

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**BHE 531 Hebrew IB**

Roger D. Cotton  
2004

Spring

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A continuation of Hebrew IA. Includes the translating of passages from the Hebrew text of the Old Testament and introduction to basic tools.

**OBJECTIVES**

Upon the successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Explain the basic grammatical and syntactical features of the Hebrew language and pronounce it on sight.
2. Identify the major vocabulary and verb forms.
3. Translate most non-poetic biblical passages using a lexicon.
4. Explain the major differences that knowing Hebrew makes in understanding any Old Testament passage.
5. Begin to do good exegesis of the Hebrew text using the best tools available.

**TEXTBOOKS**

**Required:**

Holladay, Wm. L. A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1971.

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

\_\_\_\_\_. Basics of Biblical Hebrew: Workbook. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.

**Recommended:**

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Williams, Ronald J. Hebrew Syntax: An Outline. 2d ed. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1976.

OR

Waltke, Bruce K., and M. O'Connor. An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1990.

**BASIC OUTLINE**

<i>Class</i>	<i>Lessons in BBH</i>
1. Weds. Jan. 7	20
2. Fri. Jan 9	20
3. Weds. Jan. 14	Take-Home Quiz 1 over 20 due
4. Fri. Jan. 16	21
5. Weds. Jan. 21	Take-Home Quiz 2 over 21 due
6. Fri. Jan. 23	22
7. Weds. Jan. 28	Take-Home Quiz 3 over 22 due
8. Fri. Jan. 30	23
9. Weds. Feb. 4	Take-Home Quiz 4 over 23 due
10. Fri. Feb. 6	25
11. Weds. Feb. 11	Take-Home Quiz 5 over 25 due
12. Fri. Feb 13	" " " 6 over 27 due
13. Weds. Feb 18	" " " 7 over 31 due
14. Fri. Feb 20	" " " 8 over 29,33,35 due
15. Weds. Feb. 25	Review for exam
16. Fri. Feb. 27	Take-Home Comprehensive Translation Exam over Hebrew I due

MARCH 1-5

SPRING BREAK

For the second half of the semester there will be four take-home research assignments due on the following dates, increasing in depth of analysis expected in Hebrew syntax and word studies and weight in grading:

Wednesday, March 24	#1 Research Assignment due
Wednesday, March 31	#2 " " " "
Wednesday, April 7	#3 " " " "
Wednesday, April 14	#4 Final Research Assignment due

**METHODOLOGY**

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Detailed coverage of the lessons in *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar* by Pratico and Van Pelt, from lesson 20 to the end (also 14 and 16) with daily study of grammar and vocabulary checked orally and then by take-home quizzes and a take-home translation exam. The second half of the semester will consist of discussion of Hebrew exegesis and advanced syntax with four take-home translation and research assignments on selected passages from different genres of the Old Testament, with use of the major advanced Hebrew tools. The emphasis will be on the difference that knowing Hebrew can make in interpreting a passage.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Class attendance is expected; maximum allowable absences are 4 class periods. Please talk to the professor about any absences.

1. Be prepared each day to answer questions orally on the lessons including pronouncing the Hebrew, and turn in any assignments as called for.
2. Write the quizzes, exams, and research assignments for the scheduled classes. The latter require the use of syntax books by Waltke/O'Connor and Williams, and a few word studies in NIDOTTE.

### **GRADING PROCEDURE**

Quizzes and class participation	35%
Mid-term Exam	25%
Research Assignments	6%, 8%, 12%, 14%

### **SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Barr, James. Comparative Philology and the Text of the Old Testament. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1968.

Basics of Biblical Hebrew website: [www.basicsofbiblicalhebrew.com](http://www.basicsofbiblicalhebrew.com)

Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia. Edited by K. Elliger, and W. Rudolph. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelstiftung, 1977.

Bible Works. Hermeneutika. Big Fork, MT.

Brotzman, Ellis R. Old Testament Textual Criticism: A Practical Introduction. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994.

Chisholm, Robert B., Jr. From Exegesis to Exposition: A Practical Guide to Using Biblical Hebrew. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.

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Cotterell, Peter, and Max Turner. Linguistics and Biblical Interpretation. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity, 1989.

Einspahr, Bruce. Index to Brown Driver and Briggs Hebrew Lexicon. Chicago: Moody, 1977.

Even-Shoshan, Avraham, ed. A New Concordance of the Bible. Jerusalem: Kiryat Sepher, 1982.

Gesenius, William. A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament. Translated by Edward Robinson. Edited by Francis Brown, S. R. Driver, and Charles A. Briggs.

Harris, R. Laird, Gleason L. Archer, Jr., and Bruce K. Waltke, eds. Theological Workbook of the Old Testament. 2 vols. Chicago: Moody Press, 1980.

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Holladay, William L. A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1971.

Hunter, A. Vanlier. Biblical Hebrew Workbook: An Inductive Study for Beginners. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1988.

Kautzsch, E., and E. E. Cowley, eds. Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar. 2d ed. Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 1910.

Kelley, Page H. Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1992.

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Klein, Ernest. A Comprehensive Etymological Dictionary of the Hebrew Language for Readers of English. New York: Macmillan, 1987.

Koehler, Ludwig, and Walter Baumgartner. The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament. (5 vols.) Revised by Walter Baumgartner and Johann Jacob Stamm. Translated and ed. By M. E. J. Richardson. New York: E. J. Brill, 1994-00.

Lambdin, Thomas O. Introduction to Biblical Hebrew. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1971.

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Nida, Eugene A., and Charles R. Taber. The Theory and Practice of Translation. Leiden: E. S. Brill, 1974.

Owens, John Joseph. Analytical Key to the Old Testament. 4 vols. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1989-93.

Scott, William R. A Simplified Guide to BHS. 2d ed. Berkeley, CA: Bibal Press, 1990.

Seow, C. L. A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew. Revised. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1995.

Silva, Moises. Biblical Words and Their Meaning: An Introduction to Lexical Semantics. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1983.

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

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Watts, J. Wash. A Survey of Syntax in the Hebrew Old Testament. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1964.

Watts, John D. List of Words Occurring Frequently in the Hebrew Bible: Seminary Edition. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1960.

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Williamson, H. G. M. Annotated Key to Lambdin's Introduction to Biblical Hebrew. JSOT Manuals 3. Sheffield, England: JSOT Press, 1989.

Yates, Kyle M. The Essentials of Biblical Hebrew. Rev. ed. Edited by John Joseph Owens. New York: Harper & Row, 1954.

**SPECIFIC DATA**

Syllabus prepared by Roger D. Cotton, Th.D., November, 2003