

ELEMENTS OF HEBREW

Updated 12/17/2018

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

OT5101 An introduction to basic principles of Hebrew phonology and morphology [3 hours].

By equipping you to read Old Testament in Hebrew, you are being prepared to exegete the Old Testament in order to communicate God's word to others and to interact knowledgeably with commentaries and other scholarly publications.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

The goal of this portion of the course is to assist students in acquiring a working knowledge of basic principles of Hebrew grammar. Knowledge of Hebrew grammar provides a foundation for biblical exegesis and theology, which in turn provide grounds for credible exposition of God's Word.

The cognitive objectives are for the student to:

- Learn the vocabulary used in the Hebrew Bible 100 or more times [5101-5102].
- Identify and describe Hebrew morphology [5101-5102].
- Compare examples of syntax between passages and with examples in published lists [5102].
- Read the text critical apparatus in *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* [5102].
- Evaluate the internal and external evidence for different readings of the text [5102].
- Evaluate the meanings of words in context based on semantic components and domains and on syntactical and other contextual constraints [5102].

The affective objectives are for the student to:

- Value the dramatic element of Hebrew narrative [5101-5102].
- Grow in spiritual maturity through exposure to the Hebrew Scriptures with the encouragement of other individuals who are engaged in the same efforts [5101-5102].

The behavioral objectives are for the student to:

- Read aloud the Hebrew text [5101-5102].
- Translate Hebrew OT texts [5101-5102], which requires the following skills:
 - recognize and describe grammatical forms, -identify specific uses of words in contexts,
 - recognize and describe syntactical uses of grammatical items, -use a Hebrew dictionary.
- Divide the Jonah narrative into plot segments based on Hebrew structure [5102].
- Observe and describe narrative and theme developments from the Hebrew text of Jonah [5102].

III. COURSE TEXTBOOKS

OT5101 requires only one textbook. The following lists look ahead to what you will need in OT5102-5104:

A. Required.

Webster, Brian L., *Reading Biblical Hebrew: Introduction to Grammar*. Belmont, MI: DigiScroll Press, 2017. ISBN paperback 978-1-946936-00-4. **Available from DTS bookcenter and tekscroll.com.**

Webster, Brian L., *Reading Biblical Hebrew: Grammar Workbook*. Belmont, MI: DigiScroll Press, 2017. ISBN paperback 978-1-946936-01-1. **Available from DTS bookcenter and tekscroll.com.**

A subscription to TekScroll.com is also required. A discount code is included with the workbook.

B. Recommended.

Elliger, Karl and Walter, Rudolph. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1984. *(BHS) Available in print and electronic formats. Also available bound with the Nestle-Aland 27th NT Greek text. Other Hebrew Bibles lack the text-critical apparatus. **Included in the LOGOS package. Required in OT5102-5104.**

Koehler, Ludwig, Walter Baumgartner, and Johann Jakob Stamm. *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Translated by M. E. J. Richardson. 2 vol. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2002. *(HALOT) Available in print and electronic formats. **Included in the LOGOS package. Required in OT5102-5104.**

Brotzman, Ellis R. *Old Testament Textual Criticism: A Practical Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1994. **Available (for purchase) on Logos. Required in OT5103.**

Chisholm, Robert B., Jr. *From Exegesis to Exposition: A Practical Guide to Using Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1998. **Available (for purchase) in Logos. Required in OT5102.**

C. Suggested.

Syntax Guides. You may want to consider an additional syntax guide for 102 or after. Several of these are available in both print and electronic form.

Arnold, Bill and Choi, John. *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003. *CIBH cross references sections in Arnold and Choi.

Williams, Ronald J. and Beckman, John C. *William's Hebrew Syntax: Third Edition*. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2007). *Brief deductive presentation of syntactical categories with examples. This has the least narrative but the best organization of the three.

Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar. Edited by E. Kautzsch, translated by A. E. Cowley. 2nd English edition, based on the 28th German edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1910 (16th impression, 1982). [Reference grammar.]

Jouon, Paul S.J. *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew*. Translated and revised by T. Muraoka. 2 volumes. Subsidia Biblica 14. Rome: Pontificio Istitutio Biblico, 1991. [Reference grammar.]

Walke, Bruce K., & M. O'Connor. *Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 1990. [Reference grammar.]

Dictionaries. You may want to consider an additional dictionary for 5102 or after.

Botterweck, Johannes, and Ringgren, Helmer, eds. *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament*. 15 vols. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1974-2006. (TDOT) This has thorough articles with theological interpretive angles.

Brown, Francis, S. R. Driver, Charles A. Briggs. *The New Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Original publication, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1907; reprint and revised edition. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2nd printing 1996. *(BDB) Most Hebrew tools are keyed to it, but it is somewhat outdated. Hendrickson's reprint adds Strong's numbers. A revision is in progress.

Clines, David J.A., ed. et al. *The Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*. 10 volumes. Sheffield: Sheffield University Press, 1993-2001. (DCH) This is a very nice, detailed classical Hebrew lexicon, but very expensive. See also the abridged version, *The Concise Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*.

Jenni, Ernst, and Westermann, Claus, eds *Theological Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Translated by Mark E. Biddle. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1997. This dictionary is complete in 3 vols and thorough but selective in what it includes.

Willem A. VanGemeren, ed., *The New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997). (*NIDOTTE*) This dictionary is complete in 5 vols and includes introductory linguistic article and indices, including one of semantic domains.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Reading Assignments

RBH. The textbook is integrated with TekScroll and video clips. Sometimes "preview" clips signal what to look for when reading the book. Often Grammar Illustrations in TekScroll supplement reading the textbook.

B. Written Assignments

Workbook.

You are responsible to do the workbook, check the answer key, ask questions in the discussion forum, and make corrections and notes on your workbook. Further explanation is available on the submission page. Workbook is only complete if you complete the work, check your work and make notes and corrections in a different color ink for all portions you got incorrect. For some workbook items there are FAQ videos.

Instructions for scans of RBH Workbook

You will need to upload a scan of your work to the website. If you do not have access to a scanner, there are free smart phone apps which turns your phone's camera into a scanner and saves the files as PDFs.

- Make sure that the lighting is good and the image is crisp and clear.
- Make sure that the pages are not turned sideways or upside down, and are in order.
- Only one workbook page per PDF page.
- Page size must be set as 8.5x11
- Scans must be in color so that corrections (in the different color ink) is clearly visible.
- File sizes should be under 10mb Scan at a medium resolution. Small resolutions create difficult to read files. Large resolutions create big file sizes which won't load on Canvas. Make sure your submission, when viewed in a pdf viewer at 100%, is an appropriate width (comparable to viewing a word doc at 100%) and all parts are easily readable.
- Submissions must be made as a pdf that functions as a document. Do not insert jpg images into a word doc and save it as a pdf. Such files are bulky and usually will not load in Canvas.

Uploads which do not meet these requirements will not be graded. Resubmissions because original submission did not meet these guidelines will be subject to late penalties.

C. Non-Written Assignments

TekScroll.

A certain amount of practice in TekScroll is assigned for each chapter. You will report the number of items that you completed on time in an online reporting quiz. (TekScroll Practice Readings are a good way to review vocabulary.)

D. Quizzes and Exams

Quizzes.

Most modules begin with a quiz over the vocabulary list from the chapter of RBH covered in the previous module.

Most modules end with a quiz verifying that you have met the objectives of the module. These quizzes may include vocabulary from the textbook chapters covered in previous modules, paradigms and parsing, grammatical items, and translation.

Exams

There are two exams.

Exams generally have four sections: vocabulary, morphology (paradigm writing and parsing), translation, and grammar questions. Parsing and grammar questions may be tied to the translation passages.

Note that Canvas is not able to grade tests or any of the quizzes accurately. The professor will grade all quizzes and exams and correct Canvas' failed attempt to grade them. Allow at least a week for your professor to grade the quizzes, two for exams. (Questions about grades submitted prior to this timeframe will likely not receive a response, or only a quick note to consult this section of the syllabus.) Once the professor has regraded the quizzes and exams, you may ask questions about your grade. But, note that Canvas' red marks will remain even when the professor adjusts the points.

E. Tutoring labs.

*Tutoring is available for all students. Group or personal tutoring (one hour per week) is **required** whenever you have a test score below 85% or your current quiz average is below 85%. At the beginning of OT102, the tutoring requirement is based on your final exam in OT101.*

Tutoring is available for online students through the conference or chat tools with either the professor or the grader. If you are taking the course online but live in the Dallas area, you may also come to campus for personal tutoring like the students in the on-campus classes receive. You will then have access to a larger number of tutors and their schedules. Tutoring is provided by the OT department to help see all of our students succeed.

The tutoring requirement must be met in order to take the exams in the class.

The student is responsible to seek out and arrange tutoring, either by contacting the professor, grader, or (if in Dallas) contacting an on-campus student tutor. Do not wait for the professor to contact you. Be proactive.

V. COURSE POLICIES

A. Letter/Numerical Grade Scale

A+ 99-100	B+ 91-93	C+ 83-85	D+ 75-77	F 0-69
A 96-98	B 88-90	C 80-82	D 72-74	
A- 94-95	B- 86-87	C- 78-79	D- 70-71	

B. Weighing of Course Requirements for Grading

10% TekScroll Practice (via Reporting quizzes in Canvas).

15% Workbook

15% Vocabulary and Grammar Quizzes.

20% Mid-term Exam.

40% Final Exam.

C. Class Participation

Please remember that learning is a process of trial, correction and trying again. You will be reading a foreign language in this class- you will make mistakes or stumble in reading and so will

everyone else. Don't sweat it; come to learn; ask questions. The quality of your comments in forums like voice thread are a significant contribution to learning for everyone in the class.

D. Tackling Hebrew

A language class constantly builds on what has already been covered. Review daily, even when it is going smoothly so that new material doesn't pile up and 'bury' you. It takes far more time to get out of such a hole than it does to stay on top of things. Be especially mindful of the Dangers of Spring Break and large assignments in other classes that tempt you to set aside daily review of Hebrew.

Please use the question forums (not email) to ask questions about chapter concepts, workbook items, or TekScroll items. Your classmates will benefit from seeing your questions and the answers.

By all means communicate with me if you are struggling. I will try to help you formulate a study plan for you to implement.

E. Late Assignments

Language classes are by nature progressively moving forward and require a strong commitment from the students. It is important that students stay on track with the course as falling behind has a major domino effect that will hinder their ability to learn the material and succeed in the course. To that end it is imperative that students stay on track with the course content, which means it is imperative that students turn in all material on time. This is not a self-paced course. **Late work will receive a 10% penalty per day and will be strictly enforced.** Exceptions are allowed for extenuating circumstances that are beyond a student's control. (See Student Handbook §1.33 for the types of things which qualify.) In such situations, notify the professor and she will work with you on making necessary adjustments. Extensions for extenuating circumstances must be requested prior to submitting an assignment. Resubmissions are not permitted.

Be sure to note all assignment due dates which are posted at the beginning of the semester.

Please note, that the online format of this class allows students some flexibility with assignments as the students can easily work ahead. If you know a certain week will be busy (such as for a major paper due in another class, or an upcoming mission trip) take advantage of the online format and work ahead, instead of falling behind.

F. Failure to Cite Sources of Words or Ideas

Discussing Hebrew assignments in forums is encouraged. But merely copying another's work or simply copying the answer key is cheating. All translation and all parsing must be your own.

On quizzes and test you may not use any sources or consult anything else on your computer. You may, however, have a printout of the Hebrew keyboard layout to aid in typing in Hebrew. You may also have a blank piece of paper to jot notes on as you think. But you may not use the paper to write out the paradigms.

Plagiarizing work (including cheating) will result in a grade of F. **The student suspected of plagiarism will be reported to the Academic Dean and the Dean of Students.**

G. Absences

If illness or a family emergency causes you to miss all or most of a module, communicate with me about a schedule to make up the work. (See "Late Assignments" section above.)

H. Course Information

Throughout this online course the professor will provide information to the class through course announcements and emails. It is the student's responsibility to know the information continued in

all the professor's communications. It is highly recommended that you make sure your Canvas account is set to send you emails whenever a new announcement is posted.

VI. COURSE SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

DTS does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the operation of any of its programs and activities. To avoid discrimination the student is responsible for informing the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities and the course instructor of any disabling condition that will require modifications.

Graduating students must finish final assignments and the final exam in time for the professor to submit final grades according to the registrar's timeline for submitting grades for graduating students.

VII. COURSE SCHEDULE

Course schedule is subject to changes. Any changes will be clearly communicated to the class and include an updated version of the syllabus to reflect the change.

Tentative Schedule for OT101

OT101 OL		
Week	Module	Topic. See Canvas for dates
1	1	RBH 1; Alphabet
2	2	RBH 2; Syllables
3	3-4	RBH 3-4; Nouns Endings Pts 1&2
4	5	RBH 5; Prepositions
5	6	RBH 6; Pronouns and suffixes
6	7	RBH 7; Adjectives
7	8	RBH 8; Qal Participles and Inf. cs
8	9	RBH 9; Misc Terms Midterm Exam
9	10	RBH 10; Qal perfect strong verbs
10	11	RBH 11; Qal perfect weak verbs
11	12	RBH 12; Qal imperfect strong verbs
12	13	RBH 13; Qal perfect weak verbs
13	14	RBH 14; Volitional verbs
14	15	RBH 15; Pronominal suffixes on verbs
		Final Exam