



Advanced Hebrew for Exegesis
OTHB6351-01
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Biblical Studies Division
Fall 2023
Plus FLEX

Dr. Ethan Jones
Associate Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew
Don and Helen Bryant Chair of Old Testament
Office: Dodd 211
Phone: 504-282-4455 ext. 8451
Email: ejones@nobts.edu

Mission Statement

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to the study of Hebrew syntax. Translation and vocabulary skills will be developed by daily engagement with Old Testament passages; the main focus of the course is the analysis of texts from the perspective of syntax. Hebrew II or its equivalent is a prerequisite for this course.

Student Learning Outcomes

Knowledge

Learn syntax of biblical Hebrew.

Master an intermediate vocabulary of biblical Hebrew.

Acquire a deeper knowledge for further study of biblical Hebrew.

Attitude

Recognize the value of reading from the Hebrew for interpretation.

Achieve a growing appreciation for the richness of the Old Testament language.

Embrace the discipline of Hebrew language study as a part of an ongoing commitment to excellence in ministry.

Skills

Read biblical Hebrew properly (use proper pronunciation).

Translate from representative Hebrew narrative texts.

Apply advanced grammatical and syntactical elements of basic Hebrew narrative texts.

Utilize an advanced lexicon, an intermediate grammar, and other selected resources as effective tools for translating and interpreting biblical Hebrew texts.

Textbooks

- (1) Elliger, K. and W. Rudolph, eds. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* (hardback is preferred).
- (2) Van der Merwe, Christo, Jacobus Naudé, Jan Kroeze, A Biblical Hebrew Reference Grammar, Second edition (T&T Clark, 2017)
- (3) Cook, John and Robert Holmstedt. *Intermediate Biblical Hebrew: An Illustrated Grammar* (Baker Academic, 2020).
- (4) Hebrew dictionary or lexica. Options for Hebrew dictionary or lexicon are below.

A print version is sufficient and has significant advantages; the best print option is:

The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament (HALOT),

That said, there are numerous returns to using bible software. The leading two bible software platforms are:

- a. *Accordance Bible Software*. The program should include *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament (HALOT)*, offering instantaneous look up of the meanings of words in the Hebrew OT. You may also purchase the *Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*, which is the most up-to-date and most sophisticated complete dictionary of ancient Hebrew.
- b. *Logos Bible Software*. The program should also include *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament (HALOT)*, offering instantaneous look up of the meanings of words in the Hebrew OT. Once more, you can purchase the addition of the *Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*.

For any bible software, there is a significant discount for seminary students.

Course Teaching Methodology

Reading large swaths of biblical Hebrew
Reading small sections of Hebrew very closely
Engagement with syntax books and grammar
Translating and exegeting
Speaking and writing Hebrew (at times)

Course Requirements

Daily assignments
Weekly Quizzes (on vocab and grammar from previous week)
Oral Final Comprehensive Exam

Syntax Research Paper

Evaluation of Grade

Assignments – Students will be responsible for completing weekly assignments (see schedule below). Completion of these assignments is essential to your success in this course. The daily assignment portion comprises **25%** of the final course grade.

Final Oral Exam – There will be one final exam that comprises **30%** of the final course grade. The student will engage the Hebrew text and respond to the professor's questions orally (not in writing).

Vocabulary and Grammar Quizzes – quizzes over vocabulary will be taken weekly. These quizzes comprise **20%** of the final course grade.

Syntax Research Paper – each student will complete a paper for the course. The length is 3,000-5,000 words (including footnotes and bibliography). The student will highlight any and every significant feature of the Hebrew text of their choice (in consultation with the professor). They will interpret the passage in light of the exegesis of the Hebrew. They will interact with relevant scholarly journals, essays, and books that deal with the Hebrew exegesis. Engagement with commentaries will be kept to a minimum, with only the most excellent of textual commentaries meriting attention. The professor will guide students through quality resources as they write their paper. This comprises **25%** of the final grade.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend and participate in the class sessions. Any student missing more than nine hours may receive an automatic grade of "F" for the course. Three tardies will count as one absence.

If you are taking this course as a NOLA2U Flex student, please note the following attendance policies:

1. You are required to be in class either through viewing the lectures live or viewing the recorded lectures on Canvas. When you view the recorded lecture, you will be considered present for that class. Regardless of if you watch the class live or recorded, you are only allowed to miss the amount of class time specified in the NOBTS attendance policy as stated in this syllabus.
2. You will be asked to certify that you have been present for the live session or have viewed the recorded session. This certification will be done through **[assignment by professor]** after having watched the class live or viewing the recorded session.
3. All video lectures are available for 7 days after the video is posted. If you are unable to view the video within that time frame, you will be considered absent for that class session.
4. Technical issues will not be considered a valid reason for missing a lecture.

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu or My.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. Canvas@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Canvas Learning Management System (Faculty/Students/Staff) Canvas.NOBTS.edu.
3. Bluejeanshelpdesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Bluejeans & NOBTS Bluejeans classrooms (On and Off-Campus)
4. TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS On-Campus Phone system.
5. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests in the Flex classrooms and for general technical questions/support requests. If you are not sure who to contact, use this email address!
6. [504.816.8180](tel:504.816.8180) - Call for any technical questions/support requests. (Currently available Mon-Thurs 7:00am-9:00pm & Fri 7:00-7:00pm Central Time)
7. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Course Schedule

***Key for Books:**

HB = Hebrew Bible

BHRG = Christo van der Merwe, Jacobus Naudé, Jan Kroeze, *A Biblical Hebrew Reference Grammar*, Second edition (T&T Clark, 2017)

IBH = John Cook and Robert Holmstedt *Intermediate Biblical Hebrew: An Illustrated Grammar* (Baker Academic, 2020).

UNIT	TOPIC	DUE
UNIT 1 August 14-19	Jonah 1 (HB) Verbal System (<i>BHRG</i> §16; §19)	Jonah 1:1-3 Tuesday (8/15) Jonah 1:4-7 Thursday (8/17)
UNIT 2 August 21-26	Jonah 1 (HB) Verbal Chains & Sequences (<i>BHRG</i> §21)	Jonah 1:8-11 Tuesday (8/22) Jonah 1:12-16 Thursday (8/24)
UNIT 3 August 28- September 2	Jonah 2 (HB) Word Order (<i>BHRG</i> §§46-47)	Jonah 2:1-2 Tuesday (8/29) Jonah 2:3-5 Thursday (8/31)
UNIT 4 September 4- 9	Jonah 2 (HB) Syntax of Directives (§19.5)	Jonah 2:6-8 Tuesday (9/5) Jonah 2:9-11 Thursday (9/7)

UNIT 5 September 11-16	Jonah 3 (HB) Prepositions (<i>BHRG</i> §39)	Jonah 3:1-5 Tuesday (9/12) Jonah 3:6-11 Thursday (9/14)
UNIT 6 September 18-23	Jonah 4 (HB) *No Syntax Readings this Unit	Jonah 4:1-2 Tuesday (9/19) Jonah 4:3-6 Thursday (9/21)
UNIT 7 September 25-30	Jonah 4 (HB) Syntax of Verbs (<i>BHRG</i> §19.2)	Jonah 4:7-8 Tuesday (9/26) Jonah 4:9-11 Thursday (9/28)
Fall Break October 2-6		
UNIT 8 October 9-14	Kings Readings (HB; <i>IHG</i> Readings 1-2)	Reading 1 Tuesday (10/10) Reading 2 Thursday (10/12)

UNIT 9 October 16-21	Kings Readings (HB; <i>IHG</i> Readings 3-4)	Reading 3 Tuesday (10/17) Reading 4 Thursday (10/19)
----------------------------	---	---

UNIT 10 October 23-28	Kings Readings (HB; <i>IHG</i> Readings 5-6)	Reading 5 Tuesday (10/31) Reading 6 Thursday (11/2)
UNIT 11 October 30- November 4	Kings Readings (HB; <i>IHG</i> Readings 7-8)	Reading 7 Tuesday (11/7) Reading 8 Thursday (11/9)
<p style="text-align: center;">Academic Meetings No Class November 13-19</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thanksgiving Break No Class November 21-26</p>		
UNIT 12 November 27-29	Kings Readings (HB; <i>IHG</i> Readings 9-10)	Reading 9 Tuesday (11/28)
	Research Paper	Due 12/5
	Oral Final Exam	*Scheduled with Professor

Selected Bibliography

There are a number of key grammars that are important and helpful. In addition, further studies require careful reading of essays and journals. I am happy to share more detailed bibliographies and methods of research throughout the semester.

Some key (modern) grammars are: Waltke and O'Connor (Eisenbrauns); Joüon and Muraoka (Pontifico); Gesenius, Kautzsch, and Cowley (Oxford).