

4OT502: INTRODUCTION TO HEBREW

Course Syllabus

Reformed Theological Seminary, Atlanta
 Fall 2010
 Tuesdays, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Instructor: John J. Yeo, Ph.D.
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 August 31 – December 07

Course Description:

This course introduces basic elements of the Hebrew language. Lectures and small group sessions cover the Hebrew alphabet, pronunciation, and elementary grammatical structures. 3 credit hours. No prerequisites.

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 course will serve to bring the student closer to that goal.

OBJECTIVES:

The successful student will have:

- 1) Become thoroughly acquainted with the essential material found in the first portion (i.e., chapters 1-17) 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.
- 3) Acquired 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) The ability to translate basic Hebrew texts from the Hebrew Bible into modern English.

II. COURSE SCHEDULE

August 31- *Syllabus Review and Course Requirements*
 Introduction to the Hebrew Alphabet, pp. 1-7

September 07- Chapter 1: The Hebrew Alphabet, pp. 1-7 (Continued)
 Workbook Assignment: pp. 1-6

- September 14-** **Quiz #1**
Chapter 2: The Hebrew Vowels, pp. 8-17
 Workbook Assignment: pp. 7-9
- September 21-** **Quiz #2**
Chapter 3: Syllabification and Pronunciation, pp. 18-27
 Workbook Assignment: pp. 11-13
Chapters 1-3 Assessment and Review
- September 28-** **Quiz #3**
Chapter 4: Hebrew Nouns, pp. 28-39
 Workbook Assignment: pp. 16-19
Chapter 5: Definite Article and Conjunction Waw, pp. 40-49
 Workbook Assignment: pp. 21-23
- October 05-** **Quiz #4**
Chapter 6: Hebrew Prepositions, pp. 50-59
 Workbook Assignment: pp. 25-28
Chapter 7: Hebrew Adjectives, pp. 60-69
 Workbook Assignment: pp. 29-33
- October 12-** **Fall Break, No Class**
- October 19-** **Quiz #5**
Chapter 8: Hebrew Pronouns, 70-79
 Workbook Assignment: pp. 35-38
Chapter 9: Hebrew Pronominal Suffixes, pp. 80-94
 Workbook Assignment: pp. 39-48
- October 26-** **Quiz #6**
Chapter 10: Hebrew Construct Chain, pp. 95-112
 Workbook Assignment: pp. 49-56
Chapter 11: Hebrew Numbers, pp. 113-121
 Workbook Assignment: pp. 57-58
Mid-Term Examination Review
- November 02-** **Mid-Term Examination: Chs. 1-11 (2 hours)**
- November 09-** **Quiz #7**
Chapter 12: Introduction to Hebrew Verbs, pp. 122-138
 Workbook Assignment: pp. 59-66
Chapter 13: Qal Perfect- Strong Verbs, pp. 139-150
 Workbook Assignment: pp. 67-72
- November 16-** **Quiz #8**
Chapter 14: Qal Perfect- Weak Verbs, pp. 151-165

Workbook Assignment: pp. 73-88
 Chapter 15: Qal Imperfect- Strong Verbs, pp. 166-175
 Workbook Assignment: pp. 89-94

November 23 - No Class

November 30- Quiz #9
 Chapter 16: Qal Imperfect- Weak Verbs, pp. 176-194
 Workbook Assignment: pp. 95-124

December 07- Quiz #10
 Chapter 17: Waw Consecutive, pp. 195-208
 Workbook Assignment: pp. 125-134
Final Examination Review

December 14- Final Exam: Chs. 12-17 (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:502: Introduction to 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/> | <hr/> |
| Total | 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.
- Any (*acceptable*) Standard Hebrew Lexicon (*to be discussed in class*)

Recommended Resources

[Software]

Accordance 8. Bible Software for Macintosh.

www.accordancebible.com

BibleWorks 8. Bible Software for Windows.

www.bibleworks.com

Logos Bible Software 3. Bible Software for Windows.

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*)