

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

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Spring 2008  
Mon Weds Fri 9:00-10:15

**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, 2007.

**Recommended:**

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

OR

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

OR

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

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

**BASIC OUTLINE**

*Class*

*Lessons in BBH*

1. Mon.	Jan 7	CHAPEL
2. Weds.	Jan. 9	teach 18
3. Fri.	Jan. 11	practice 18
4. Mon.	Jan. 14	Take-Home Quiz 1 over 18 due; teach 20
5. Weds.	Jan. 16	20
6. Fri.	Jan. 18	Take-Home Quiz 2 over 20 due; teach 21
7. Mon.	Jan. 21	OFF
8. Weds.	Jan. 23	21
9. Fri.	Jan. 25	Take-Home Quiz 3 over 21 due; teach 22
10. Mon.	Jan. 28	22
11. Weds.	Jan. 30	Take-Home Quiz 4 over 22 due; teach 23
12. Fri.	Feb. 1	23
13. Mon.	Feb. 4	Take-Home Quiz 5 over 23 due; teach 14
14. Weds.	Feb. 6	14
15. Fri.	Feb. 8	Take-Home Quiz 6 over 14 due, teach 16
16. Mon.	Feb. 11	16
17. Weds.	Feb. 13	Take-Home Quiz 7 over 16 due; teach-
18. Fri.	Feb. 15	25, 27, 29
19. Mon.	Feb 18	Take-Home Quiz 8 over 25,27,29 due; teach
20. Weds.	Feb. 20	31, 33, 35
21. Fri.	Feb. 22	Take-Home Quiz 9 over 31,33,35 due
	FEBRUARY 25-27	SPRING BREAK
22. Weds.	Mar. 5	Translation Exam over Hebrew I due

Weds.	Mar. 19	CHAPEL
Fri.	March 21	OFF for Good Friday

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.

Monday, March 17	#1 Research Assignment due
Monday, March 31	#2 “ “ “
Friday, April 11	#3 “ “ “
Friday, April 24	#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 6 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.

Brown, Francis, S.R. Driver, and Charles A. Briggs, eds. A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament by William Gesenius. Translated by Edward Robinson. Oxford: Clarendon, 1907.

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.

(New) Englishman's Hebrew and Chaldee Concordance.

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

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

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.
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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 Johahn 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.
- 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.

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

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

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

### **SPECIFIC DATA**

Prepared by Roger D. Cotton, Th.D.

November 2007