

Introduction to Hebrew: A Journey from Sacred to Secular, from Ancient to Modern.

Dates	Thursday 22 April 2021
Times	10.30 – 14.30
Location	Zoom
Level	Beginners but all welcome
Class size	Maximum 20 participants

Course description

This online course will take you on a journey of 3500 years of the Hebrew language, following its miraculous development from an ancient language, both sacred and spoken, to a modern, vibrant and living language used by millions in Israel and in the Diaspora.

The session will follow the change in script from the ancient Hebrew alphabet to its current form, looking at the shape of the letters and exploring their pictorial, mystical and ethical significance, as well as numerical values (gematria) which helped to calculate future events in Jewish history. We will also explore how an ancient language has developed to meet the needs of the modern world.

We will discover how Hebrew letters can be found in the Latin alphabet and how they are used widely across the world – you might be surprised to find that you already speak some Hebrew without even being aware of it! By the end of this session, you will have learned some useful phrases in Hebrew, and gained a greater understanding of this ancient language.

There will be a short lunch break from 12.30pm – 1pm.

This course takes place on Zoom and we will email you a joining link the day before. There will be an opportunity to reflect on your experience with your fellow participants and share your responses with the tutor, Nitza Spiro.

Live captions will be provided by Stagertext.

Tutor

This course is led by Israeli born **Nitza Spiro**, the founder and director of the Spiro Institute and the Spiro Ark, the leading educational and cultural organisations dealing with the teaching of Jewish and Israeli history and culture. She was the deputy director of Ulpan Akiva, the renowned Israeli institute dedicated to the teaching of Jewish culture and Hebrew language. Nitza contributed greatly to the

work of this prestigious institute whose director Shulamit Katznelson was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Nitza taught Hebrew and Hebrew literature at Oxford University to both graduate and undergraduate students. Her innovative and creative language teaching methodology was praised by the Israeli Ministry of Education as the best teaching of Hebrew outside Israel.

Nitza was invited by the International Christian Embassy in Athens to deliver an intensive 2 week Hebrew course of Hebrew to Christian refugees from Muslim countries who were persecuted in their lands of birth as well as in the refugee camps in Athens for their Christian Faith.

As a recipient of the Hebrew University's prestigious Katz Prize, she spent a year in Scandinavia studying the Folk High School's movement in adult education. She also taught Jewish history and culture in Baltimore Jewish University and Florida Atlantic University.

Required Reading

Any preparatory reading you can do on the Hebrew language before the course would be advantageous.

Previous skills, knowledge or experience

None required.

Facilities

Live subtitles will be provided by Stagertext.

**THIS COURSE TAKES PLACE ON ZOOM.
PLEASE DO NOT COME TO THE BRITISH LIBRARY.**