Course Instructor: Dr. Joel Harlow

Class Meeting Times: **Fridays** (7:00–9:30 p.m.) & **Saturdays** (9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.):

Sept. 14-15; Oct. 12-13; Nov. 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 more than 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 and Van Pelt will be hereafter referred to as “PVP”**

Recommended:
- 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 and workbook. The Hebrew Semlink CD can help with this.

YOU WILL HAVE an alphabet quiz on Saturday morning of the FIRST WEEKEND (Sep. 13). 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.

And your 2nd quiz (thru chap 3) is due the very first Wednesday after our first class. So we will hit the floor running! Come prepared!

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.

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

TOTAL ESTIMATED HOURS 192

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% 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, 15% each; 45% of course grade)
There are three cumulative tests on designated chapters (see course outline). Tests and the final exam are taken on paper and proctored according to seminary policies.

Final Exam (40% 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.

**VI. Course Administration**

**Sakai**

This course has a Sakai site at [https://sakai.gcts.edu/xsl-portal/](https://sakai.gcts.edu/xsl-portal/). Click on the OL 501 CA FA-12 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.

Statement 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!

Fri/Sat Sept. 14-15  Class:  Discuss / Review  PVP 1-2; Introduce PVP 3-7  (Q1 in class Sat AM!!)
  Wed 9/19  Quiz 2 Due (Consonants & Vowels [PVP chaps 1-3])
  Wed 9/26  Quiz 3 Due (Nouns, Definite Article, & Conjunctive Vav [PVP thru chap 5])
  Wed 10/3  EXAM 1 Due (thru chap 5)
  Wed 10/10  Quiz 4 Due (Prepositions [PVP thru chap 6])

Fri/Sat Oct. 12-13  Class:  Discuss / Review — PVP 8-12
  Wed 10/17  Quiz 5 Due (Adjectives & Pronouns [PVP thru chap 8])
  Wed 10/25  Quiz 6 Due (Pronoun Suffixes [PVP thru chap 9])
  Wed 10/31  EXAM 2 Due (thru chap 9)
  Wed 11/7  Quiz 7 Due (Construct Chain & Numbers [PVP thru chap 11])

Fri/Sat Nov. 09-10  Class:  Discuss / Review — PVP 13-17
  Wed 11/14  Quiz 8 Due (Verbs; Qal Perfect [PVP thru chap 13])
  Wed 11/21  [THANKSGIVING]  [Nothing due ☺]
  Wed 11/28  EXAM 3 Due (thru chap 13)
  Wed 12/5  Quiz 9 Due (Qal Perfect - Weak- [PVP thru chap 14])
  Wed 12/12  Quiz 10 Due (Qal Imperfects. [PVP thru chap 16])
  Wed 12/19  FINAL EXAM Due (thru chap 17)

**Hebrew 2 doesn’t meet again till February 8 and 9.
Be sure you work through the KEEPING UP module in Sakai for Hebrew 1! **

Syllabus Addendum

Academic Standards
Cheating and plagiarism are considered serious breaches of personal and academic integrity. Cheating involves, but is not necessarily limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination or the submission of the same (or substantially same) work
for credit in two or more courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors. Plagiarism involves the use of another person’s distinctive ideas or words, whether published or unpublished, and representing them as one’s own instead of giving proper credit to the source. Plagiarism can also involve over dependence on other source material for the scope and substance of one’s writing. Such breaches in academic standards often result in a failing grade as well as other corrective measures. For more information, please consult the Student Handbook.

**ADA Policy**
The seminary complies with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. A student with a qualifying and authenticated disability who is in need of accommodations, should petition the seminary in accordance with the stated guidelines in the Student Handbook.

**Cancellation of Class**
In the event the seminary has to cancel a class meeting (impending storm, professor illness, etc.), the Registration Office will send out an email (via the GCTS email account) notification to all students registered in the respective course. If the cancelation occurs the day of the scheduled meeting, the Registration Office will also attempt to contact students via their primary phone contact on record. The professor will contact the students (via GCTS account) regarding make-up. If a weekend class is cancelled, the class will be made up during the scheduled Make-Up weekend (see the academic calendar for the designated dates). For more info, consult your Student Handbook.

**Extension Policy**
Arrangements for submission of late work at a date on or before the “last day to submit written work,” as noted on the seminary’s *Academic Calendar*, are made between the student and professor. Formal petition to the Registration Office is not required at this time. This includes arrangements for the rescheduling of final exams.

However, course work (reading and written) to be submitted after the publicized calendar due date, must be approved by the Registration Office. An extension form, available online, must be submitted to the Registration Office prior to the “last day to submit written work.” Requests received after this date will either be denied or incur additional penalty. For a full discussion of this policy, please consult the Student Handbook.

**Grades**
Faculty have six weeks from the course work due date to submit a final grade. Grades are posted on-line within twenty-four hours of receipt from the professor. Students are expected to check their CAMS student portal in order to access posted grades (unless instructed otherwise). Those individuals who need an official grade report issued to a third party should put their request in writing to the Registration Office.

**Returned Work**
Submitted hard-copy course work will be returned to the students if they provide a self addressed and postage- paid envelope with their final work. Work submitted without the appropriate envelope will be destroyed after the grade has been assessed and issued.