New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

OTHB5300 – INTRODUCTORY HEBREW GRAMMAR – HYBRID
Fall Semester 2013

Successfully Completing a Hybrid Course

1. Understand that hybrid courses are not "easier" than a standard classroom course. Disabuse yourself of any notion that a hybrid course requires less time than a classroom course.

2. You must be able to envision specific blocks of time in which you can complete your work, something like regular class times in a traditional course.

3. If you plan to do the work in your spare time, do not take a hybrid course because no one has any spare time.

Professor:	Dr. James H. Sexton	Meeting Dates:	8/26, 9/9, 9/23,
Phone:	706.717.0625		10/7, 10/21, 11/4,
	706.376.6415		11/18, 12/2
Email:	jsexton3285@gmail.com	Time:	9:30-11:25 AM

"At a time when 90% of Southern Baptist churches are plateaued or declining, NOBTS is a school focused on training God-called men and women to grow healthy churches."
Dr. Charles Kelley, President

NOBTS Mission	To equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.
Core Values	Our seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity in that the course is designed to prepare the student to grow in the understanding and application of the Word of God. Characteristic Excellence is also addressed in that the student should be as prepared as possible to be ministers for Christ. The course primarily addresses the competency of Biblical Exposition by preparing the student to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately. The specific core value celebrated this academic school year is Doctrinal Integrity.
Course Description	This course consists of a basic study of the fundamentals of biblical Hebrew using an inductive method and focusing on narrative literature. The course serves as a foundation for reading in the Hebrew Old Testament and for advanced study of Hebrew grammar and syntax.

Student Learning Outcomes	Students who successfully complete the course will have:
	1. Knowledge
	  ▪ Learned basic grammatical forms and functions of biblical Hebrew
	  ▪ Come to understand the basic syntax of Hebrew narrative texts
	  ▪ Mastered a basic vocabulary of biblical Hebrew
	  ▪ Acquired an adequate foundation for further study of biblical Hebrew
	
	2. Attitudes
	  ▪ Begun to see the value of reading from the "original" Hebrew for interpreting the Old Testament
	  ▪ Achieved a growing appreciation for the richness of the Old Testament message
	  ▪ Become motivated to embrace the discipline of Hebrew language study as a part of an ongoing commitment to excellence in ministry
	3. Skills
	  ▪ Read biblical Hebrew properly (use proper pronunciation)
	  ▪ Translated from representative Hebrew narrative texts
	  ▪ Implemented basic grammatical and syntactical elements of basic Hebrew narrative texts
	  ▪ Utilized a basic lexicon, an introductory grammar, and other selected resources as effective tools for translating and interpreting biblical Hebrew texts

Course Teaching Methodologies	The methodologies of the course include lectures by the professor and the completion and timely submission of assignments by the student. Weekly quizzes, two sectional exams, and a final exam constitute the primary means of assessing the student's performance. A variety of other types of learning activities will be used to insure an acceptable level of involvement in distance educational experience, such as email submissions, threaded discussions, etc., on Blackboard.
Course Textbooks	A Vanlier Hunter, *Biblical Hebrew Workbook: An Inductive Study for Beginners* (Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1988). [9780819157157] Page H. Kelley, *Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans, 1992). [9780802805980] William L. Holladay, *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans, 1972). [9780802834133]
Course Requirements	A. Complete regular assignments in *Biblical Hebrew Workbook*, including reading and translating the Hebrew texts contained in those assignments (Note: assignments and course work submitted more than two weeks late will not be accepted) B. Memorize vocabulary for regular assignments from *Biblical Hebrew Workbook* C. Master basic grammatical and syntactical elements of the language so as to translate from Hebrew narrative texts D. Become adept at the use of laday, *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* by William L Holladay

E. Enter into a covenant with the professor and the rest of the class regarding the guidelines for completing the work of the course
F. Pursue the work of the course in a systematic and timely fashion. At a minimum, students are to have at least one contact per week with the professor (assignment submission, email, phone call, etc.)
G. Attain a passing average on all required work: consistent participation in all aspects of the online medium, acceptable performance on regular units of work, acceptable scores on vocabulary and sectional exams.

Course Evaluation				
	Class Participation	10%		
	Progress Checks	10%	A	93-100
	Parsing Exercises	15%	B	85-92
	Vocabulary Quizzes	15%	C	78-84
	Sectional Exams	30%	D	70-77
	Final Exam	20%	F	below 70

Course Schedule

Class Meeting   Aug. 26
     Unit 1   Aug. 29
     Unit 2   Sept. 5

Class Meeting   Sept. 9
     Unit 3   Sept. 12
     Unit 4   Sept. 19

Class Meeting   Sept. 23   Sectional Exam 1
     Unit 5   Sept. 26
     Unit 6   Oct. 3

Class Meeting   Oct. 7
     Unit 7   Oct. 10
     Unit 8   Oct. 17

Class Meeting   Oct. 21
     Unit 9   Oct. 24
     Unit 10 Oct. 31

Class Meeting   Nov. 4   Sectional Exam 2
     Unit 11 Nov. 7
     Unit 12 Nov. 14

Class Meeting   Nov. 18
     Unit 13 Nov. 21
     Unit 14 Nov. 28

Class Meeting   Dec. 2
     Unit 15 Dec. 5

The Final Exam and All Assigned Course Work Must Be Submitted
No Later than 12:00 PM on December 9.

Optional Resources	Miles V. van Pelt and Gary D. Pratico. *Old Testament Hebrew Vocabulary Cards*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.
	Miles V. van Pelt and Gary D. Pratico. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001.
	Miles V. van Pelt and Gary D. Pratico. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Workbook*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001.
	K. Elliger and W. Rudolph. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. New York: American Bible Society, 2001.

Additional Items	<u>Attendance</u>: According to the graduate seminary catalog, in order to receive credit for the course, only one absence is allowed in a hybrid course.
	<u>Courtesy</u>: All members of the class are to follow the rules of common courtesy in all communication and interaction. Remember that real people are out there struggling at their keyboards just as you are. Timely and considerate response will be particularly important when students are interacting with other members of the class either individually or corporately.
	<u>Submission of Work</u>: The course is taught in an "open format." You may work at your own pace, within reason, but you should submit work on a regular basis. The problem, particularly with the study of a language, is that if you get behind in the course, you will find it very difficult to catch up as you might do in other types of classes. So approach the work in a disciplined manner, plan specific times to complete your work, and submit assignments regularly and systematically no later than the date given on the schedule above.
	<u>Honesty and Education</u>: In a traditional classroom educational environment, the time that all students are together with the professor is limited, so that great potential for dishonesty always exists in that setting. With an Internet course, such a potential is certainly more real. While most components of the course will have built-in safeguards, some will not by the very nature of the work. The challenge, then, is for each student to keep before him/her the goal of learning well the subject matter of the course. In your case, the course involves the Hebrew language, mastery of which will allow you to read the Word of God written in one of its original languages. Such a privilege can hardly be overvalued. Therefore, determine to do the work, as it is assigned, so that you will have the best opportunity to succeed in the best sense.

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord."
Psalm 150:6

Selected Bibliography

Arnold, Bill, and John Choi. *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax* Cambridge, 2003.

Bartelt, Andrew. "On the Subtleties of Hebrew Verbs." *Concordia Journal* 34 (2008): 61-62.

Cook, John. "The Semantics of Verbal Pragmatics: Clarifying the Roles of *Wayyiqtol* and *Weqatal* in Biblical Hebrew Prose." *Journal of Semitic Studies* 49 (2004): 247-73.

Dawson, David. *Text-Linguistics and Biblical Hebrew*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1994.

Harris, R. Laird, Gleason Archer Jr., and Bruce Waltke, eds. *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1980.

Heller, Roy. *Narrative Structure and Discourse Constellations: An Analysis of Clause Function in Biblical Hebrew Prose.* Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbrauns, 2004.

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

Jouon, Paul. *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew*. Translated and revised by T. Muraoka. Subsidia biblica. Roma: Editrice Pontificio Instituto Biblico, 2005.

Kautzsch, E., ed. *Gesenius Hebrew Grammar*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1910.

Lambdin, T. O. *Introduction to Biblical Hebrew*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1971.

Niccacci, Alviero. *The Syntax of the Verb in Classical Hebrew Prose*. Translated by W. G. E. Watson. Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1990.

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