

Dr. Dorian G. Coover-Cox
Office: Todd 204
214.887.5312 (o)
972.241.4427 (h)
dcox@dts.edu
Dallas Theological Seminary

OT5101B
Elements of Hebrew I
(3 credit hours)
Fall 2020
Tu/Th, 1:00-2:15 p.m., Todd 114

ELEMENTS OF HEBREW I, OT101A COURSE SYLLABUS

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

“An introduction to the basic principles of Hebrew phonology and morphology.”

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

The central goal of the course is to assist students in acquiring a working knowledge of basic principles of Hebrew grammar, an endeavor that will continue in OT5102. This understanding is essential to making proper use of Hebrew study tools and to doing competent exegesis and biblical theology. To acquire such competence is an element of reasonable service for anyone who intends to teach God’s Word to others. In other words, 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 course is designed to enable students:

- To learn how to pronounce the consonants and vowels that form syllables and words.
- To gain a working knowledge of how Hebrew words are formed, especially verbs, so that they can be parsed and translated.
- To recognize and translate many Hebrew words that occur frequently in the Hebrew Bible. (Lack of a working vocabulary makes translation and use of commentaries and reference works needlessly complicated and time consuming.)
- To acquire knowledge of Hebrew grammar for the interpretation of simple sentences by deductive mastery of material in the textbook and by inductive analysis of sentences in the homework assignments.
- To grow in devotion to the Lord and in spiritual and emotional maturity through exposure to the Hebrew Scriptures in the company of other individuals engaged in the same efforts.

III. COURSE TEXTBOOKS AND SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Required:

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

Suggested for anyone with a weak background in English grammar:

Long, Gary A. *Grammatical Concepts 101 for Biblical Hebrew*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2002; rev. ed. 2013.

Either the first or second edition will help. A student commented, “It has been VERY helpful in my understanding of English-to-Hebrew terms. I really like the way it breaks down what the terms are in English—with examples. Then it gives you the same thing in Hebrew—with examples. Pure genius in my book! I would definitely recommend this book to any student who is having trouble with grammar.”

Internet/Electronic Items of Interest: Please let me know when you find other useful tools and websites, and if you find problems with any.

Bible Search Software:

When I last checked, the following had demo programs that you can try, and they were also available for use on computers in the DTS library. Logos, of course, you have access to with your own computer as a DTS student.

<http://accordancebible.com/>

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

Video for Logos:

Where to Start: <https://logos.wistia.com/medias/n2xxejqhb5>

Vocabulary

1. *iVocab Biblical Hebrew*, from Kregel Publications, for use on iPods, cell phones, and computers. Contact kregelbooks@kregel.com or 800.733.2607. Among other things, it can make “smart lists” in order to drill you more on the words that you have had trouble with.

2. Ross Lessons, Vocabulary, and Exercises Website: <http://www.animatedhebrew.com>

This site has lectures that you can watch and listen to plus other features, including interactive vocabulary cards and principal part. Several students have commented that these helped them.

Note also audio files for the exercises: http://www.animatedhebrew.com/ross_audio/index.html

3. Website with Ross vocabulary, vocabulary according to frequency of use (per Mitchel), parsing, and other features: <http://www.creativemargin.com/learn/iParsing/>

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

5. Another Ross Vocabulary Website: This one works with BibleWorks, including its audio feature. <http://www.lionelwindsor.net/language-tools/hebrew/>

6. A student recommends a program that he uses. He says it is “a general purpose flashcard program called anki to learn languages. It helped me survive Greek. The thing that's special about it is that it's a “Spaced Repetition System” that brings a new card up often, but then gradually spaces it out further and further the more you get it correct.” He adds, “I use the desktop version to type in all my cards, and then a smartphone version (android, although there's also an iPhone version) to review on my phone most of the time. It's pretty cool.”

Anki for Windows: <http://ankisrs.net/>

Anki for Android: <http://code.google.com/p/ankidroid/>

7. Here's another item that works with cell phones:

<https://biblicallanguages.net/ross-ibh-audio-files/>

Fonts

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

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

Audio

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

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

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

4. More Audio Websites:

Two-minute presentations of verses that you can log onto or subscribe to for delivery:

<https://dailydoseofhebrew.com/read-hebrew/>

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

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

Manuscripts

Dead Sea Scroll of Isaiah Website:

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

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

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

Hebrew Texts:

Elliger, Karl, and Walter Rudolph, eds. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1984 and later. (=BHS) (in Logos)

This is available from the DTS Book Center and from the American Bible Society. Also known as BHS, it comes in two sizes and also bound in a single volume with the Nestle-Aland 27th NT Greek critical text. Other Hebrew Bibles do not have the text-critical apparatus that BHS has. You can live without this in OT101, but you might enjoy beginning to become acquainted with it sooner rather than later.

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

This book provides the same Hebrew text as BHS. 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 type face to mark unfamiliar proper nouns. A glossary at the back gives meanings for words used over one hundred times. It does *not* include the BHS apparatus that deals with text-critical matters. (A person might consider having this as a paper copy of the Hebrew Bible and an electronic version of BHS with its apparatus. Think about what might work best for you. It is typically required for OT310 Hebrew Reading. NOTE: In spring 2010, the publisher issued a volume that combines OT and NT—*A Reader's Hebrew and Greek Bible*.)

Lexicons:

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

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 package.

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. It is easier to use than the longer lexicons.

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) (in Logos)

This important dictionary is available in print and in electronic formats for PCs and Macs, and it is listed as required for OT102, 103, and 104. The electronic version is usually less expensive than print and easier to use. In Logos package.

Introductory Hebrew Grammars:

Garrett, Duane A. *A Modern Grammar for Classical Hebrew*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2002.

Greenberg, Moshe. *Introduction to Hebrew*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1965.

Kelley, Page H. *Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992.

Lambdin, Thomas O. *Introduction to Biblical Hebrew*. New York: Scribners, 1971.

LaSor, William S. *Handbook of Biblical Hebrew*. 2 vol. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978–79.

Long, Gary A. *Grammatical Concepts 101 for Biblical Hebrew: Grammatical Concepts through English Grammar*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2002.

Pratico, Gary D., and Miles V. Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.

Pratico, Gary D., and Miles V. Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Workbook*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.

Seow, C. L. *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew*. Rev. ed. Nashville: Abingdon, 1995.

Vasholz, Robert I. *Hebrew Exercises: A Programmed Approach*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1981.

Webster, Brian L. *The Cambridge Introduction to Biblical Hebrew*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009.

Weingreen, Jacob. *A Practical Grammar for Classical Hebrew*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1959.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Textbook: You will need Ross, *Introducing Biblical Hebrew* (=Ross). Work in it will be assigned in class and should be done in preparation for recitation in class. If assignments are collected, the grade will be part of the quiz average.

2. Quizzes: The average of Hebrew quizzes counts 25% of the Hebrew grade. Quiz Policy: There could be a quiz on any day, and once in a while there may not be a quiz. We will drop the lowest four quiz scores. A missed quiz counts as a zero and the first missed quiz counts as your first drop, regardless of why you missed the quiz. After that, talk with me about the possibility of making up a missed quiz.

3. Exams: Four exams count 75%, as follows: Exam 1 = 15%; Exam 2 = 20%; Exam 3 = 15%; Exam 4 = 25%. Exam 4 is given during exam week, probably on Tuesday; please plan your travels accordingly.

V. COURSE POLICIES

A. Weight of Course Requirements for Grading

25% Quizzes

15% Exam 1

20% Exam 2

15% Exam 3

25% Exam 4

B. Class Participation and Absences

Regular class attendance is essential for attaining the goals of the course. For each absence in excess of the allotted number, the final grade may be reduced (see the DTS student handbook). Please do not miss class, even if you do not feel well prepared. Arrange to be on time and ready to work. Please let me know if you must be late or leave early. (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.)

Once you arrive at our classroom, make every effort to actually be there. *Please turn off cellular phones and stay away from all sorts of computer-assisted messaging. Let your family, your boss, and your adoring followers know that you will be back soon.* Talk with me if you have cause for an exception to this policy. During class time, please be both physically and mentally in the room and focused on learning Hebrew and helping others in the process. In order to avoid being a distraction, beware of engaging in conversation with your neighbor during class. Please do not start packing to leave before the ending time. In short, be where you are.

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 by phone can save you hours of time and trouble. Joining a study group helps many people. Look for ways to help each other as class members. Note also the names of department tutors posted outside the OT office. (Be creative. Don't struggle unnecessarily.)

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. COURSE SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Students with Disabilities or Medical Incidents:

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. It lists topics to be discussed in some measure and shows where the exams fall. For more details, see the assignment sheets distributed in class.

Class	Date	Class Discussion / Assignment Schedule
1	Tues., 8/25	Alphabet and six vowels (Ross 1–2)
2	Thurs., 8/27	More vowels, mater lectionis (Ross 2–3)
3	Tues., 9/1	Shewas (say, “shvaz”), dageshes, definite article (Ross 4–5)
4	Thurs., 9/3	Definite article, prepositions, conjunction, nouns (Ross 6–7)
5	Tues., 9/8	Nouns, cont. (Ross 7–8)
6	Thurs., 9/10	Adjectives, etc. (Ross 9)
7	Tues., 9/15	Review
8	Thurs., 9/17	Exam 1 (Ross 1–9)
9	Tues., 9/22	Start perfect tense and independent personal pronouns (Ross 10 & 11)
10	Thurs., 9/24	Pronouns and demonstratives (Ross 11)
11	Tues., 9/29	Construct (Ross 12)
12	Thurs., 10/1	Construct, cont.; start pronominal suffixes (Ross 13)
13	Tues., 10/6	Pronominal suffixes on nouns (Ross 14–15)
14	Thurs., 10/8	Pronominal suffixes, cont.; start Qal Active Ptc. (Ross 16)
15	Tues., 10/13	Ptc., cont.; start Qal imperfect (Ross 17)

16	Thurs., 10/15	Review
17	Tues., 10/20	Exam 2 (Ross 10–17)
18	Thurs., 10/22	Narrative sequence (Ross 18); stative verbs (Ross 19)
19	Tues., 10/27	Narrative sequence, cont.; start volitives (Ross 20)
20	Thurs., 10/29	Volitives, cont.; start disjunctive word order, passive ptc. (Ross 21)
21	Tues., 11/3	Infinitives (Ross 22 & 23)
22	Thurs., 11/5	More on infinitives (Ross 22 & 23); start pronominal suffixes on finite verbs (Ross 24) {Note: Probably a very bad day to cut class.}
23	Tues., 11/10	Start numbers and Niphal (Ross 25 & 26)
24	Thurs., 11/12	Niphal, cont.; start Piel & Pual (Ross 27 & 28)
	Nov. 16-20	Reading Week – No Classes
	Nov. 23-27	Thanksgiving Recess – No Classes
25	Tues., 12/1	Exam 3 (Ross 18–24) due; Piel & Pual, cont.; start Hithpael (Ross 29)
26	Thurs., 12/3	Hithpael, cont.; start Hiphil & Hophal (Ross 30 & 31)
27	Tues., 12/8	Hiphil & Hophal, cont. (Ross 30 & 31)
28	Thurs., 12/10	Review
	Dec 14-17	Final Exam to be scheduled by the Registrar’s Office (likely on Tues.).