

4OT502: INTRODUCTION TO HEBREW

Course Syllabus

Reformed Theological Seminary, Atlanta
 Fall 2007, Sept. 6 – Dec. 6
 Thursday Evenings, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

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RTS Catalog Description:

This course introduces basic elements of the Hebrew language. Lectures and small group sessions cover the Hebrew alphabet, pronunciation, and elementary grammatical structures.

I. PURPOSE OF THE COURSE

- The purpose of this first Hebrew module is the acquisition of the rudimentary elements of Hebrew grammar for the preparation of the broader hermeneutical task of translating and interpreting the Hebrew Bible.
- Because Biblical Hebrew is indispensable to the study of the Old Testament with greater depth and accuracy, this introductory Hebrew course will bring the student closer to that goal.

OBJECTIVES:

Successful students will have:

- 1) Become thoroughly acquainted with the essential material of the first 19 chapters in Mark D. Futato's Hebrew grammar, *Beginning Biblical Hebrew* (Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2003).
- 2) Familiarized themselves with the basic elements of Hebrew morphology (forms) and syntax (uses) of Hebrew nouns, verbs, adjectives, conjunctions, numbers, and prepositions.
- 3) Successfully memorized a large portion of frequently occurring vocabulary words and verbal forms found in the Hebrew Bible (i.e., 180 words).
- 4) The ability to translate basic Hebrew texts from the Hebrew Bible.
- 5) Read the first three chapters from P.J. Silzer & T.J. Finley's *How Biblical Languages Work* (Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2004), pp. 19-117.

II. COURSE SCHEDULE

September 6- *Syllabus Review and Course Requirements*
 Prolegomena: "Why Study Biblical Hebrew?"
 Chapter 1: The Alphabet
 Assignment: Memorize the Hebrew alphabet; p. 6

September 13- **Quiz #1**
 Chapter 2: The Vowels

Assignment: Memorize the Hebrew vowel points and vocabulary words (p. 9); pp. 10-12.

September 20-

Quiz #2

Chapter 3: Syllables, Sheva, and Strong Dagesh

Assignment: pp. 16-17

Chapter 4: The Noun, Basic Forms

Assignment: pp. 21-23

September 27-

Quiz #3

Chapter 5: Pronouns and the Definite Article

Assignment: pp. 26-28

Chapter 6: The Verb, Qal Perfect

Assignment: pp. 33-35

October 4-

Quiz #4

Chapter 7: Sentences with Verbs

Assignment: 38-41

Chapter 8: The Noun, Vowel Changes

Assignment: pp. 46-48

October 11-

Quiz #5

Chapter 9: Prepositions and Vav Conjunction

Assignment: pp. 53-55

Chapter 10: The Adjective

Assignment: pp. 60-62

Silzer & Finley, Chapter 1 Reading Notes Due

Mid-term Exam Review

October 18-

Mid-term (2 hours)

October 25-

Quiz #6

Chapter 11: The Verb: Qal Imperfect

Assignment: pp. 65-67

Chapter 12: Construct Relationship: Singular

Assignment: pp. 71-74

November 1-

Quiz #7

Chapter 13: Construct Relationship: Plural

Assignment: pp. 77-80

Chapter 14: Qal Perfect and Imperfect: Weak Roots

Assignment: pp. 84-87

November 8-

Quiz #8

Chapter 15: Qal Perfect and Imperfect: I Nun and III Hey

Assignment: pp. 92-94

Chapter 16: Possessive Suffixes on Singular Nouns
Assignment: pp. 99-101

November 15-

Quiz #9

Chapter 17: Demonstrative and Relative Pronouns
Assignment: pp. 105-107
Chapter 18: Qal Imperfect: I Yod and I Alef
Assignment: pp. 111-113

November 22-

Happy Thanksgiving!

November 29-

Quiz #10

Chapter 19: Possessive Suffixes on Plural Nouns
Assignment: pp. 116-119
Silzer & Finley, Chapters 2-3 Reading Notes Due
Final Exam Review

December 6-

Final Exam (2 hours)

III. ASSIGNMENTS

A. Practice Assignments in *Beginning Biblical Hebrew*

- a. Study and reread the material covered in the assigned chapters.
- b. Answer and write out all practice questions. There are two reasons for this: 1) it will be good practice for you to write them out, and 2) you will be turning in your practice assignments on the days of your midterm and final exams, respectively.
- c. Study and memorize the assigned vocabulary words and verbal paradigms.

B. Quizzes

- a. There will be ten quizzes.
- b. The majority of them will be based on the following: 1) vocabulary, 2) verbal forms, 3) the assigned practice sections, and 4) class preparation. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped.
- c. Each quiz is worth 10 points and is equivalent to 50% of the course grade.

C. Examinations

- a. There will be a mid-term and a final exam. The final exam is a comprehensive exam that will cover the entire semester.
- b. Each exam is worth 50 points and is equivalent to 25% of the course grade.

D. Attendance

- a. Due to the nature of learning any language, consistency and repetition are important. Weekly attendance, therefore, is highly encouraged.
- b. Although attendance will not be figured into the final course grade, your presence will be required in order to take the weekly quizzes and exams.
- c. Please notify the instructor prior to the scheduled class session if you will not be present. Quizzes and exams will not be “made up” without previous notification.

IV. GRADING

A. Scale. The standard RTS grading scale will be used.

- A (97-100)
- A- (94-96)
- B+ (91-93)
- B (88-90)
- B- (86-87)
- C+ (83-85)
- C (80-82)
- C- (78-79)
- D+ (75-77)
- D (72-74)
- D- (70-71)
- F (below 70)

B. Basis for computation

Midterm Examination	25%
Final Examination	25%
+ Quizzes	50%
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Total	100%

V. BOOK LIST

[Required Resources]

Elliger K. & W. Rudolph. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1980. (BHS)

Futato, Mark D. *Beginning Biblical Hebrew*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2003.

Holladay, W. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.

Silzer, P.J. & T.J. Finley. *How Biblical Languages Work*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2004.

[Recommended Resources]

BibleWorks 7. Bible Software for Windows. © 1992-2003.

Arnold, Bill T. & John H. Choi. *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Brown Francis, S.R. Driver, & C.H. Briggs. *The New Hebrew and English Lexicon*. Reprinted. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1979. (BDB)

Clines, David J.A., ed. *The Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*. 8 vols. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1993-. (DCH)

Garrett, Duane A. *A Modern Grammar for Classical Hebrew*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2002.

Koehler L. & W. Baumgartner. *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament: Volumes 1 & 2*. Leiden: Brill, 2001. (HALOT)

Pratico, Gary D. & Miles V. Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.

_____. *Biblical Hebrew. Get an A! Study Guides*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.

_____. *The Vocabulary Guide to Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.

Ross, Allen P. *Introducing Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001.

Scott, William R. *A Simplified Guide to BHS*. Berkeley: Bibal Press, 1987.

Seow, Choon-Leong. *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew*. Revised Edition. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1995.

Van der Merwe, Christo H.J., et al. *A Biblical Hebrew Reference Grammar*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1999.

Van Gemeren, Willem A., ed. *New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis*. 5 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997. (NIDOTTE)

Vance, Donald R. *Introduction to Classical Hebrew*. Boston: Brill, 2004.

Waltke, Bruce K. & M. O'Connor. *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbrauns, 1990. (IBHS)