



OTHB5300: Introductory Hebrew Grammar  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Biblical Studies Division  
Summer 2020

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**Date:** May 25 - June 5  
**Format:** Classroom  
**Phone:** (504) 816-8018

### Course Prework

The compressed nature of this course necessitates two requirements: (1) completion of prework prior to the beginning of the course and (2) elimination of all distractions for absolute concentration on the course during its two-week duration.

Prework: The student will learn the Hebrew alphabet prior to the first day of class. **To accomplish this requirement, the student will find Prework documents posted on Blackboard.** This document contains instructions, alphabet memory cards, alphabet writing examples and practice sheets, alphabet practice test and answers, and an explanation sheet for vowel pointing. **Students must be able (1) to recognize immediately all alphabet letters and (2) know each representative sound before beginning the course. Take the alphabet practice test several times before the course.** An answer sheet for this test is found in the Prework document.

**Important note:** The Hebrew Fonts used in the Prework documents are found in the Blackboard course shell. You must install the fonts to your computer to view the documents properly.

**NOBTS Mission** Prepares servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

**Core Value** Our seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity as the Bible is believed to be the Word of God, inspired and inerrant. The specific core value celebrated this academic year is Spiritual Vitality.

**Course Description** Students explore the foundations of Hebrew grammar and basic vocabulary so that they will be able to do basic translation and exegesis of the Hebrew text of the Old Testament. The course emphasizes basic grammatical constructions and rules of grammar as well as tools necessary for the student to work with the original language. The course includes basic readings from the Hebrew text.

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**Teaching Methodology**

The course methodologies include pre-course work, video explanations, lectures, group work, quizzes, and exams.

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**Curriculum Competencies**

1. **Biblical Exposition:** To interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.
  2. **Disciple Making:** To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.
  3. **Worship Leadership:** To facilitate worship effectively.
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**Student Learning Outcomes**

Students who successfully complete the course will have:

*Knowledge*

- A. Learned basic grammatical forms and functions of biblical Hebrew
- B. Come to understand the basic syntax of Hebrew narrative texts
- C. Mastered a basic vocabulary of biblical Hebrew
- D. Acquired an adequate foundation for further study of biblical Hebrew

*Attitudes*

- A. Begun to see the value of reading from the "original" Hebrew for interpreting the Old Testament
- B. Achieved a growing appreciation for the richness of the Old Testament language
- C. Become motivated to embrace the discipline of Hebrew language study as a part of an ongoing commitment to excellence in ministry.

*Skills*

- A. Read biblical Hebrew using proper pronunciation
  - B. Translated from representative Hebrew narrative texts
  - C. Implemented basic grammatical and syntactical elements of basic Hebrew narrative texts
  - D. Utilized a basic lexicon, an introductory grammar, and other selected resources as effective tools for translating and interpreting biblical Hebrew texts.
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**Course Objectives**

By the end of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Describe the basics of biblical Hebrew grammar.
  2. Read and translate simple texts from the Hebrew Bible.
  3. Demonstrate knowledge of 300 vocabulary words.
  4. Parse strong and weak verbs.
  5. Demonstrate understanding of Hebrew language tools for use in biblical exegesis.
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**Required Textbooks**

The Holy Bible: Any modern version (preferably NASB, TNKH, HCSB, NIV)

Allen P. Ross, *Introducing Biblical Hebrew* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001). 978-0801021473

*Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2006).

*Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1996).

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<b>Course Requirements:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The student will take daily quizzes.</li><li>2. The student will take a mid-term and final exam.</li><li>3. The student will participate in class discussion, remain attentive, and take good notes.</li></ol>								
<b>Absences</b>	* No absences are allowed for this course to receive credit.								
<b>Writing Style Guide</b>	Writing assignments should follow the <b>NOBTS/Leavell College Manual of Form and Style</b> ( <i>revised August 2019</i> ). To access this manual on the seminary website, please use the following link: <a href="https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf">https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf</a> .								
<b>Grading Scale</b>	A: 93-100% B: 85-92% C: 77-84% D: 70-76% F: below 70%								
<b>Point Values</b>	<table><tr><td>1. Daily Quizzes</td><td>30%</td></tr><tr><td>2. Mid-term Exam</td><td>35%</td></tr><tr><td>3. Final Exam</td><td>35%</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Total – 100%</td></tr></table>	1. Daily Quizzes	30%	2. Mid-term Exam	35%	3. Final Exam	35%	Total – 100%	
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2. Mid-term Exam	35%								
3. Final Exam	35%								
Total – 100%									

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LECTURES AND ASSIGNMENTS SCHEDULE			
Day	Dates	Lectures	Textbook Readings
<b>Week 1</b>			
1	5/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why study Biblical Hebrew?</li> <li>• Alphabet review</li> <li>• Begad Kefat Letters</li> <li>• Vowels – Part 1</li> <li>• Prepositions</li> </ul>	<i>IBH</i> Chapter 1-5
2	5/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vowels – Part 2</li> <li>• The Power of the Pronoun</li> <li>• Introduction to Nouns</li> <li>• Nouns: Absolute &amp; Construct States</li> <li>• Particles</li> </ul>	<i>IBH</i> Chapter 6-14
3	5/27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to the Strong Verb</li> <li>• The Hezekiah Principle</li> </ul>	<i>IBH</i> Chapter 22-25
4	5/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong Verbs – review</li> <li>• Accents</li> <li>• Basics of Hebrew Sentence</li> <li>• Nouns: Absolute &amp; Construct States</li> </ul>	
5	5/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review, Review, Review</li> <li>• <b>Mid-term Exam</b></li> </ul>	
<b>Week 2</b>			
6	6/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to Weak Verbs</li> <li>• The Jonah Principle</li> </ul>	<i>IBH</i> Chapter 29-38
7	6/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participles</li> <li>• Infinitives</li> <li>• Imperatives</li> </ul>	<i>IBH</i> Chapter 18-19
8	6/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hebrew Language Tools</li> <li>• Review, Review, Review</li> </ul>	
9	6/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review, Review, Review</li> </ul>	
10	6/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course Review</li> <li>• <b>Final Exam</b></li> </ul>	

## Bibliography

- 2020 Adam J. Howell, Benjamin L. Merkle, and Robert Plummer. *Hebrew for Life: Strategies for Learning, Retaining, and Reviving Biblical Hebrew* (Grand Rapids: Baker).
- 2019 William R. Osborne and Russell L. Meek. *A Book-by-Book Guide to Biblical Hebrew Vocabulary* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson).
- 2018 Karl Kutz and Rebekah Josberger. *Learning Biblical Hebrew: Reading for Comprehension: An Introductory Grammar* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press).
- Lee Roy Martin. *Introduction to Biblical Hebrew*, 4th Edition (Cleveland, TN: CPT Press).
- 2017 William Fullilove. *Introduction to Hebrew: A Guide for Learning and Using Biblical Hebrew*. (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R).
- 2014 A. A. Macintosh and C. L. Engle, *The T&T Clark Hebrew Primer* (London: T&T Clark).
- 2013 John A. Cook and Robert D. Holmstedt, *Beginning Biblical Hebrew: A Grammar and Illustrated Reader* (Grand Rapids: Baker).
- 2012 Miles V. Van Pelt, *Biblical Hebrew: A Compact Guide* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan).
2010. Jo Ann Hackett, *A Basic Introduction to Biblical Hebrew* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson).
- Christopher A. Rollston, *Writing and Literacy in the World of Ancient Israel* (Atlanta: SBL).
2009. Brian L. Webster. *The Cambridge Introduction to Biblical Hebrew* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).
2007. Gary D. Pratico, Miles V. Van Pelt, *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan).
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1984. Larry Mitchel, *A Student's Vocabulary for Biblical Hebrew and Aramaic* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan).
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