

Welcome
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Language Learning Experience

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Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary - Charlotte
OL501 Biblical Hebrew 1 (Weekend module)
Fall 2008 Syllabus

Teacher: Erin James, Biblical Languages Facilitator
Teaching Assistant: Paul DuPont, Doug Clark
Faculty supervisor: Dr. Tim Laniak

Class Meeting Times

Fri-Sat Sept. 12-13; Fri 6:30–9 p.m., Sat 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (with 1-hr break)
review: Sat Sept 27, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Fri-Sat Oct 10-11; Fri 6:30–9 p.m., Sat 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (with 1-hr break)
review: Sat Oct 25, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Fri-Sat Nov 7-8; Fri 6:30–9 p.m., Sat 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (with 1-hr break)
review: Sat Nov 22, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Fri-Sat Dec 5-6; Fri 6:30–9 p.m., Sat 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (with 1-hr break)
(note: spring semester will start Jan 9-10.)

Introduction

So... what is *י-3*?

It's how we intend to make your classroom experience and biblical language-learning process enjoyable and effective.

You'll be *immersed* in auditory, visual, and kinesthetic ways of learning. Class time is highly *interactive*: you'll hear, read, sing, and respond to the language. And we'll *integrate* explanations (with lots of visuals) of the concepts that we're learning.

Our goal is to blend natural, experiential language-learning with the "rules" (ha!) and theory of the language.

By involving all your senses in the language-learning process, you'll retain it best and be equipped to build on a strong foundation.

Come to class ready to be involved, and ready for an adventure...

Before the first class session:

1. Learn the **Hebrew alphabet** and **vowel points** *before the first class session*.
 - 1.a. Alphabet: pages 1-3 and 7 in *Basics of Biblical Hebrew* (BBH). **We will follow modern Hebrew pronunciation.** See back of syllabus for a handwriting guide.
 - 1.b. Vowel points: learn the chart on page 17 of BBH, referring to previous pages for names and descriptions.
2. Be very familiar with "Phrases 1," (on the required vocab CDs available in the bookstore).
3. Read BBH's introductory chapters 1-3.

I. Course Description

The two-course sequence, OL501-502, provides an introduction to the essential elements and flow of biblical Hebrew.

Class time will be largely “immersion” in biblical Hebrew – hearing the language and responding. We’ll have visual/verbal games and exercises, and lots of singing, reading, and translating. On the more analytical side, we’ll talk about what we’re learning and refer to visuals as we go.

You will take a short, simple quiz on the Hebrew alphabet before lunch on the first day. No surprises: just be able to write the Hebrew alphabet in order, and complete a vowel chart.

Outside of class you will read through the textbook, work through the workbook and memory work, and take weekly proctored tests (schedule in section VIII).

II. Course Objectives

- Know the basic structure and vocabulary of biblical Hebrew.
- Apply this knowledge to translating and understanding select passages from the Hebrew Bible.
- Learn strategies for working through Hebrew texts using the appropriate resources.
- Be equipped to move forward into learning exegesis from the original Hebrew text and working with original-language based resources.

III. Course Textbooks and Resources

Note: bring textbook and Hebrew Bible to every class. ☺

- Hebrew Old Testament: (BHS) *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*.
- Textbook: (BBH) *Basics of Biblical Hebrew*, 2nd edition, G. D. Pratico and M. V. Van Pelt (Zondervan).
- Workbook: *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Workbook*, 2nd edition, G. D. Pratico and M. V. Van Pelt (Zondervan).
- In-house audio CDs with vocabulary and phrases, available in the bookstore (3 CDs).

Additional recommended resources:

- Biblical Hebrew Semlink (BBH) CD-ROM. Order from Semlink office directly (1-877-736-5465). *Identify yourself as a Charlotte student for the discounted price.*
- Music CDs:
 - ☼ Victoria Hoffer’s *Biblical Hebrew* (2nd edn, Yale University Press, 2005)
 - ☼ *Kuma Adonai* (Zipporah Bennet)
 - ☼ *Sh’ma Yisrael* (Barry and Batya Segal)

IV. Course Requirements

Attendance

Attendance is required for all class meetings in OL501-502.

Reading

Assigned reading in BBH is to be completed before each class session. *Bring textbook and your Hebrew Bible to every class.*

Vocabulary

Required vocabulary will be assigned as we go along. You will learn lexical forms and inflected forms of words, and phrases that will inductively teach you both words and syntax.

Workbook Exercises

Work through at least several each of the parsing, short translation, and Bible translation exercises. A key for checking and/or correcting your work is provided on the CD-ROM that comes with your textbook.

V. Grading

Class Involvement (10%)

Your involvement in the classroom is one of the most important factors in your success in the language. Your CI grade is based *entirely* on your presence, positive attitude, and willingness to learn and to be involved. Intention: show up, have fun, learn, get an easy high score for 10% of your grade. ☺

Quizzes, Exams, and Final Exam

All tests are by nature cumulative, and may consist of translation, vocabulary, paradigms, and questions in a variety of combinations.

Quizzes (10 @ 4% each; 40% total)

There are 10 weekly quizzes (provided in sealed envelopes at class time) which are due via fax (or in person) on designated Tuesdays.

Exams (2 @ 10% each; 20% total)

There are two exams (provided in sealed envelopes at class time) which are due via fax (or in person) on designated Tuesdays.

Final Exam (30%)

- The final exam is cumulative, over all chapters covered and related material. Its primary emphasis will be on translation.
- The final exam is to be mailed or delivered in person by the due date.
- Have your proctor make a copy for you before mailing your final! ☺

NOTE: Tests must be taken without any resources (books, notes, vocab cards, computer, etc.) and in the presence of a proctor who will sign them and fax them to the Seminary.

- **TESTS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE SIGNED PROCTOR FORM.**

Due Dates and Late Penalties

The due dates for quizzes and exams are listed in the Course Outline in section VIII.

- There will be a *letter-grade penalty on all late work*. **Work more than two days late will not be accepted.**

Please commit to meeting these deadlines for the benefit of your own learning process.

Grades

Letter grades for all work have the following numerical guidelines:

A+	98-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69
A	93-97	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62
						F	Below 60

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

VI. Course Administration

Assistance

We will be available prior to and following class meetings, and at other times by appointment, phone, or email. Please feel free to contact us at any time. Contact info:

Erin James ejames300@gmail.com, 704-575-4186

Paul DuPont pdupont@gcts.edu, 401-632-9425

Doug Clark dclark1@gcts.edu, 305-458-8273

Dr. Tim Laniak tlaniak@gcts.edu, 704-527-9909

VII. Statements of Intention

It is our intention to prepare you for a lifetime of studying, understanding, applying, and appreciating God's Word more deeply through the original Hebrew of the Old Testament.

We hope to equip you with learning strategies and resources that will motivate you for what is largely a self-directed process.

We hope to help you build a foundational "gut-level" as well as analytical understanding of the language that will encourage you to read your Hebrew Bible and give you confidence to continue learning.

We are committed to praying for you throughout our year together, and always appreciate knowing how we may pray for you specifically.

We encourage you as a student participant in this course to commit yourself to daily exposure to Hebrew to maximize the benefit of this time we have for learning together.

VIII. Course Outline for OL501, Fall 2008

Note: Test dates are firm. Material covered is subject to revision.

Hebrew 1 class and test schedule

- Dates for the other module are given FYI. If you have a schedule conflict, you should plan on attending the relevant class session in the other module. Likewise, if you'd like extra time, you can drop in on the other module.

<u>Thursday module</u>	<u>Weekend module</u>	<u>Tests</u>
		quiz 1 in first class session
9/11 Introduction (BBH 1-3)	9/12-13 Introduction (BBH 1-3) chapters 4-5 chapter 6 chapters 7-8	9/16 quiz 2
9/18 chapters 4-5		9/23 quiz 3
9/25 chapter 6	9/27 review	9/30 quiz 4
10/2 chapters 7-8		10/7 Exam 1
10/9 chapter 9	10/10-11 chapter 9 chapters 10-11 chapters 12-13	10/14 quiz 5
10/16 chapters 10-11		10/21 quiz 6
10/23 chapters 12-13	10/25 review	10/28 quiz 7
(10/30 BREAK)		(BREAK)
11/6 chapter 14	11/7-8 chapter 14 chapter 15 chapter 16	11/11 quiz 8
11/13 chapter 15		11/18 Exam 2
11/20 chapter 16	11/22 review	11/25 quiz 9
(11/27 BREAK, Thanksgiving)		(BREAK)
12/4 chapters 22-23	12/5-6 chapters 22-23 Synthesis!	12/9 quiz 10
12/11 Synthesis!		12/18 Final Exam due

For a demo on how to handwrite each Hebrew letter go to:

<http://depts.washington.edu/bibheb/alefbet0.html>

And here's a rough overview of how the letters look handwritten.

- We'll go over this in the first class before you take your quiz, and you'll get a hard copy of the handout.
- Vowel points are shown with random consonants.

