

OT5310 HEBREW READING SYLLABUS

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

From the Catalog: “Studies in selected portions of the Old Testament to improve the student’s ability to read Hebrew, emphasizing morphology, vocabulary, and syntactical recognition. Required of students with an Old Testament studies ministry emphasis. *Prerequisite:* OT5101 Elements of Hebrew I and OT5102 Elements of Hebrew II. *2 or 3 hours.*”

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

The classroom activities and assignments for this course are chosen with the intention of helping students improve their ability to read and understand passages in the Hebrew Bible by

1. improving their ability to read Hebrew aloud
2. improving their recognition of words and phrases and ability to assess English options for translation
3. improving their ability to recognize and describe elements of the verbal system (a.k.a. parsing)
4. improving their recognition of features of normal syntax and idiomatic constructions within narrative, quoted speech, and poetry
5. improving their recognition of other matters important for articulating the biblical theology of a passage and for exposition and application

so that as they see themselves reading more rapidly and with enhanced comprehension, they will be encouraged to consult and read their Hebrew Bibles often after the course is over. We will also include occasional discussions pertinent to thesis writing and further graduate study.

III. COURSE TEXTBOOKS AND SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Vocabulary Book, required.

Mitchel, Larry A. *A Student’s Vocabulary for Biblical Hebrew and Aramaic*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984. Note: Revised version should be available for use in Fall 2017.

Hebrew Text, required. We will use both paper and electronic texts in class. The following are suggested as alternatives to the standard BHS printed formats:

Brown II, A. Philip, and Bryan W. Smith, *A Reader’s Hebrew Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008.

This book provides the same Hebrew text as BHS but without the text-critical apparatus. At the bottom of each page are meanings for the words on the page that appear fewer than one hundred times in the OT. It uses a gray typeface to mark unfamiliar proper nouns. A glossary at the back gives meanings for words used over one hundred times. The following book is the same, except that it is bound with the Greek NT.

OR:

Brown II, A. Philip, and Bryan W. Smith (for OT), Richard J. Goodrich and Albert L. Lukaszewski (for NT). *A Reader's Hebrew and Greek Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007, 2008.

OR:

Vance, Donald R., George Athas, and Yael Avrahami. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia: A Reader's Edition*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2014.

This book again provides the BHS Hebrew text without the text-critical apparatus. It gives meanings for Hebrew words used fewer than seventy times in the OT. A glossary at the back gives meanings for words used more than seventy times. About fifty pages of paradigms of verbs (strong and weak) and nouns with pronominal suffixes accompany the glossary. The notes at the bottom of the page, in addition to providing meanings, parse all words that appear fewer than seventy times. To save space, the parsing is highly abbreviated, using a novel combination of letters and numbers.

Hebrew Lexicons (I'll assume you have one of these):

Brown, Francis, S. R. Driver, and Charles A. Briggs. *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Reprint, Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1996. (=BDB)

This is a very helpful dictionary, since many Hebrew tools are keyed to it. It is also available in electronic formats for PCs and for Macs. However, it is somewhat outdated; it was originally published in 1907 in Oxford by Clarendon Press. The Hendrickson reprint adds reference numbers to Strong's concordance. (In Logos.)

Holladay, William L., ed. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1971.

This is a one-volume, abridged English translation of the 1958 German edition of Koehler-Baumgartner's Hebrew Lexicon.

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)

This first-rate dictionary is available in print and in electronic formats for PCs and Macs, and is listed as required for OT5102, 5103, and 5104. (In Logos.)

Reference Grammars (All good to have for different reasons. You should become acquainted with them, if you are not already.):

Arnold, Bill T., and John H. Choi. *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Cowley, A. E., ed. *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar. Edited and Enlarged by E. Kautzsch*. 2nd English ed. Oxford: Clarendon, 1910. Known as GKC, this is in the DTS Logos package.

Joüon, Paul, *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew*. Translated and revised by T. Muraoka. 2 vols. Rome: Pontificio Istituto Biblico, 1991.

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

Williams, Ronald J., and John C. Beckman. *William's Hebrew Syntax*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2007.

Miscellaneous Items of Interest

Please let me know when you find other useful items and if you find that any item below has ceased to exist or does not work properly.

Daily Dose of Hebrew: This site has links to a variety of resources, including a subscription that five days a week sends a two-minute video discussing features of a Hebrew verse. You can also go to the site and click on any of the many posted videos: <http://dailydoseofhebrew.com>

Quiz Website: <http://quizlet.com/subject/hebrew/>

The student who found it says, "It has flash cards, tests, and other helps. It is very user friendly! It has vocabulary for Jonah on flash cards, the Mitchel vocabulary, and more." You can scroll through lists of items offered (for both modern and biblical Hebrew), or you can use the search bar at the top of the page to find items you might like to try, for example: Mitchel flash cards: <http://quizlet.com/subject/hebrew-mitchel/> and Jonah flash cards: <http://quizlet.com/subject/hebrew-jonah/>

Vocabulary, Parsing, and Quiz Website made by a DTS student with the needs of DTS students in mind: <http://www.creativemargin.com/learn/iParsing/>

iVocab Biblical Hebrew, from Kregel Publications, for use on iPod, video cell phone, and computer. Contact kregelbooks@kregel.com or 800.733.2607.

Vocabulary Website, called ProVoc (has Hebrew and other languages also). It is for Mac OS X: <http://www.arizona-software.ch/provoc/>

Vocabulary Website: <http://www.animatedhebrew.com>

Another Vocabulary & Paradigm Website:
http://www.lionelwindsor.net/language_tools_hebrew.html

Font Website: <http://scripts.sil.org/SILEzra>

Font Website: http://www.sbl-site.org/Resources/Resources_BiblicalFonts.aspx

For reading in Hebrew or Greek with assistance: Being developed by John Dyer here at DTS, an online Hebrew and Greek reader's Bible: www.biblewebapp.com/reader/. You type the reference of the OT or NT verse or verses that you want to read and the level of vocabulary assistance you want; it has other features also.

Audio Website: <http://www.audiotreasure.com/>. This site has the Bible read in various languages (Russian, Italian, Mandarin, Hindi, etc.). Here is the direct link to Hebrew: <http://www.audiotreasure.com/mp3/Hebrew/Hebrew.htm>

Audio Website: audioscriptures.org provides free access to the Bible read in a large number of languages, including Hebrew.

Audio Website: This one has the OT read aloud and is especially easy to use.
http://www.aol.org/hebrew_audiobible.htm

Audio Website: OT read in Hebrew available in Mp3 format here:
<http://www.mechon-mamre.org/p/pt/pt00.htm>

More Audio Websites:

<http://www.torahclass.com/audio-bible-in-hebrew>

<http://listen.talkingbibles.org>

The book of Genesis read by a different person than some of the other websites:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pvt_XIHHSPQ

English versions read aloud (by Max McLean, David Suchet, and others) and a few other languages:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/audio/>

Portions of Bible read aloud for each day of the year:

<http://www.listenersbible.com/devotionals/biy>

Aleppo Codex Website: <http://www.aleppocodex.org>

Isaiah Scroll Website: http://www.imj.org.il/shrine_center/Isaiah_Scrolling/index.html

<http://www.imj.org.il/shrine_center/Isaiah_Scrolling/index.html>

Bible Search Software Websites:

<http://accordancebible.com/>

<http://www.bibleworks.com/>

<http://www.logos.com/>

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

We will have assigned passages to read in preparation for class. Many of these will be chosen during the summer, based on requests from members of the class. (I'll contact everyone via email.) You will have opportunities to read aloud and translate in class. We will have quizzes that give you a chance to demonstrate your knowledge of assigned vocabulary and parsing, especially as found in the passages that we will read for class and in the lists from Mitchel. There may be a few modest reading assignments in Waltke-O'Connor, Joüon-Muraoka, and elsewhere as background for working in the assigned passages. You will do a reading and writing project that you will design with advice from me and from class members. You will memorize a section of verses and recite them to the class. Hear more about these in class.

We will aim to learn the words used 75 times or more in the Old Testament, as listed by Mitchel. That amounts to 539 words, most of which you already have had one way or another. In order not to make this too onerous, we will drop the lowest 3 quizzes of the total for the semester; we may have an option that will earn you a fourth drop; and if the quiz scheme seems like a calamity to you personally, just tell me, and we'll come up with a good educational alternative for you. Likewise, if it is a calamity for everyone, we'll fix it.

V. COURSE POLICIES

A. Weight of Course Requirements for Grading

15% Reading and Writing Project

15% Memorization Project

10% Quizzes

60% Regular work (Hebrew reading and translating, other reading, class participation)

B. Class Participation and Absences

Regular class attendance is essential for attaining the goals of the course. This is especially true for this class, which will include grades for class participation. Please do not miss class, even if you do not feel well prepared. Arrange to be on time and ready to work. (In other words, please do not create a need for either of us to become experienced in the enforcement of institutional policies about attendance, tardiness, late assignments, and so forth.)

Please let me know if you must be late or leave early. Beware of engaging in conversation with your neighbor during class. Please let your family, friends, bosses, and coworkers know that you will check your cell phone between classes and that you do not take calls (or send/receive other messages) during classes. The Dean of Students Office should be contacted if an emergency requires that you and the rest of the class must be interrupted. Talk with me if you have cause for an exception to this policy. During class time, please be both mentally and physically in the room and focused on learning Hebrew.

Talking with you is one of my favorite activities, and I enjoy tutoring. So do help me become acquainted with you. Feel free to ask questions and to schedule appointments with me for individuals and small groups. These appointments may be at times other than the hours listed in the OT office. Sometimes a few minutes of talking in person or over the phone can save you hours of time and trouble.

C. 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		

A = Work of excellent quality

B = Work of commendable quality

C = Work of acceptable quality

D = Work of minimal but passing quality

VI. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Dallas Theological Seminary works to provide reasonable and appropriate accommodations to students with psychological, medical, physical, and learning disabilities. A student desiring or needing accommodations on the basis of such disabilities or of medical incidents such as hospitalization or severe injury is to contact the Director of Services for Students with Disabilities (<https://students.dts.edu/studentlife/disability-services/>). If the student is aware of a condition that may impact his/her studies, the student should contact the Director of Services for Students with Disabilities at prior to the beginning of the semester or at the onset of a crisis.

VII. COURSE SCHEDULE

Note: This schedule is subject to improvement as the semester progresses and will include passages chosen from ones that class members request. More on that later.

Class	Date	Class Discussion / Assignment Schedule
1	Wed., 8/26	Introductory Matters; Tests of Current Reading & Vocabulary Skills (Don't worry; it'll all be fine.) 2 Chronicles 18–20; quiz, Mitchel 1A, 1B, 1C
2	Wed., 9/2	2 Chronicles 18–20; use of "ADAM" in 19:6–7
3	Wed., 9/9	1 Chronicles 28–29
4	Wed., 9/16	
5	Wed., 9/23	
6	Wed., 9/30	
7	Wed., 10/7	
8	Wed., 10/14	
9	Wed., 10/21	
10	Wed., 10/28	
11	Wed., 11/4	
12	Wed., 11/11	Collect Preliminary Reading Reports
	Nov. 16 – 20	Reading Week – No Classes
	Nov. 23 – 27	Thanksgiving Break – No Classes
13	Wed., 12/2	
14	Wed., 12/9	
	Dec 14-17	Exam Week