

Martin Luther Chan, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Hebrew & Jewish Studies; Director of Jewish Studies
Affiliate Faculty Member of Arabic & Islamic Studies
Part-Time Instructor of German

Department of Modern & Classical Languages, Literatures, and Cultures
University of Kentucky, 1469 Patterson Hall, Lexington, KY, 40506
martinluther@uky.edu | 859-218-3723

EDUCATION

Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles 2019
Near Eastern Languages and Cultures

Dissertation: *Language Consciousness in the Hebrew Bible during the Persian Period in Jerusalem*
Co-Chairs: William Schniedewind (Hebrew Bible), Michael Cooperson (Arabic)

M.A. University of California, Los Angeles 2014
Near Eastern Languages and Cultures

B.A. University of California, Los Angeles 2013
English – *Summa Cum Laude*

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

CURRENT APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor of Hebrew and Jewish Studies, August 2022 – present
University of Kentucky

Director of Jewish Studies, University of Kentucky July 2025 – present
Acting Director of Jewish Studies, University of Kentucky June 2024- June 2025

- *Applied and secure a \$178,000 grant to hire a second full-time faculty member in Jewish Studies*
- *Increased the number of minors in Jewish Studies by 375% (from 4 to 19).*
- *Grew enrollments in Jewish Studies courses by 148% (from 52 to 129)*
- *Mentored and secured scholarships for 9 students in Jewish Studies*

Fiscal tasks and responsibilities include:

- *Managing the Jewish Studies annual operating budget of \$11,000*
- *Overseeing the Jewish Studies scholarship fund of \$130,000*
- *Managing a Holocaust Lecture Fund of \$60,000*

OTHER ACADEMIC WORK

Founder of the Scriptures, Theology & Religion (S.T.AR)
minor at the University of Kentucky

January 2025- present

- *Developed the curriculum for the minor*
- *Raised \$33,000 to date in external funding for a part-time instructor in New Testament*

PREVIOUS APPOINTMENTS

Lecturer of Modern Hebrew,
Washington University in St. Louis

August 2019 - July 2022

PUBLICATIONS

LANGAUGE TEXTBOOK

Gesharim: A Textbook for Advanced Modern Hebrew, co-authored with Eyal Tamir.
Under Contract with Routledge

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

Chan, Martin Luther (2025) Aramaic Reflexes of the Semitic $\aleph$ / $\aleph^*$: A Study in Ancient Polyphony, Ugaritic Phonology & Arabic Dialectology. *Journal of Semitic Studies*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/jss/fgaf036>

Chan, Martin Luther (2024). Learning to Read in Hebrew and Arabic: Challenges and Pedagogical Approaches. *Education Sciences*, 2024, 14(7), 765; 1-18.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3390/educsci14070765>

ARTICLES UNDER REVIEW

Chan, Martin Luther. We speak Yehudit: The Biblical Portrayal of Abstand- and Ausbau Languages. *Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft* – submitted July 2026

Chan, Martin Luther. The Mutations of Final Weak (Defective) Roots in Arabic & Hebrew: A Comparative Study across Lexical Classes and Linguistic Registers. *International Journal of Arabic Linguistics* – revised and resubmitted in April 2026

MONOGRAPHS IN PROGRESS

A Linguistic Analysis of Modern Hebrew Verbs & Morphology.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY,

Assistant Professor, 2022-

Language Courses:

Arabic 102	Elementary Modern Standard Arabic II
Arabic 202	Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic II
Hebrew 101	Elementary Biblical Hebrew I
<i>Previously taught as:</i>	Elementary Modern Hebrew I
Hebrew 102	Elementary Biblical Hebrew II
<i>Previously taught as:</i>	Elementary Modern Hebrew II
Hebrew 201	Intermediate Biblical Hebrew I
<i>Previously taught as:</i>	Intermediate Modern Hebrew I
German 101	Elementary German I

Culture Courses:

Hebrew & Jewish Studies 110	Introduction to Old Testament/ Hebrew Bible
Hebrew & Jewish Studies 324/ History 352	Jews in the Bible & Beyond: From Abraham to the Inquisition
Hebrew & Jewish Studies 425	Variable Topics – Jewish New Testament
Hebrew & Jewish Studies 151/ Arabic & Islamic Studies 151	Jerusalem through the Ages <i>(to be taught in Spring 2027)</i>

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

Lecturer, 2019-2022

Hebrew 1011	First Year Modern Hebrew I
Hebrew 1012	First Year Modern Hebrew II
Hebrew 2011	Second Year Modern Hebrew I
Hebrew 2012	Second Year Modern Hebrew II
Hebrew 320D	Third-Level Modern Hebrew I
Hebrew 322D	Third-Level Modern Hebrew II
Hebrew 3211	Conversational Hebrew

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

Instructor of Record, 2015-2020

Hebrew 8 (Summer Session)	Elementary Modern Hebrew Intensive 8-week intensive equivalent to First year Modern Hebrew
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Teaching Fellow (2018-2019)

German 1	Elementary German I
German 2	Elementary German II
German 3	Elementary German III

Teaching Assistant (2016-2018)

Ancient Near East 10W

Jerusalem: Holy City

Near East M20

Visible Language: Study of Writing

GRANTS, FUNDING, & FELLOWSHIPS

EXTERNAL GRANTS & FUNDING

Jewish Heritage Fund

\$177,958

Grant for Visiting Assistant Professor of Hebrew & Jewish Studies

August 2025-June 2027

- Secured funding for a two-year Visiting Assistant Professor in Second Temple & Rabbinic Judaism for the Modern & Classical Languages department at the University of Kentucky

Christian Student Fellowship (CSF)/ Lewis House

\$12,030.48

- Secured external funding from for a part-time instructor in New Testament & Christian Theology for the Modern & Classical Languages department at the University of Kentucky

August 2025-June 2026

\$21,000

July 2026-June 2027

INTERNAL UNIVERSITY GRANTS

The University of Kentucky's Gaines Center for the Humanities

\$500

April 2025

Mini grant for lecture in the Humanities

EXTERNAL FELLOWSHIPS

Schusterman Summer Institute for Israel Studies

\$6,000

Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts

June-July 2023

- For faculty professional development and training to teach Israel Studies at the university level

Deutsche Akademische Austauschdienst (DAAD)

Language Intensive Course Grant

€3,500

Göttingen, Lower Saxony, Germany

October-December 2016

- Used for the purpose of taking two intensive language courses at the Goethe Institute in Göttingen (C1-C2)

Eugene V. Cota-Robles Diversity Fellowship
University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

\$25,000 per annum for 4 years
2014-2018

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

National Association of Professors of Hebrew (NAPH)

June 27, 2022

האם כדאי שְלִמְד דְקְדוּק בְרִמְת הַמַּתְקַדְמִים?

Translated title: *"Should we teach grammar at the advanced level?"*

Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture

February 23, 2024

Learning to Read in Hebrew: Challenges and Pedagogical Approaches

UNIVERSITY SERVICE:

TRACK DIRECTOR

Director of Hebrew & Jewish Studies Track

2022-2023

Kentucky Foreign Language Conference (KFLC)

COMMITTEES:

Member of Search Committee for Visiting Assistant

March-April 2025

Professor in Hebrew & Jewish Studies

University of Kentucky, Department of Modern &
Classical Languages, Literatures, & Cultures

Member of Evaluation Committee for Luckens

January 2023-June 2024

International Prize in Jewish Thought and Culture

University of Kentucky, Program in Jewish Studies

Member of Evaluation Committee for the Jewish

December 2022- June 2024

Heritage Fund for Excellence Scholarship (JHFE)

University of Kentucky, Program in Jewish Studies

Member of Undergraduate Studies Committee
Washington University in St. Louis,
Department of Jewish, Islamic & Middle Eastern
Studies

September 2020-June 2022

Member of Hebrew Lecturer Search Committee
Washington University in St. Louis,
Department of Jewish, Islamic & Middle Eastern
Studies

May 2021

Member of Academic Integrity Committee
Washington University in St. Louis

January 2022-June 2022

TRANSLATION EXPERIENCE

Modern Hebrew to English Hana Oppenheimer, "The Massacre at Kremnička: Mass Grave in Slovakia, 1944-1945." Master's Thesis at Haifa University, November 2003, Pages 1-112
Original Hebrew Title :
הטבח בקרמיניצ'קה : קבר המונים בסלובקיה, 1940-1944

AWARDS & HONORS:

AWARD NOMINATIONS

University of Kentucky, College of Arts & Sciences
Outstanding Teaching Award

2025

SCHOLARSHIPS

UCLA Achievement Scholarship
UCLA Merit Scholarship

2011-2013

2011-2012

HONORS

UCLA Dean's Honor List

2012-2014

UCLA Near Eastern Languages & Cultures, 2013-2014
Departmental Scholar

East Los Angeles College President's Honors List 2009-2011
East Los Angeles College Dean's Honors List 2008-2011

LANGUAGES

MODERN LANGUAGES

Ranked in order of proficiency

Near Native	Modern Hebrew
Superior	Modern Standard Arabic, Levantine Colloquial Arabic
Heritage/ Bilingual	Cantonese (Yue Chinese)
Advanced High	Spanish
Advanced Mid	Mandarin Chinese
Advanced Low	German, Iranian Persian (Farsi)
Novice	Russian
Unranked	Egyptian Colloquial Arabic

(used for research: strong comprehension ability, limited speaking)

CLASSICAL LANGUAGES

Liturgical Languages (Reading Knowledge)

Biblical Hebrew, Classical Arabic (Qur'anic), Aramaic (Biblical, Targumic, Talmudic), Syriac

Inscriptional Languages (Reading Knowledge)

Northwest Semitic varieties, Ugaritic

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

National Association of Professors of Hebrew (NAPH), Society of Biblical Literature (SBL)