

4OT504: INTERMEDIATE HEBREW

Course Syllabus

Reformed Theological Seminary, Atlanta
Spring 2008, February 07 – May 08
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. This course is a continuation of 4OT502: Introduction to Hebrew.

I. PURPOSE OF THE COURSE

- The purpose of this second 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 found in the second portion (i.e., chapters 20-40) of Dr. 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.
- 4) The ability to translate basic Hebrew texts from the Hebrew Bible.
- 5) Read the last three chapters from P.J. Silzer & T.J. Finley's *How Biblical Languages Work* (Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2004), pp. 118-229.

II. COURSE SCHEDULE

February 07-

Syllabus Review and Course Requirements

Quiz #1

Chapter 20: The Verb, Qal Infinitives

Assignment: pp. 124-127

Chapter 21: The Verb, Qal Active Participle

Assignment: pp. 131-134

- February 14-** **Quiz #2**
 Chapter 22: Pronoun Suffixes on Prepositions
 Assignment: pp. 139-141
 Chapter 23: There Is (Not) and Have (Not)
 Assignment: pp. 145-147
- February 21-** **Quiz #3**
 Chapter 24: The Verb, Qal Volitives
 Assignment: pp. 148-155
 Chapter 25: Qal, Hollow Verbs
 Assignment: pp. 158-161
- February 28-** **Quiz #4**
 Chapter 26: The Verb, Vav-Relative
 Assignment: pp. 165-168
 Chapter 27: Clauses, Temporal and Interrogative
 Assignment: pp. 172-174
- March 06-** **Quiz #5**
 Chapter 28: The Piel, Strong Roots
 Assignment: pp. 178-181
 Chapter 29: The Piel, Weak Roots
 Assignment: pp. 185-187
- March 13-** **Quiz #6**
 Chapter 30: Numbers and “Surprise”
 Assignment: pp. 191-193
 Chapter 31: The Hiphil, Strong Roots
 Assignment: pp. 197-200
Silzer & Finley, Chapter 4 Reading Notes Due
 Mid-term Exam Review
- March 20-** **Mid-term** (2 hours)
- March 27-** **No Class**
- April 3-** Chapter 32: The Hiphil, I Guttural and I Nun
 Assignment: pp. 203-206
 Chapter 33: The Hiphil, I Yod
 Assignment: pp. 210-213
- April 10-** **Quiz #7**
 Chapter 34: The Hiphil, III Hey and Hollow
 Assignment: pp. 217-219
 Chapter 35: More on Pronoun Suffixes
 Assignment: pp. 222-224

- April 17-** **Quiz #8**
 Chapter 36: The Niphal, Strong Roots
 Assignment: pp. 228-231
 Chapter 37: The Niphal, Weak Roots
 Assignment: pp. 234-236
- April 24-** **Quiz #9**
 Chapter 38: More Passive Verbs, Qal, Pual, and Hophal
 Assignment: pp. 240-242
 Chapter 39: The Verb, the Hithpael
 Assignment: pp. 246-248
- May 01-** **Quiz #10**
 Chapter 40: The Verb, Geminate Roots
 Assignment: pp. 252
Silzer & Finley, Chapters 5-6 Reading Notes Due
 Final Exam Review
- May 08-** **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)