

OL 501 Biblical Hebrew 1 - Fall 2011
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary—Charlotte

Dr . Catherine McDowell
Tuesdays Sept 6 – Nov 29
6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

מִה־נִמְלָצוּ לִחְפֵי אִמְרֹתֶיךָ מִדְּבַשׁ לִפִּי
מִפְּקוּדֵיךָ אֶתְבוֹנֵן עַל־כֵּן שָׁנֵאתִי אֶת־כָּל־אֶרֶץ שִׁקְרָה
גַּר־לִרְגְלֵי דְבָרֶיךָ וְאוֹר לְנִתְיָבְתִי

*How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!
Through your precepts I get understanding;
therefore I hate every false way.
Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
Ps 119:103-105*

Course Instructor Contact Information:

email: cmcdowell@gordonconwell.edu

office: Cooley Center - Room 152 (on the 1st floor of the library)

office hours: Tues 4-6 pm and by appointment (in person, by phone, and online via Facetime and Skype)

Phone: TBA

I. Course Description

At Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary we are committed “to encourage students to become knowledgeable in God’s inerrant Word and competent in its interpretation, proclamation and application in the contemporary world.” (Gordon Conwell-Charlotte Missions Statement, Article 1). Further, “Because the teaching of God’s Word is indispensable to the well-being and vitality of God’s people, the seminary has a fundamental responsibility to encourage in students a love for Scripture. It is to teach exegetical skills by which they will be enabled to interpret the Word and inculcate understanding by which they will be able to apply it effectively.” (Gordon Conwell-Charlotte Missions Statement, Article 1). Our first step in accomplishing the task of exegeting, interpreting, proclaiming and applying the Old Testament scriptures is to learn biblical Hebrew!

Using a combination of deductive and inductive approaches, OL 501 will introduce you to the fundamentals of Biblical Hebrew: the alphabet and vowels, nouns and nominals (including adjectives, prepositions and

pronouns), and the basic verbal stem. *Within just a few weeks you will begin to translate small portions of actual Old Testament verses, and by the end of the first semester you will be able to read, translate and analyze short biblical texts!*

II. Course Objectives and Expected Outcomes

The student who successfully completes this course will

- A. know the fundamentals of Biblical Hebrew grammar and syntax and will be able to identify and analyze basic forms of Hebrew nouns, pronouns, adjectives, prepositions, and the strong and weak forms of the Qal perfect and imperfect verb.
- B. build a basic vocabulary for reading Hebrew prose.
- C. begin to gain proficiency in translation from Hebrew to English.
- D. become proficient in the pronunciation and reading of Biblical Hebrew.

The achievement of the course objectives will be measured through weekly quizzes, two exams, and class participation, as explained below. It is also my hope and prayer that you will develop a deeper love for God and his marvelous word.

III. Course Textbooks and Resources

Required:

1. Gary Pratico and Miles Van Pelt, *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar*, Zondervan, 2nd edition (henceforth referred to as BBHG), ISBN 0310270200.
2. Gary Pratico and Miles Van Pelt, *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Workbook*, Zondervan (henceforth referred to as BBHW), ISBN 0310270227.
3. A standard lexicon for Biblical Hebrew (such as the affordable W. Holladay, *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*, ISBN 0802834132 (published by Eerdmans) or ISBN 9004026134 (published by Brill).

Recommended: (see zondervan.com for more information on each of these resources)

1. Miles Van Pelt and Gary Pratico, *Biblical Hebrew Laminated Sheet*, ISBN 031026295X.
2. Miles Van Pelt and Gary Pratico, *Charts of Biblical Hebrew*, ISBN 0310275091.
3. Miles Van Pelt, *English Grammar to Ace Biblical Hebrew* (for those who may need to refresh their English grammar), ISBN 0310318319.
4. Miles Van Pelt, *Old Testament Hebrew Vocabulary Cards*, ISBN 031025986X.
5. The "Handy Hebrew Writing Guide", available in the campus bookstore and at <http://www.ekspublishing.com/hebrew-alphabet/single-handly-hebrew-writing-guide>.

For optional extra credit reading assignments (in the reference section of the library):

1. Bill Arnold and John Choi, *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003. (hereafter “Arnold and Choi”)
2. Ronald J. Williams, *Williams’ Hebrew Syntax*, 3rd ed. Revised and expanded by John C. Beckman, 2007. (hereafter “Williams/Beckman”)

Two additional options for learning vocabulary:

1. Biblical Hebrew Flashcard app for your iphone or ipad by EKS Publishing, available at iTunes or <http://www.ekspublishing.com/biblical-hebrew/biblical-hebrew-flashcards-iphone-application> for \$9.99. Includes audio. Note that the words are not arranged in the order in which they are presented in our textbook and that pronunciation will follow modern Hebrew conventions.
2. Bible software – the major Bible software programs (Logos, Accordance, Bibleworks) allow you to create your own electronic flashcards (with audio).

A NOTE ON LEARNING HEBREW VOCABULARY: you must learn *all* of the definitions given for each word in your vocabulary list.

IV. Work to be done PRIOR to the first class meeting:

Chpts. 1-2 (p. 1-17) in *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar* and the homework for Chpts. 1-2 in *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Workbook*, p. 1-9. Read and study Chpt. 1 thoroughly and complete the homework *before* starting Chpt. 2.

There will be a quiz on Chpts. 1-2 of BBHG and BBHW at our first meeting on Sept 6. A detailed study guide for this quiz was emailed to you and is posted on the course website in Sakai.

V. Course Requirements and Grading

A. Homework

1. Because you have the answer key, the homework exercises in BBHW are not calculated as part of your grade. However, completing the homework (*before* checking your answers against the answer key) is essential to your success in the course. If you fail to do the homework assignments, it will inevitably be reflected in your class participation and in your quiz and exam grades.
2. Complete all required reading.
3. Complete all required homework. Be sure to check your answers for the exercises in BBHW against the answer key (on the CD Rom in the back of the textbook). Make corrections where necessary. If you don’t understand the answer in the workbook be sure to ask me.

4. Listen to the MP3s on the course website in Sakai. They will include selected homework exercises, weekly vocabulary, and biblical passages. Listening to these recordings will dramatically improve your pronunciation and confidence in reading Hebrew aloud.

B. Weekly Quizzes (40%): There will be a quiz every week except Oct. 4 and 25. Study guides will be posted in Sakai. These will be very straightforward assessments of vocabulary acquisition, grammar, verbal and nominal analysis, composition and translation. They will also include a short question on the week’s “exegetical insight” found at the end of each chapter in your textbook. The first quiz will be taken in class on Sept 6. Hard copies of all subsequent quizzes will be distributed in class and will be due the following Monday by 5 pm (see the schedule below). You may slide them under my office door, fax them to me at (704) 940-5858 or scan and email them to me at cmcdowell@gordonconwell.edu. ***These quizzes must be proctored according to the seminary’s proctoring guidelines*** (see the proctor form, which must accompany all quizzes (except Quiz 1), on the course website under “Resources”).

Quiz and Exam Due Dates:

Chapters covered	Quiz distributed in class on	Quiz due on
Quiz 1 on Chpts. 1-2	Tues Sept 6	Tues Sept 6 (taken in class)
Quiz 2 on Chpts. 1-3	Tues Sept 6	Monday Sept 12 by 5 pm
Quiz 3 on Chpts. 1-4	Tues Sept 13	Monday Sept 19 by 5 pm
Quiz 4 on Chpts. 1-5	Tues Sept 27	Monday Oct 10 by 5 pm
Quiz 5 on Chpts. 1-7	Tues Oct 11	Monday Oct 17 by 5 pm
Quiz 6 on Chpts. 1-8	Tues Oct 18	Monday Oct 24 by 5 pm
Midterm	Tues Oct 25	Tues Nov 1 in class
Quiz 7 on Chpts. 1-14	Tues Nov 1	Monday Nov 7 by 5

		pm
Quiz 9 on Chpts. 1-15	Tues Nov 8	Monday Nov 14 by 5 pm
Quiz 10 on Chpts. 1-16	Tues Nov 15	Monday Nov 21 by 5 pm
Quiz 11 on Chpts. 1-17	Tues Nov 22	Monday Nov 28 by 5 pm
Final Exam on Chpts. 1-17	Tues Nov 29	Tues Dec 13 by 11:59 pm

C. **Midterm and final (25% each):** Details for these exams will be posted on Sakai. Due dates: The midterm will be distributed in class on Oct 25 and due in class on Nov 1. The final will be distributed in class on Nov 29 and due on Dec. 13 by 11:59 pm.

D. **Course participation (10%)**

1. I will regularly call on students during class to interact with homework assignments and in class activities. This is not meant to make anyone uncomfortable. Rather, it is designed to encourage your thoughtful participation and to hold you accountable to complete the homework exercises, even though they are not counted as part of the course grade.
2. Course message board: In lieu of or in addition to frequent class participation, a student may choose to participate by posting thoughtful comments, insights, solutions to an issue in the homework, mnemonic devices for remembering vocabulary, study tips, etc. on the course message board.

This course will require *approximately* 195 hours to complete:

Course Assignment	Estimated Hours
Pre-work	10 hrs
Class time	2.5 hrs/wk x 13 wks = 32.5 hrs
Reading and studying the textbook	3 hrs/wk x 13 wks = 39 hrs

Homework exercises	5 hrs/wk x 13 wks = 65 hrs
Vocabulary memorization	2 hrs/wk x 13 wks = 26 hrs
Listening to MP3s	1 hr/wk x 13 wks = 13 hrs
Quizzes	30 min x 11 quizzes = 5.5 hrs
Exams	2 hrs x 2 exams = 4 hrs
TOTAL	195

3. **Additional online help, specifically for use with *Basics of Biblical Hebrew*, is available at www.hebrewsyntax.org/bbh2 (user name and password both bbh2), a website developed by GCTS alum and current adjunct Hebrew professor at the Hamilton campus, John Beckman.**
4. **Attendance:** regular class attendance is required. Please arrive on time and turn off all cell phones, pagers, etc.

5. Grading Scale

A	95-100	C+	80-82
A-	92-94	C	77-79
B+	89-91	C-	74-76
B	86-88	D	70-73
B-	83-85	F	69 and below

If you score below a B (86%) on any quiz or exam, be sure to make an appointment with me for some help and encouragement. This is not meant to be punitive! If any problems arise let's deal quickly with them so that your progress in the course is unhindered. I want you to succeed.

- E. **Extra Credit** The extra credit work is optional (but encouraged!). The reading assignments are listed in the syllabus and credit will be awarded as follows:
 1. **for extra-credit reading from Sept 6 - Nov 1:**
 - for 50% completed: 5 pnts added to the midterm exam grade
 - for 75% completed: 7 points added to the midterm exam grade
 - for 100% completed: 10 points added to midterm exam grade
 2. **for extra-credit reading from Nov 2 – Dec 13:**
 - for 50% completed: 5 pnts added to the final exam grade
 - for 75% completed: 7 points added to the final exam grade
 - for 100% completed: 10 points added to final exam grade

Students must turn a reading log in order to receive the extra-credit points. The form you must use, entitled “Reading Log for OL 501” is posted under “Assignments” in the course website in Sakai. If you plan to do the extra-credit, *fill out the form as you go*, not the night before the midterm or final exam!

VI. Course Administration

- A. Due Dates and Late Penalties: The due dates for quizzes, tests, and exams are listed in the schedule below. There will be a penalty of 5% per day on all late work.
- B. Please do not be bashful about asking for help! Contact me via the information listed above on p. 1.

VII. Class Schedule

DATE	CLASS CONTENT	READING DUE	HOMEWORK DUE
Class 1 Sept 6	Quiz #1 on BBHG Chpts. 1-2 Shalom and welcome to Hebrew! Introduction of Chpt. 3	BBHG Chpts. 1-2	BBHW Chpts. 1-2, p. 1-9; listen to MP3 files for Chpt. 2
Class 2 Sept 13	Review of Chpt. 3 Introduction of Chpt. 4	BBHG Chpt. 3	BBHW Chpt. 3, p. 11-13; vocabulary Chpt. 3; listen to MP3 files for Chpt. 3
Class 3 Sept 20	Review of Chpt. 4 Introduction of Chpt. 5	BBHG Chpt. 4; <i>Extra Credit:</i> Arnold and Choi p. 4-7; Williams/Beckman p. 6-7 (#1-11), p. 8 (#17-27)	BBHW Chpt. 4, p. 15-17 (Advanced Exercises not assigned), vocabulary Chpts. 3-4; listen to MP3 files for Chpt. 4
Class 4 Sept 27	Review of Chpt. 5 Introduction of Chpts. 6-7	BBHG Chpt. 5; <i>Extra Credit:</i> Arnold and Choi p. 28-32 (2.6), p.135 (4.2.8); Williams/Beckman p. 18-19 (#82-93), p. 70-72 (#430-442), p. 16 (#72)	BBHW Chpt. 5, p. 21-23, vocabulary Chpts. 3-5; listen to MP3 files for Chpt. 5
Class 5 Oct 4	NO HEBREW CLASS, NO QUIZ THIS WEEK. <i>Cooley Center Lecture</i> <i>“There’s No Place Like Home: The Image of God in the Garden of Eden”, Dr. McDowell</i>	Review Chpts. 1-5	No homework due 10/4 but continue working on homework due 10/11
Class 6 Oct 11	Review of Chpts. 6-7 Introduction of Chpt. 8	BBHG Chpts. 6-7; <i>Extra Credit:</i> Arnold and Choi p. 95-126 (4.1), p. 24-28 (2.5), p. 136-137 (4.2.10), p. 138-	BBHW Chpt. 6, p. 25-26, p. 27-28 Bible Translation, & Chpt. 7, p. 29-30, p. 32-33 Bible Translation (evens only), vocabulary Chpts. 3-7; listen to MP3 files for Chpt. 6-7

		139 (4.2.12), p. 139 (4.2.14); Williams/Beckman p. 44-62 (#238-376), p. 16-18 (#73-81), p. 14(#61-64) 72-73 (#444-452), p. 78 (#475)	
Class 7 Oct 18	Review of Chpt. 8 Introduction of Chpt. 9	BBHG Chpt. 8; <i>Extra Credit</i> : Arnold and Choi p. 132-134 (4.2.5), p. 149-155 (4.3.4); Williams/Beckman p. 22-26 (#106-132), p. 63-64 (#378-382), p. 76-77 (#462-469)	BBHW Chpt. 8, p. 35-38 (evens only) (p. 37 Composition not assigned), vocabulary Chpts. 3-8; listen to MP3 files for Chpt. 8
Class 8 Oct 25	Review of Chpt. 9 Introduction of Chpts. 10-11 MIDTERM on Chpts. 1-9 distributed. Due in class on Nov. 1. Detailed study guide posted in Sakai.	BBHG Chpt. 9, Arnold and Choi p. 157-161 (4.5); <i>Extra Credit</i> : Arnold and Choi p. 156-157 (4.4.1, 4.4.2)	BBHW Chpt. 9, p. 39-48 (evens only); vocabulary Chpts. 3-9; listen to MP3 files for Chpt. 9
Class 9 Nov 1	Review of Chpts. 10-11, Introduction of Chpt. 12-13	BBHG Chpts. 10-11; <i>Extra Credit</i> : Arnold and Choi p. 8-13 (section 2.2), p. 32-35 (2.7), p.139 (4.2.13), p. 140-142 (4.2.15 – 4.2.17); Williams/Beckman p. 19-22 (#94-105), p. 65-66 (#390-393)	BBHW Chpts. 10-11, p. 49-53 (Translation and Bible Translation), vocabulary Chpts. 3-11; listen to MP3 files for Chpt. 10-11
Class 10 Nov 8	Review of Chpts. 12-13 Introduction of Chpt. 14	BBHG Chpts. 12-13; <i>Extra Credit</i> : Arnold and Choi, p. 127 (4.2), p. 129-130 (4.2.2, 4.2.3), p. 137-138 (4.2.11); Williams/Beckman p. 27 (#133-134), p. 29 (#161-166), p. 65 (#388-389), p. 74-75 (#453-458)	BBHW Chpt. 12-13, p. 59 all, p. 60-62 evens; read p. 63-66, p. 67-71 evens, vocabulary Chpts. 3-13; listen to MP3 files for Chpt. 12-13
Class 11 Nov 15	Review of Chpt. 14 Introduction of Chpt. 15	BBHG Chpt. 14; <i>Extra Credit</i> : Arnold and Choi p. 54-56 (3.2.1)	BBHW Chpt. 14, Parsing p. 73-74 all, p. 74-75 Translation #s3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18; p. 76-78 Bible Translation #s1, 3, 4, 15; p. 81 all, p.82-83 #s 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, p. 84-86 Bible Translation #s1, 4, 12, vocabulary Chpts. 3-15; listen to MP3 files for Chpt. 14
Class 12 Nov 22	Review of Chpt. 15 Introduction of Chpt. 16	BBHG Chpt. 15; <i>Extra Credit</i> : Arnold and Choi p. 56-60 (3.2), p. 127-129 (4.2, 4.2.1), p. 130-132 (4.2.4), p. 155-156 (4.3.5); Williams/Beckman p. 30-32 (#167-175), p. 64-65 (#383-	BBHW Chpt. 15 p. 89 all, p. 90-91 Translation (evens), p. 91-92 Bible Translation (all), vocabulary Chpts. 3-15; listen to MP3 files for Chpt. 15

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Class 13 Nov 29	Review of Chpt. 16 Introduction of Chpt. 17	BBHG Chpt. 16	BBHW Chpt. 16 p. 95 all, p. 96 evens, p.101 all, p. 102 evens, p. 107 all, p. 108 evens, p. 111-113 Parsing, all, p. 115 all, p. 119-120 Parsing (all), vocabulary Chpts. 3- 16; listen to MP3 files for Chpt. 16
	FINAL EXAM Chpts. 1-17, DUE WED DEC 13th AT 11:59 pm (detailed study guide posted on Sakai)		

PRE-WORK FOR OL 502: do all the homework in BBHW from Chpt 16 not assigned in OL 501, do all homework in BBHW for Chpt 17, and listen to the MP3 files for Chpt. 17. Review thoroughly Chpts. 1-17, including the vocabulary, all the paradigms in Chpts. 3-17, and work on pronunciation with the help of the MP3 files. Required reading: Arnold and Choi p. 146-149 (4.3.3), p. 92-94 (3.5.4); Extra Credit reading: Arnold and Choi, p. 83-94 (3.5), Williams/Beckman p. 33-34 (#178-182).