

## **4OT504: INTERMEDIATE HEBREW**

### *Course Syllabus*

Reformed Theological Seminary, Atlanta  
Tuesdays, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
February 01 – May 17

Instructor: John J. Yeo, Ph.D.  
Spring Semester 2011  
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.*

#### **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 first portion (i.e., chapters 18-36) 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 01-**

*Syllabus Review and Course Requirement*

Chapter 18: Qal Imperative, Cohortative, and Jussive, pp. 209-222

Workbook Assignment: pp. 135-156

- February 08-**            **Quiz #1**  
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 15-**            **Quiz #2**  
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 22-**            **Quiz #3**  
Chapter 23: Issues of Sentence Syntax, pp. 274-288  
 Workbook Assignment: pp. 187-190
- March 01-**                **Quiz #4**  
Chapter 24: The Niphal Stem – Strong Verbs, pp. 289-298  
 Workbook Assignment: pp. 191-196  
Chapter 25: The Niphal Stem – Weak Verbs, pp. 299-308  
 Workbook Assignment: pp. 197-210
- March 08-**                **Quiz #5**  
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 15-**                **Spring Break**
- March 22-**                **Quiz #6**  
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 29-**                **Quiz #7**  
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  
*Midterm Examination Review*
- April 05-**                **Midterm Examination (2 hours)**

- April 12-**                    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 19-**                    **Quiz #8**  
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 26-**                    **Quiz #9**  
Chapter 36: Introduction to the Hebrew Bible, pp. 403-414  
 Workbook Assignment: pp. 279-286  
*Begin Reviewing Vocabulary and Paradigms for Final Exam*
- May 03-**                    **Quiz #10**  
**Hebrew Bible Text: Genesis 37:5-20**  
 Workbook Assignment: pp. 287-304  
*Final Examination Review*
- May 17-**                    **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 9*. Bible Software for Macintosh. Oaktree Software.  
[www.accordancebible.com](http://www.accordancebible.com)

*BibleWorks 8*. Bible Software for Windows. BibleWorks, LLC.  
[www.bibleworks.com](http://www.bibleworks.com)

*Logos Bible Software 3*. Bible Software for Windows. Logos Research Inc.  
[www.logos.com](http://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*)