the undergraduate major advisor. Students must declare the minor no later than the semester before their Expected Graduation Term (EGT). Please see the L&S minor guidelines (https://lsadvising.berkeley.edu/majors-minors/minors/) for more information.

Other Majors and Minors offered by the Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures (MELC) Department

Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures (https://guide.berkeley.edu/archive/2024-25/undergraduate/degree-programs/middle-eastern-languages-cultures/) (Major and Minor)

Arabic (https://guide.berkeley.edu/archive/2024-25/undergraduate/degree-programs/arabic/) (Minor)

Hebrew (https://guide.berkeley.edu/archive/2024-25/undergraduate/degree-programs/hebrew/) (Minor)

Persian (https://guide.berkeley.edu/archive/2024-25/undergraduate/degree-programs/persian/) (Minor)

Turkish (https://guide.berkeley.edu/archive/2024-25/undergraduate/degree-programs/turkish/) (Minor)

The Hebrew minor requires five upper-division courses in Hebrew literature and culture or history.

General Guidelines

- All minors must be declared before the first day of classes in your Expected Graduation Term (EGT). For summer graduates, minors must be declared prior to the first day of Summer Session A.
- 2. All upper-division courses must be taken for a letter grade.
- A minimum of three of the upper-division courses taken to fulfill the minor requirements must be completed at UC Berkeley.
- A minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 is required in the upperdivision courses to fulfill the minor requirements.

- Courses used to fulfill the minor requirements may be applied toward the Seven-Course Breadth requirement, for Letters & Science students.
- No more than one upper division course may be used to simultaneously fulfill requirements for a student's major and minor programs.
- 7. All minor requirements must be completed prior to the last day of finals during the semester in which the student plans to graduate. If students cannot finish all courses required for the minor by that time, they should see a College of Letters & Science adviser.
- 8. All minor requirements must be completed within the unit ceiling. (For further information regarding the unit ceiling, please see the College Requirements tab.)

Requirements

Lower Division

HEBREW 1A	Elementary Hebrew	5
HEBREW 1B	Elementary Hebrew	5
HEBREW 20A	Intermediate Hebrew	5
HEBREW 20B	Intermediate Hebrew	5
Upper-Division F	Requirements (5 Courses)	
Hebrew Languag	ge and Literature	
HEBREW 100A	Advanced Hebrew	3
Select two literature courses:		
HEBREW 100B	Advanced Hebrew	3
HEBREW 104A	Modern Hebrew Literature and Culture	3
HEBREW 104B	Modern Hebrew Literature and Culture	3
Hebrew Culture	and History	
Select two course	s in Hebrew culture/history ¹	3
MELC 104	Babylonian Religion [3]	
MELC 105	Ancient Mesopotamian Literature [3]	
MELC 108	Ancient Astronomy [4]	
MELC 109	Mesopotamian History: Stories of Ancient People and Places [4]	
MELC 111	Disease, Health and Pandemics in Ancient Egypt, the Ancient Middle East, and the Classical World [4]	
MELC 113	Gilgamesh: King, Hero, and God [4]	
MELC 114	Beyond Wikipedia: The Ancient Middle East [3]	
MELC 117	Course Not Available [4]	
MELC 119	Explorers, Archaeologists, and Tourists in the Middle East [4]	
MELC C120B	The Art of Ancient Mesopotamia: 1000-330 BCE [4]	
MELC 125	Art and Archaeology of Middle Eastern Christianity [4]	
MELC 130	History of Ancient Israel [4]	
MELC 131	Aspects of Biblical Religion [4]	
MELC 132	Biblical Poetry [4]	
MELC 133	Judaism in Late Antiquity [4]	
MELC 134	Topics in History and Cultures of Israel [4]	
MELC 135	Literature and History in the Hebrew Bible [4]	
MELC 136	History and Historiography in the Hebrew Bible [3]	

MELC 137	Modern and Contemporary Jewish Thought [4]
MELC 138	The Hero in the Bible and the Ancient Middle East [3]
MELC 139	Modern Jewish Literatures [4]
MELC 148	Emergence of the Modern Middle East [4]
MELC 151	Middle Eastern Women Writers [4]
MELC 153	Synagogues, Cathedrals, and Mosques: The Rise and Fall of Islamic Spain [4]
MELC 155	The Thousand and One Nights in World Literary Imagination [3]
MELC 156	Sociolinguistics of the Middle East [4]
MELC 158AC	Middle East: Post-Colonialism, Migration, and Diaspora [4]
MELC 159	Middle East, Empire, and Orientalism [4]
MELC 190A	Special Topics in Fields of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures: Ancient Middle Eastern Studies [4]
MELC 190C	Special Topics in Fields of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures: Jewish Studies [4]
MELC 192C	Undergrad Seminar: Problems and Research in Middle Eastern Studies: Jewish Studies [2,4]
MELC 198	Directed Group Study for Upper Division Students [1-4]
MELC 199	Supervised Independent Study and Research [1-4]

The faculty major advisor must approve all courses outside of the department that will be used to satisfy the Hebrew minor requirements.

Hebrew

Total Units

HEBREW 1A Elementary Hebrew 5 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

This course is the first semester of the elementary level of Modern Hebrew and is meant for

students who have no or little experience with the Hebrew language. Students will learn to read and

write the Hebrew alphabet (both print and cursive) as well as gain proficiency in speaking and

listening. Students will develop a foundational vocabulary, allowing them to communicate in

basic sentences. Together with the second semester of Elementary Hebrew, students will be

prepared to engage with the Hebrew language in routine contexts.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of recitation and 1 hour of workshop per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

HEBREW 1B Elementary Hebrew 5 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

This course is the second semester of the elementary level of Modern Hebrew. The course

continues where Elementary Hebrew 1A left off and further cultivates students' speaking,

reading, listening, and writing proficiencies in Modern Hebrew. It expands on vocabulary and expressions, allowing students to hold colloquial conversations and interactions. The course complements the first semester of elementary Hebrew and together the two semesters provide students with the foundational grammar and syntax of Modern Hebrew, preparing them toengage with Hebrew in routine contexts. Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Hebrew 1A or consent of the instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of recitation and 1 hour of workshop per week

Additional Details

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Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

HEBREW 10 Intensive Elementary Hebrew 10 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2007 10 Week Session, Summer 2007 8 Week Session, Summer 2006 10 Week Session

An intensive course in modern Israeli Hebrew. The course covers the basic syntactic and morphological patterns of modern Hebrew through the teaching and practice of communicative and interactive language skills in the four areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course is equivalent to two semesters of Hebrew in the regular academic year.

Hours & Format

Summer: 8 weeks - 20 hours of lecture and 5 hours of laboratory per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

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HEBREW 11A Reading and Composition for Hebrew Speaking Students 5 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Designed for heritage students who possess oral skills (speaking/ comprehension, though limited) but need to improve their writing and reading abilities, and expand their knowledge of Hebrew grammar and syntax. Completion of 11A-11B will prepare the student to take Hebrew 20A, Intermediate Hebrew.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Rudimentary knowledge of spoken Hebrew and consent

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 5 hours of recitation per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

HEBREW 11B Reading and Composition for Hebrew-Speaking Students 5 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Designed for heritage students who possess oral skills (speaking/ comprehension, though limited) but need to improve their writing and reading abilities, and expand their knowledge of Hebrew grammar and syntax. Completion of 11A-11B will prepare the student to take Hebrew 20A, Intermediate Hebrew.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Hebrew 11A or the consent of the instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 5 hours of recitation per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

HEBREW 20A Intermediate Hebrew 5 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022

This course is the first semester of the intermediate level of Modern Hebrew. The course continues where Elementary Hebrew 1B left off and further cultivates the student's speaking, reading, listening, and writing proficiencies in Modern Hebrew. It expands on vocabulary and expressions, allowing students to hold colloquial conversations as well as establishing a foundation to discuss more sophisticated topics.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Hebrew 1A and 1B or the consent of the instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of recitation and 1 hour of

workshop per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

HEBREW 20B Intermediate Hebrew 5 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

This course is the second semester of the intermediate level of Modern

Hebrew. The course

continues where Intermediate Hebrew 20A left off and further cultivates students' speaking, reading, listening, and writing proficiencies in Modern Hebrew. It expands on vocabulary and expressions, allowing students to hold colloquial conversations as well as discussion on more sophisticated topics. The course complements the first semester of intermediate Hebrew and together the two semesters provide students with a profound foundation of Hebrew grammar and syntax as well as an expansive vocabulary, preparing them to engage with Hebrew in most contexts.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Hebrew 1B or consent of the instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of recitation and 1 hour of

workshop per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

HEBREW 30 Intermediate Hebrew 10 Units

Terms offered: Summer 1997 10 Week Session, Summer 1996 10 Week Session, Summer 1995 10 Week Session

This course is equivalent to a full year of intermediate Hebrew. It will deepen skills in speaking, understanding, reading, and writing modern

Israeli Hebrew.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: One year of college level Hebrew

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for 30 after taking

20A-20B.

Hours & Format

Summer: 8 weeks - 20 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

HEBREW 100A Advanced Hebrew 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2023, Fall 2020

Advanced Hebrew, especially designed for those going on to the study of modern Hebrew literature. Vocabulary building, grammar review, and literary analysis of a sampling of modern texts.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 20A-20B or equivalent

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: 20A-20B-20C.

HEBREW 100B Advanced Hebrew 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2020, Spring 2019, Spring 2018

Advanced Hebrew, especially designed for those going on to the study of modern Hebrew literature. Vocabulary building, grammar review, and literary analysis of a sampling of modern texts.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 20A-20B or equivalent

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: 20A-20B-20C.

HEBREW 102A Postbiblical Hebrew Texts 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2008, Fall 2002, Fall 1998

Texts from the rabbinic period (Mishnah, Tosefta, Talmud, and Midrash) and an introduction to the languages of rabbinic texts.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 20A-20B or equivalent

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

HEBREW 102B Postbiblical Hebrew Texts 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2014, Spring 2011, Spring 2009

Texts from the rabbinic period (Mishnah, Tosefta, Talmud, and Midrash)

and an introduction to the languages of rabbinic texts.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 20A-20B or equivalent

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

HEBREW 103A Later Rabbinic and Medieval Hebrew Texts 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2004

Study of midrashic, exegetical, halakhic (legal), poetic, apocalyptic,

messianic, or historical texts.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 20A-20B

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

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HEBREW 103B Later Rabbinic and Medieval Hebrew Texts 3 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Study of midrashic, exegetical, halakhic (legal), poetic, apocalyptic,

messianic, or historical texts. **Rules & Requirements**

Prerequisites: 20A-20B

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

HEBREW 104A Modern Hebrew Literature and Culture 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2020

A close reading of selected works of modern Hebrew fiction, poetry, and drama in their cultural and historical contexts. Topics vary from year to year and include literature and politics, eros and gender, memory and nationalism, Middle-Eastern and European aspects of Israeli literature and culture.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 100A-100B or equivalent

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

HEBREW 104B Modern Hebrew Literature and Culture 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2017, Spring 2016

A close reading of selected works of modern Hebrew fiction, poetry, and drama in their cultural and historical contexts. Topics vary from year to year and include literature and politics, eros and gender, memory and nationalism, Middle-Eastern and European aspects of Israeli literature and culture.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 100A-100B or equivalent

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

HEBREW 105A The Structure of Modern Hebrew 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 1999

An analysis of Hebrew grammar, syntax, semantics, morphology, history of the language, fixed expressions, discourse analysis, contrastive features of Hebrew and English in the context of contemporary linguistic theories.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

HEBREW 105B The Structure of Modern Hebrew 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2011, Spring 2008

An analysis of Hebrew grammar, syntax, semantics, morphology, history of the language, fixed expressions, discourse analysis, contrastive features of Hebrew and English in the context of contemporary linguistic theories.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

HEBREW 106A Elementary Biblical Hebrew 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023 An introduction to the language of the Hebrew Bible.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: 2A-2B

HEBREW 106B Elementary Biblical Hebrew 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2022 An introduction to the language of the Hebrew Bible.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: 2B

HEBREW N106 Elementary Biblical Hebrew 6 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2009 10 Week Session, Summer 2009 Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2008 Second 6 Week Session
An introduction to the language of the Hebrew bible.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for N106 after taking 106A-106B.

Hours & Format

Summer: 6 weeks - 15 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

HEBREW 107A Biblical Hebrew Texts 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022, Fall 2015, Fall 2011

The tools and procedure of biblical exegesis applied to simple narrative

texts.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 20A-20B

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: 101A-101B

HEBREW 107B Biblical Hebrew Texts 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2016, Spring 2012

The tools and procedure of biblical exegesis applied to simple narrative

texts.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 20A-20B

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: 101B

HEBREW 111 Intermediate Biblical Texts 3 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

A systematic study of the Prophets beginning with Isaiah.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 101A-101B or equivalent

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

HEBREW 148A The Art and Culture of the Talmud: Advanced Textual Analysis 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2011, Fall 2010, Fall 2002

In this course, we will read and analyze closely talmudic texts in the original languages--Hebrew and Aramaic--together with selected medieval commentaries. The primary focus of the course will be on the acquisition of facility in reading the Talmud, comprehension of philological and historical-cultural issues and methods of study, as well as understanding the formative relation of the Talmud to the structures and practices of traditional Jewish cultures.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 102A-102B or consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

HEBREW 148B The Art and Culture of the Talmud: Advanced Textual Analysis 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2001

In this course, we will read and analyze closely talmudic texts in the original languages--Hebrew and Aramaic--together with selected medieval commentaries. The primary focus of the course will be on the acquisition of facility in reading the Talmud, comprehension of philological and historical-cultural issues and methods of study, as well as understanding the formative relation of the Talmud to the structures and practices of traditional Jewish cultures.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 102A-B or consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

HEBREW 190B Special Topics in Hebrew 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2020, Spring 2016, Spring 2011

Topics explore special themes and problems in Hebrew language and literature. They often reflect the research interests of the instructor and supplement regular curricular offerings. Specific descriptions of current offerings are available through the department.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 20A-20B or equivalent

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

HEBREW H195 Senior Honors 2 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2003

Directed study centered upon preparation of an honors thesis.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Limited to senior honors candidates

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit up to a total of 4 units.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

HEBREW 198 Directed Group Study for Upper Division Students 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2016, Spring 2002, Fall 2001 Instruction in areas not covered by regularly scheduled courses.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of directed group study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

HEBREW 199 Supervised Independent Study and Research 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2016, Fall 2003, Spring 1999 Enrollment is restricted by regulations shown in the .

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 1.5-7.5 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final

exam not required.