

4OT504: INTERMEDIATE HEBREW

Course Syllabus

Reformed Theological Seminary, Atlanta
Thursdays, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
February 05 – May 14

Instructor: John J. Yeo, Ph.D.
Spring 2009
3 Credit Hours

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:

The successful student will:

- 1) Become thoroughly acquainted with the essential material found in the second portion (i.e., chapters 19-36) of Gary D. Pratico & Miles V. Van Pelt's *Basics of Biblical Hebrew* (Second Edition; Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007).
- 2) Become familiar with the basic elements of Hebrew "morphology" (forms of Biblical Hebrew words including *parts of speech* [noun, verb, etc.] and *word inflection* [masculine, feminine, singular, plural, etc.] and "syntax" (i.e., the grammatical rules) of Hebrew nouns, verbs, adjectives, conjunctions, numbers, and prepositions. Students should also learn and become acquainted with the remaining verbal conjugations as well as verbal derived stems not learned in 4OT502.
- 3) Acquire the skills necessary to correctly analyze (parse) and define a large portion of frequently occurring vocabulary words (occurring 49 times or less) and verbal forms found in the Hebrew Bible.
- 4) Successfully memorize a large portion of frequently occurring vocabulary words and verbal forms found in the Hebrew Bible.
- 5) Obtain the ability to translate basic Hebrew texts from the Hebrew Bible into modern English.

II. COURSE SCHEDULE

February 05-

Syllabus Review and Course Requirements

Chapter 19: Pronominal Suffixes on Verbs, pp. 224-236

Workbook Assignment: pp. 157-162

- Chapter 20: Qal Infinitive Construct, pp. 237-250
Workbook Assignment: pp. 163-172
- February 12-** **Quiz #1**
Chapter 21: Qal Infinitive Absolute, pp. 251-258
Workbook Assignment: pp. 173-178
Chapter 22: Qal Participle, pp. 259-273
Workbook Assignment: pp. 179-186
- February 19-** **Quiz #2**
Chapter 23: Issues of Sentence Syntax, pp. 274-288
Workbook Assignment: pp. 187-190
Chapter 24: The Niphal Stem – Strong Verbs, pp. 289-298
Workbook Assignment: pp. 191-196
- February 26-** **Quiz #3**
Chapter 25: The Niphal Stem – Weak Verbs, pp. 299-308
Workbook Assignment: pp. 197-210
- March 05-** **Quiz #4**
Chapter 26: The Piel Stem – Strong Verbs, pp. 309-318
Workbook Assignment: pp. 211-216
Chapter 27: The Piel Stem – Weak Verbs, pp. 319-328
Workbook Assignment: pp. 217-226
- March 12-** **Quiz #5**
Chapter 28: The Pual Stem – Strong Verbs, pp. 329-336
Workbook Assignment: pp. 227-230
Chapter 29: The Pual Stem – Weak Verbs, pp. 337-344
Workbook Assignment: pp. 231-238
- March 19-** **Quiz #6**
Chapter 30: The Hiphil Stem – Strong Verbs, pp. 345-354
Workbook Assignment: pp. 239-246
Chapter 31: The Hiphil Stem – Weak Verbs, pp. 355-367
Workbook Assignment: pp. 247-254
Mid-Term Examination Review
- March 26-** **No Class (Spring Break)**
- April 02-** **Mid-Term Examination (2 hours)**
- April 09-** Chapter 32: The Hophal Stem – Strong Verbs, pp. 368-376
Workbook Assignment: pp. 255-258
Chapter 33: The Hophal Stem – Weak Verbs, pp. 377-384
Workbook Assignment: pp. 259-266

- April 16-** **Quiz #7**
Chapter 34: The Hithpael Stem – Strong Verbs, pp. 385-393
 Workbook Assignment: pp. 267-272
Chapter 35: The Hithpael Stem – Weak Verbs, pp. 394-402
 Workbook Assignment: pp. 273-277
- April 23-** **Quiz #8**
Chapter 36: Introduction to the Hebrew Bible, pp. 403-414
 Workbook Assignment: pp. 279-286
- April 30-** **Quiz #9**
Hebrew Bible Text: Genesis 37:5-20
 Workbook Assignment: pp. 287-304
- May 07-** **Quiz #10**
Hebrew Bible Text: Deuteronomy 6:1-9
Final Examination Review
- May 14-** **Final Exam** (2 hours)

III. ASSIGNMENTS

A. Practice Assignments in *Basics of Biblical Hebrew*

- a. Study and reread the material covered in the assigned chapters.
- b. Answer and write out all answers in the *Workbook*. There are two reasons for this: 1) language acquisition requires much patience and practice, and 2) all practice assignments will be accounted for either in quizzes or on midterm and final exams, respectively.
- c. Study and memorize the assigned vocabulary words as well as the diagnostic tools for each of the 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 *Workbook* translations, and 4) in-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. All exams are cumulative; therefore, each exam will cover what has been learned thus far during 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 a valid excuse and prior notification.

E. Disclaimer

This syllabus reflects the specific objectives and instructional format/content of 4OT:504: Intermediate Hebrew. However, the instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus for the good of the course as may appear necessary during the semester.

IV. GRADING

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

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

B. Basis for computation

Midterm Examination	25%
Final Examination	25%
+ Quizzes	50%
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 100%

V. BOOK LIST

Required Resources

- Pratico, Gary & Miles V. Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew: Grammar*. Second Edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007.
- Pratico, Gary & Miles V. Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew: Workbook*. Second Edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007.
- Pratico, Gary & Miles V. Van Pelt. *Biblical Hebrew Survival Kit*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.

- An *acceptable* Standard Hebrew Lexicon (*to be discussed in class*): look for the recommended lexicons in the list below indicated with the asterisk*

Recommended Resources

[Software]

Accordance 8. Bible Software for Macintosh. © 2008 Oaktree Software.
www.accordancebible.com

*BibleWorks*⁷. Bible Software for Windows. © 1992-2003 BibleWorks, LLC.
www.bibleworks.com

Logos Bible Software 3. Bible Software for Windows. ©2002-2008 by Logos Research Inc. www.logos.com

[Books]

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*)

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

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

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

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

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