

**OL 501 Hebrew I**  
**Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary**  
**Summer 2019 – Sumer Session II (III for OL502)**  
**Monday, Wednesday, Friday**  
**9:00am -12:00pm**

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Office Hours: by appointment

**\*\*\*\*IMPORTANT: PRE-COURSE WORK REQUIRED (see pg. 4 below)\*\*\*\***

“And let us be sure of this, we will not long preserve the gospel without the languages. The languages are the sheath in which this sword of the Spirit is contained; they are the casket in which this jewel is enshrined... If through our neglect we let the languages go (which God forbid!), we shall ... lose the gospel ...

- Martin Luther

“We may impress one another for a while by dropping the name of the latest book we’ve read, but secondhand food will not sustain and deepen our people’s faith and holiness.”

### **I. Introduction:**

Whether you agree with Martin Luther’s conviction, the above quotes illustrate a very important point. These quotes illustrate the utter importance of learning the Biblical languages in order to be an effective communicator of the Bible. While they don’t specifically say it, language acquisition can take significant effort and we, therefore, need to be continually reminded of its importance and look for the proper motivation.

### **II. Course Description**

The course is designed as a thorough introduction to Biblical Hebrew, with an emphasis on grammar and vocabulary in the first session with the goal of translating Biblical Hebrew prose toward the end of the second session. Students who put in the time and effort will be pleasantly surprised to find that they will be reading Biblical Hebrew prose with the help of a lexicon by the end of the very short summer sessions. One of the major goals is to make sure students can easily transition into the exegesis courses and productively continue their study of the Bible in the original language.

### **III. Required Textbooks**

**\*\*\*\*Please Note we are using the Second Edition of the Textbook. There is a new edition which was not available to me when I had to submit my textbooks. The GCTS bookstore assured me they would have ample copies of the second edition available.**

1. Gary D. Pratico and Miles V. Van Pelt, *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001). Second Edition. ISBN-13 (867-0-310-27020-10)
2. Gary D. Pratico and Miles V. Van Pelt, *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Workbook* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001). Second Edition ISBN-13 (867-0-310-27022-50)
3. William L. Holladay, *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988). ISBN-13 (978-0802834133)

#### Recommended

1. Elliger, K., and W. Rudolph, ed. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1997. ISBN 3-438-05218-0

[There is also a less expensive paperback edition, published by American Bible Society, 1997.]

#### IV. Helpful aids

1. Our course will have a website on Canvas where you will find videos and handouts created by Professor Donna Petter the director of the Hebrew Language program at GCTS. You will also find lecture slides and other helpful handouts.
2. Accompanying CD Rom and website:  
<https://www.teknia.com/basicsofbiblicalhebrew/resources>
3. A website developed by a former GCTS and Harvard student John Beckman, which contains a complete course with lectures, practice quizzes, vocabulary mnemonics, and much more all based on our grammar. <http://www.hebrewsyntax.org/bbh2new/>
4. Listen to the Hebrew Bible read out loud and engage your auditory senses as you learn Hebrew. <http://www.mechon-mamre.org/p/pt/pt0.htm>
5. For Vocabulary - See <http://www.quizlet.com> a great online resource for reviewing Hebrew vocabulary. See also <http://www.memrise.com> and <http://flashworks.com> for more help. Additional information given in class!

#### V. Course Requirements

1. **Quizzes: 35 %**
  - a. Quizzes will be given roughly twice a week and cover the material from the previous class or two, usually corresponding to roughly two or three chapters in our grammar (BBH). Quizzes may include, but will not necessarily be limited to, the following elements: generation of Hebrew forms and paradigms, translation of Hebrew sentences into English, translation of English sentences into Hebrew (minimal), grammatical

questions, and vocabulary (**both Hebrew-to-English and English-to-Hebrew** as to be specified in class).

- i. You will be required to take the quizzes outside of class time in the library or in another controlled setting. You will find the quizzes on Canvas. They are to be uploaded to Canvas by the end of the day
- b. Replacement quiz: Each student will have the opportunity to drop their lowest quiz grade and replace that grade with a makeup quiz to be taken at the end of the summer session. It will be to your advantage not to miss a quiz, but if you have to miss a quiz you may drop and replace that grade of a 0, but only that grade. The replacement quiz will be a compilation of all the quizzes from the course, with a selection of questions taken directly from those quizzes.

## 2. Exams: 50%

- a. Midterm 15 %
  - i. The midterm will be a double quiz and cover all the material studied to this point. BBH chs. 1-10.
- b. Final 35%
  - i. The final examination will be a comprehensive three-hour exam given at the conclusion of the first summer session. Make sure you plan accordingly.

## 3. Attendance, Homework, Preparation, Memorization 15 %

- a. **Class attendance** is required; failure to attend class regularly will impact your course grade. It is understood that unforeseen circumstances do arise during the course of the session. As long as there is a legitimate reason (e.g. illness, family emergency...) and this is communicated to the instructor in a timely fashion no penalty will ensue. However, it must be emphasized that this should happen only in the most extreme of circumstances considering missing a class is equivalent to missing a week of class. If this does happen, you are still responsible for the material and the homework missed.
  - i. **Tardiness**- being habitually late to class will also impact your attendance grade. More importantly I will address any logistical matters such as what is going to be on the upcoming quiz at the beginning of class. You will not want to miss this important information.
- b. **Homework**: Effective language learning takes discipline and consistency. It is expected that students will be prepared each class with the homework completed and able to provide their answers in class. If a student's homework is not completed it will negatively impact the attendance/homework grade for the session. As part of the homework, the students will be expected to practice reading the assignments out loud and be able to replicate this in class.

- i. All homework assignments are due by the beginning of the class period under which they are listed in the course schedule below. You may be required to upload copies of your homework to Canvas. When asked to do so, you will have to scan the assigned pages and place them on Canvas.
- ii. As part of the homework for each chapter, students will be expected to memorize the vocabulary. Memorization of vocabulary will be tested as part of the quizzes. **Do not neglect the vocabulary**; it is impossible to learn a language without acquiring knowledge of the basic words of that language.
- c. **Memorization:** During the course of the session you will be asked to memorize one short passage to be reproduced on the final exam and recited to Canvas. For the first session you will need to write out Genesis 22:1 and for the second session you will need to write out Genesis 22:1-2 both from memory. This will be included as part of your homework and attendance grade for the course, it will be 5% of the grade.
- d. **4. Required Reading of All Exegetical Insights.** There is a “Table of Insights” (p. xii) that will convince you to stay the course with the language! Read these weekly as part of your devotions.

**\*\*Minimum Grade To Pass\*\***

Per the Gordon-Conwell Hebrew language policy in order to pass Hebrew I and continue with Hebrew II in the second session you must earn a grade of C- (70% or higher) in the class. This policy is designed to benefit the student. If your Hebrew ability is not up to the level of a C- it would be nearly impossible for you to effectively continue with the exegesis courses. Anything below this is a failing grade. Make sure you are able to put in the necessary time, to at the very least, achieve this grade. This is of the utmost importance to highlight for the summer sessions. You need to make sure you do not have other commitments and are able to give all your attention to Hebrew for the eight short weeks of a summer session. The condensed schedule is what makes these courses intensive.

**VI. Course Schedule and Assignments**

**\*\*\*Before our first meeting on June. 17th \*\*\***

Pre-Lecture assignment: We will begin the course with **chapter 3** in the grammar after a short review of the first two chapters. This means you **must** prepare the first two chapters prior to our first class meeting along with completing the exercises in the workbook for these chapters (see below under the first day).

\*\*\*For chapter 1 make sure you read and study the advanced exercises, I will be using the pronunciation here rather than what you find in the grammar so make the necessary substitutions.

**What you are expected to know by our first meeting:** 1) You need to be able to write and recite the Hebrew alphabet in order from right to left as well as be able to identify each letter by its name (e.g. Alef, Bet...) out of order. 2) You also need to know how to

pronounce each letter by giving the English letter associated with the pronunciation as found on page 1 of the grammar. 3) For chapter 2 you must be able to write the vowels (with a consonant), identify the name, class and length of the vowel - see the summary chart on pg. 15 of the grammar. 4) Also, make sure you know the letters that have a final form 5) as well as the group of consonants that take a dagesh lene. 6) Lastly, make sure you know the group of consonants referred to as gutturals. Our first quiz to be taken immediately after the first day of class will test this material. For practice quizzes see the website mentioned above. <http://www.hebrewsyntax.org/bbh2new/> The quizzes in the ch. 1 and ch. 2 sections found on this website will test the same material as the quizzes to be taken in class. You will **not** be tested on the transliteration in these chapters.

### **Working through Chs. 1 & 2**

- Prior to starting chs. 1 & 2 make sure you have read the syllabus.
- Next, read Chapter 1.
- Next, listen to the sound bite by Professor Petter on Chapter 1 on Canvas, or watch the lectures on the hebrewsyntax website listed above.
- Before starting the homework make sure you have learned the material in Ch. 1 and make sure you can accomplish everything listed in the summary section as well as the advanced information.
- Finally, do the exercises in the workbook for Ch. 1 - pgs. 1-4 all exercises.
  
- Review Ch. 1
- Start Ch.2 by reading the chapter.
- Next, Listen to Chapter 2 presented by Professor Petter in Canvas and make sure you understand everything listed in the summary section of the grammar.
- After you have a good understanding of the chapter do the exercises in the workbook for Ch. 2. Pgs. 7-9 (do only 1-10 of the second exercise on pg. 8)

You may also want to listen to the lectures found on the website listed under helpful aids # 3. This will help with pronunciation

**(June 17-July 12 )**

### **Week 1**

#### June 17 Mon.

Homework Due: Workbook exercises Ch.1 all exercises & Ch. 2 pp. 7-9 (only 1-10 of the second exercise on p. 8)

Course Overview:

Quick Review:

Chapter 1 – The Alphabet – Including the Advanced Exercises

Chapter 2 – The Vowels 2.1-2.12

Lecture: BBH Chapter 3 Syllabification

Practice Syllabification by reading Hebrew

Lecture: BBH Chapter 4 Hebrew Nouns

**Quiz:** The Alphabet and the Vowels (Due by the end of the day)

Jun. 19 (Wed.)

Homework due: Exercises in Ch. 3 pp. 11-13 all exercises

Homework Due: Exercises in Ch. 4;

1-25 on pgs. 15-16; 1-10 pg. 16; 1-10 pg. 17;

Advanced Exercises part 1 pg 17-18 #'s 2, 6, 10, 14, 18

Advanced Exercises part 2 pg 19 #'s 1-8 .

Lecture: BBH Chapter 5 Definite Article

BBH Chapter 6 Prepositions

**Quiz:** Syllabification and Noun Endings/inflection (Due by the end of the day)

June. 21 (Fri.)

Homework due: Exercises in Ch. 5 pg. 23 only;

Exercises in Ch. 6 pg. 25-28 all exercises except, Composition exercises do only 2-6, 9-10;

Bible translation only 1-5.

Lecture: BBH Chapter 7 Adjectives

BBH Chapter 8 Demonstrative Pronouns Only

**Week 2:**

June 24 (Mon.)

Homework due: Chapter 7 Exercises; Parsing 1-20; Translation 1-15; Bible Translation 1-14 (Begin Ch. 8)

Lecture: BBH 8 Pronouns continued

Lecture: BBH 9 - Pronominal Suffixes on Nouns and Prepositions (the לָ and the עַל paradigms)

**Quiz:** The Definite Article, Prepositions, Adjectives - vocabulary 3-7(Due by the end of the day)

June 26 (Wed.)

**Quiz: Inflecting and using Adjectives, Pronouns, and vocabulary (BBH 7-8)**

Homework Due: Exercises in 8;

Translation Part 1, 5-10; Part 2, 1-10; Part 3, 1-5; Bible Translations, 1-11

Homework Due: Exercises in 9:

Part 1, 1-15; Part 2 odd only; Part 3, odd only; Bible translations 3, 5

Lecture: BBH 10 Hebrew Construct Chain  
(Quick Look at Ch. 11 and 12)

June 28 (Friday.)

Homework Due: Exercises in 10:

Translation 1-24; Bible translations 1-20;

Construct nouns: Parts 1 and 2, (know how to put nouns into their construct form and the rules that govern this).

Lecture: Review

### **Week 3**

July 1 (Mon.)

#### **Midterm – The first hour of class**

Lecture: BBH 13 Qal Perfect strong verb (part of BBH 17 Vav Consecutive + the Perfect)

July 3 (Wednesday)

Homework Due: Chapter 11 Read Only: No homework due from this chapter except to learn the vocabulary by the beginning of the start of Summer Session III

Homework Due: Exercises in 12: 12a 1-15; Translation 1-12; 12b pp. 63-66 read

Homework Due: Exercises in 13: Parsing 1-10; Translation 1-10; Bible Translations 1-2,

Lecture BBH 15 Qal Imperfect Strong Verb ( Intro to BBH 17 – Vav Consecutive + Imperfect– and the imperative BBH 18)

July 5 (Friday)

Homework due. Exercises in 15:

Parsing 1-15; Translation odd only; Bible Translation 1-5, 9

Inflecting 1-15

(In Class work on the imperative)

Lecture BBH 14 Qal Perfect Weak Verbs

BBH 16 Qal Imperfect Weak Verbs (part 1)

**Quiz:** Qal perfect strong, Qal imperfect strong and vocabulary (Due by the end of the day)

July 8 (Monday)

Homework Due: Exercises in 14a:

Parsing 1-20; Translation odd only; Bible translations 1, 3, 4, 7

Exercises in 14b:

Parsing 1-15; Bible translations 1, 4, 7

Homework Due: Exercises in 16a:

Parsing 1-10; Translations 1-10; Bible Translations 8-10;

Exercises in 16b:

Parsing 1-10; Translation 1-5; Bible translations 7, 9, 10

Exercises in 16c: Parsing 1-15; Bible translations 1, 3-6

Lecture: BBH 16 Continued 16 D, E, F

**Quiz: Weak Verbs Perfect and Some Imperfect** (Due by the end of the day)

July 10 (Wednesday.)

Homework Due: Exercises in 16d:

Page 111 all parsing; Page 112-113 all parsing; Bible translations 2, 5

Exercises in 16e: Page 115 all parsing; Bible Translations 1-5

Lecture: Final Exam Review

July 12 (Fri.)

**Final Examination**

**Exam Content:**

All chapters to date:

Syllabify

Nouns

Adjectives

Pronouns

Prepositions

Construct

All vocabulary to date (chs. 3-16) – not 11

Parsing Verbs

Producing forms

Paradigms

Short Translations

**\*\*Note\*\*** I reserve the right to add or subtract anything on the syllabus as I deem appropriate to meet the goals of the course and in cases where the students will benefit. Any changes will be clearly specified to the class in a timely fashion.