

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

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2006  
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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.

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**Recommended:**

Van Pelt, Miles V. and Gary D. Pratico. The Vocabulary Guide to Biblical Hebrew. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.

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**

*Class*

*Lessons in BBH*

1. Mon.	Jan 9	CHAPEL
2. Weds.	Jan. 11	18
3. Fri.	Jan. 13	18
4. Mon.	Jan. 16	Take-Home Quiz 1 over 18 due
5. Weds.	Jan. 18	20
6. Fri.	Jan. 20	Take-Home Quiz 2 over 20 due
7. Mon.	Jan. 23	21
8. Weds.	Jan. 25	Take-Home Quiz 3 over 21 due
9. Fri.	Jan. 27	22
10. Mon..	Jan. 30	Take-Home Quiz 4 over 22 due
11. Weds.	Feb. 1	23
12. Fri.	Feb. 3	Take-Home Quiz 5 over 23 due
13. Mon.	Feb. 6	14
14. Weds.	Feb. 8	Take-Home Quiz 6 over 14 due
15. Fri.	Feb. 10	16
16. Mon.	Feb. 13	Take-Home Quiz 7 over 16 due
17. Weds.	Feb. 15	25, 27, 29
18. Fri.	Feb. 17	CHAPEL
19. Mon.	Feb 20	Take-Home Quiz 8 over 25, 27, 29 due
20. Weds.	Feb. 22	31, 33, 35
21. Fri.	Feb. 24	Take-Home Quiz 9 over 31,33,35 due
	FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 3	SPRING BREAK
22. Weds.	Mar. 8	Translation Exam over Hebrew I due

For the second half of the semester there will be four take-home research assignments due on the dates below, increasing in depth of analysis expected in Hebrew syntax and word studies and weight in grading: For the classes in between these there will be discussion of various passages from various genres illustrating Hebrew exegesis and not requiring homework.

Friday, March 17	#1 Research Assignment due
Friday, March 24	#2 “ “ “
Friday, April 7	#3 “ “ “
Friday, April 21	#4 Final Research Assignment due

### **METHODOLOGY**

Detailed coverage of the lessons in *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar* by Pratico and Van Pelt, from lesson 20 to the end (also 14, 16, and 18) 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**

Arnold, Bill T. and John H. Choi. A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge, 2003.

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.

Clines, David J. A., ed. The Dictionary of Classical Hebrew. (incomplete). Sheffield, England: Sheffield Academic Press, 1993-.

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.

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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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- Jouon, Paul. A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew. Vol. 2, Part Three: Syntax. Trans. and Rev. T. Muraoka. Rome: Editrice Pontificio Istituto Biblico, 1991.
- Kelley, Page H. Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1992.
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- Lambdin, Thomas O. Introduction to Biblical Hebrew. New York Charles Scribner's Sons, 1971.
- Long, Gary A. Grammatical Concepts 101 for Biblical Hebrew. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2002.
- 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.
- Silzer, Peter James and Thomas John Finley. How Biblical Languages Work: A Student's Guide to Learning Hebrew and Greek. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2004.

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

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**SPECIFIC DATA**

Prepared by Roger D. Cotton, Th.D., October 2005.