

# Carleton

Hebrew Program

507-222-5437

Dear Future Carl,

Shalom and welcome to Carleton!

Congratulations on being accepted to one of only a few Liberal Arts Colleges where you can [study modern Hebrew](#). Here your interest in the language can lead you into a world of logic and many historical layers! In addition to Religion, History, and Archaeology, Hebrew is a vital language in International Relations, Business, Medicine, and many scientific fields. It is the language of the Jewish people, but students of all backgrounds take our four term Hebrew language sequence at Carleton, as well as weekly Hebrew supplements to some of our Israeli literature and film classes that are taught in English.

If our first level, Hebrew 101, is the right placement for you, you may have some knowledge of Hebrew already or you may never have seen the letters. Since our emphasis is on reading and writing as Israelis do, we are all on the same footing in a few days. [Throughout our four courses](#) we work with Israeli print and electronic media, TV, radio programs, and films. Term-long features include a pop music Karaoke in Hebrew project in our 102 class. Groups of students choose an Israeli pop song and they practice singing it exactly as the artists do. This is such a fun way to work on pronunciation and understanding - each group member contributes to explaining their song's meaning and its cultural background in individual presentations at the end of term, followed by a collective karaoke-style performance!

In Hebrew 103, groups of students become Israeli publishing firms and after deciding on a focus for a magazine on Israel, they write short essays in Hebrew for it and for other developing magazines in class. At the end of term Hebrew speakers on campus gather to hear each group pitch their publication and try to convince us to subscribe to their magazine based on the first issue. Our attention in intermediate Hebrew (204) is more individual, as each student chooses a topic and writes a 10-page research paper, week by week, over the term. Around midterm everyone designs a poster to illustrate their research and finishes by giving a talk on their work. Our poster sessions have featured topics on Israel ancient and contemporary, on Jewish communities or folklore around the world, and on Hebrew and other Jewish languages. Environmental issues, as well as diverse communities in Israel and the Middle East have also been popular research and poster topics.

Hebrew 'trailer' classes often accompany courses in English such as East/West in Israeli and Palestinian Fiction and Film, and Israeli Society in Israeli Cinema. Whether Hebrew students are in the middle of our language sequence or have finished it, they can enroll in a weekly language section for these literature and film courses. We expand our vocabulary in connection with the Israeli material we are reading or watching, and we discuss film scenes without subtitles. 'Hebrew for Holocaust Research' is an independent study I designed for a student preparing to do some archival reading for his senior thesis (comps) in History at Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and Museum in Jerusalem. I really enjoy working with Hebrew students toward research goals that they have, and currently this includes helping a senior History major read scholarship in Hebrew on renowned medieval European Jewish travelers in the Middle East.

Many Carleton students have advanced their Hebrew language skills in Israel with support from a [Jonathan Paradise Israel Experience Scholarship](#). Students can study in a university or kibbutz *ulpan* (Hebrew program), and they can combine this with interning or volunteering in a nearby school, museum, or business. Hebrew and Middle East Studies programs at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and at the University of Haifa have been popular choices for Paradise Scholarship recipients, as have interning or volunteering at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, and the Hand in Hand Arab and Jewish bicultural school.



Back at Carleton, Israeli film and music evenings, Hebrew game nights, and weekly lunch tables also await! We look forward to welcoming you to עברית - Hebrew here. I will be very glad to talk with you about your interests and to answer questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me by email any time at [sbeckwit@carleton.edu](mailto:sbeckwit@carleton.edu) !להתראות בקרוב! - Look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stacy Beckwith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Stacy Beckwith  
Professor of Hebrew and Judaic Studies  
Chair, Department of Middle Eastern Languages  
Director, Program in Judaic Studies