

**Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary—Charlotte**  
**OL501 Biblical Hebrew 1 Syllabus**  
**Fall 2011**

Course Instructor: Dr. Joel Harlow

Class Meeting Times: **Fridays** (7:00–9:00 p.m.) & **Saturdays** (9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.):

**Sept. 16-17; Oct. 14-15; Nov. 11-12; Dec 9-10**

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**;;SPECIAL NOTE!!!:**

*OL 501 requires familiarization with Hebrew consonants and vowels prior to the first meeting. See section V below for details on what you must know by our first class meeting.*

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**I. Course Description**

OL501 provides an introduction to basic grammar, morphology, and vocabulary of biblical Hebrew. The student is introduced to the noun system (including adjectives, prepositions, and pronouns), the Qal verb stem, and *Vav* Consecutive (Pratico & Van Pelt chaps. 1-17).

The course will be supplemented with web pages in Sakai and MP3s of the vocabulary for the entire semester.

**II. Relationship to the Curriculum** (or *Why Study Hebrew, anyway?!?!?!?*)

As stated in the Gordon-Conwell [mission statement](#), we at the seminary....

- ... believe that God’s redemptive work is “understood through the biblical Word and mediated by the Holy Spirit.” We hold, then, that the writers were inspired by the Holy Spirit to write the Scriptures *in Hebrew and Greek* (not English!!). Consequently, the best understanding of God’s self-disclosure—through His inspired Word—is gained by the study of Scripture in the languages through which HE chose to reveal Himself. And we argue that studying the original languages of Scripture best equips us to be one who “correctly handles the word of truth” (2Tim 2:15, NIV).
- ... strive to develop students in the highest tradition of Christian scholarship, who are competent in the interpretation, proclamation and application of God’s Holy Word in the contemporary world. And we are convinced that this is impossible without studying the original languages of Scripture.

Hebrew is a prerequisite for OT exegesis. Consequently, it is required of all M.Div. students and some MA degrees at Gordon Conwell.

**III. Course Outcome and Objectives.**

The outcome or goal of Hebrew 1 is that a student who successfully completes this course will be able to translate—with considerable assistance—simple Hebrew narratives. This will be accomplished by facilitating students’ abilities to...

1. Recognize / recall over 250 Hebrew words by sight (by sound, too, if possible!)
2. Analyze basic forms of the perfect and imperfect Hebrew verb, as well as the basic forms of nouns, adjectives, prepositions, and other words
3. Analyze / interpret / explain the grammar and morphology of simple Hebrew clauses, sentences, and narratives
4. Resolve most of the ambiguities presented by the differences between Hebrew and English
5. To articulate in a reaction paper [see below]—from concrete examples—that even a basic understanding of Hebrew is a valuable tool for the competent interpretation, proclamation, and application of God’s Word in the contemporary world

#### IV. Course Textbooks

##### Required:

- Pratico, G. D. & Van Pelt, M. V. (2007). Basics of Biblical Hebrew: Grammar (2nd ed.). Grand Rapids: Zondervan. (ISBN 9780310270201)
- Pratico, G. D. & Van Pelt, M. V. (2007). Basics of Biblical Hebrew: Workbook (2nd ed.). Grand Rapids: Zondervan. (ISBN 9780310270225)

\*\*Pratico and Van Pelt will be hereafter referred to as “PVP”\*\*

##### Recommended:

- Pratico, G. D. & Van Pelt, M. V. (2005). Biblical Hebrew: Get an A Study Guide (chart). Grand Rapids: Zondervan. (ISBN 9780310262954)
- Biblical Hebrew Semlink CD-ROM for Pratico and Van Pelt (\$20)  
Order from Semlink office directly (1-877-736-5465). *Identify yourself as a Charlotte Student.*

#### V. Course Requirements and Grading

##### **Prior to the first class:**

Prior to the first class students are expected to work through the first 2 chapters of the textbook. The Hebrew Semlink CD can help with this.

**YOU WILL HAVE an alphabet quiz on Saturday morning of the FIRST WEEKEND (Sep. 17).** Please concentrate on the following sections of chapters 1 and 2: 1.1-1.5; 1.12 and 2.3-2.6.  
**NOTE:** The quiz covers only the sections noted here.

There will be resources online in Sakai (see “Course Administration” below) to help you prepare, including a practice quiz to show you just what to expect on your first quiz.

##### **Attendance**

Attendance is required for all class meetings in OL501.

## Exercises

Students are expected to complete the exercises in the Workbook to master the concepts and vocabulary of each chapter. The textbook's CD-ROM provides answers to these exercises and provides additional exercises as well. Please spend your energies where you have discernible weaknesses. **You** must take control of mastering the material, making use of whatever resources prove helpful!

## Time Commitment

After many years of teaching Hebrew it is obvious that the single biggest mistake students make in Hebrew study is **to underestimate the time needed to master the material.**

Students who wish to master the material should expect to spend **about 13 hours per week studying Hebrew.** During exam weeks students can expect to spend another **two or three hours.**

Below is a layout of the course by “modules,” following the PVP text—including major topics covered, assignments, and estimated hours needed to read, learn, practice, study, and be tested on the material.

Module	Topics	Assignments	Estimated Hours
1 (weekend 1)	Alphabet; Nouns; Definite Article; Conjunction <i>Vav</i> (chaps 1-5)	• Exam 1 (first Sat AM!) • Quiz 1-2	42
2 (weekend 2)	Intro to the Noun System (chaps 6-9)	• Quizzes 3-5 • Exam 2	49
3 (weekend 3)	Rest of the Noun System (chaps 10-13)	• Quizzes 6-7 • Exam 3	48
4 (weekend 4)	Intro to the Verb System (chaps 14-17)	• Quizzes 8-10 • Reaction Paper	43
	<i>Prep for cumulative Final Exam</i>	• Final Exam	10
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED HOURS</b>			<b>192</b>

In total, a student who wishes to master the material for Hebrew 1 should expect to around **190 hours** over the fall semester.

## Grading

### Quizzes (10 total; 35% of course grade)

There are 10 quizzes covering each chapter or two, located in the Sakai Web site. Quizzes are made up of vocabulary items from the chapter and translation items that are similar to those in your workbook. In addition there are some short answer or matching questions.

### Tests (3 total, 10% each; 30% of course grade)

There are three cumulative tests on designated chapters (see course outline) to be taken the Wednesday before each weekend class.

### **Final Exam (30% of course grade)**

The final exam will cover all of the grammar, morphology, and vocabulary from the first 17 chapters. Details will be provided in advance, as well as a practice final exam.

### **Reaction Paper (5% of course grade)**

Students will write a reaction paper which expresses—in concrete examples from the text, workbook, class, exams, or assignments—how having even a basic understanding of Hebrew is a valuable tool for the competent interpretation, proclamation, and application of God's Word in the contemporary world.

The paper is **not to exceed 3 pages**, double-spaced. A rubric will be provided in Sakai to guide students concerning this assignment.

### **Grades**

Letter grades for all work have the following numerical guidelines:\*

A	95-100
A-	92-94
B+	89-91
B	86-88
B-	83-85
C+	80-82
C	77-79
C-	74-76
D	70-73
F	Below 70

All Incompletes (I) and Withdrawals (W) must meet the deadlines and guidelines of the Registrar's office.

\*These grading standards are higher than normal for a very simple but important reason:

***You will never be able to use Hebrew well unless you build a strong foundation.***

Everything you are expected to master this semester is assumed in the courses that follow.

## **V. Course Administration**

### **Sakai**

This course has a Sakai site at <https://sakai.gcts.edu/xsl-portal/>. Click on the **OL 501 CA FA-11** tab. Students are expected to read the week's course material and my corresponding supplementary material *before coming to class* every week. The class *will not be* primarily lecture. We will talk about the more difficult parts of the material for about the first third of the class, but the bulk of our time will be discussing together the workbook exercises and biblical passages in Hebrew.

### **Due Dates and Late Penalties**

The due dates for quizzes, tests, and final exam are listed in section VII. There will be a **penalty of 5% per day** on all late work.

## Assistance

You may reach me by email most any time (jharlow@gordonconwell.edu). I will usually answer you within a few hours, unless I'm extremely busy, ill, or do not have access to email. Responding to student questions is a top priority for me as your instructor.

I will be available at the seminary on Friday afternoons of the weekends when we have class, from 4 p.m. until class begins.

## Statements of Intention

As your instructor, it is my intention to prepare learning opportunities and resources that are appropriate for as many different learning styles as I can. It is my goal to help you motivate yourselves for what is largely a self-directed process. At the same time, I assure you that I will do **everything within my power** to help you succeed in Hebrew. I will also commit myself to pray for you regularly throughout the semester.

## VII Course Outline for OL501CA

### NOTES:

1. **ALL** quizzes and exams are due by **MIDNIGHT** on the due date.
2. Students are to study a given weekend's material and do the exercises **BEFORE** coming to class. Except for the first weekend we will be discussing, reviewing, and practicing the assigned material each class meeting—NOT introducing the material!

<i>Fri/Sat Sept. 6-17</i>	<i>Class: Discuss / Review PVP 1-2; Introduce PVP 3-5</i> ( <b><u>Q1 in class Sat AM!!</u></b> )
<b>Wed</b> 9/21	[Nothing due ☺; ¡¡STUDY VOCAB!!]
<b>Wed</b> 9/28	Quiz 1 Due (Consonants & Vowels [PVP chaps 1-3])
<b>Wed</b> 10/5	Quiz 2 Due (Nouns, Definite Article, & Conjunctive <i>Vav</i> [PVP thru chap 5])
<b>Wed</b> 10/12	<b><u>EXAM 1</u></b> Due (thru chap 5)
<i>Fri/Sat Oct. 14-15</i>	<i>Class: Discuss / Review — PVP 6-9</i>
<b>Wed</b> 10/19	Quiz 3 Due (Prepositions [PVP thru chap 6])
<b>Wed</b> 10/26	Quiz 4 Due (Adjectives & Pronouns [PVP thru chap 8])
<b>Wed</b> 11/2	Quiz 5 Due (Pronoun Suffixes [PVP thru chap 9])
<b>Wed</b> 11/9	<b><u>EXAM 2</u></b> Due (thru chap 9)
<i>Fri/Sat Nov. 11-12</i>	<i>Class: Discuss / Review — PVP 10-13</i>
<b>Wed</b> 11/16	Quiz 6 Due (Construct Chain & Numbers [PVP thru chap 11])
THANKSGIVING]	[Nothing due ☺]
<b>Wed</b> 11/30	Quiz 7 Due (Verbs; Qal Perfect [PVP thru chap 13])
<b>Wed</b> 12/7	<b><u>EXAM 3</u></b> Due (thru chap 13)

***Fri/Sat Dec. 9-10***

**Wed 12/14**

**Wed 12/21**

**Wed 12/28**

**!!!Wed 1/4!!!**

***Class: Discuss / Review — FHP 14-17***

Quiz 8 Due (Qal Perfect - Weak [PVP thru chap 14])

Quiz 9 Due (Qal Imperfects [PVP thru chap 16])

Quiz 10 Due (Vav Consecutive [PVP thru chap 17])

**FINAL EXAM Due (thru chap 17)**

\*\*Hebrew 2 meets for the first weekend on January 13-14\*\*