Introduction

As a seminary we now find ourselves addressing two battles: “The Peril of Pastors without the Biblical Languages”\(^1\) and the peril of pastors languishing with the languages. Many preachers in the pulpit make little to no use of the original languages EVEN AFTER seminary. The statistics are grim. This is why Zondervan has recently published both Greek and Hebrew Reader’s of the bible.

Knowing the language DOES enhance your effectiveness in the call to communicate biblical truths. Knowing the language DOES provide a better comprehension of the Old Testament. But it is not without cost.

Admittedly, there is a high price tag attached to learning Hebrew. Without an aggressive investment of time, energy, and patience, you will not get the valuable and relevant skills needed to interpret the Word of God. Once you see the fruit of your labor (particularly through exegesis and time in the text) you will never become part of those grim statistics!

I. Course Description and Objectives

1. The main objective of this course is to furnish students with basic knowledge of Hebrew grammar and vocabulary. Should you come to this challenge with due diligence in both sessions the results will be rewarding! You will be able to READ your Hebrew Bible with the aid of a dictionary (lexicon).

2. Acquisition of vocabulary, pronunciation and reading proficiency will be emphasized as we give attention to reading select biblical texts. You can also access the website (www.basicsofbiblicalhebrew.com) and the accompanying CD for extra help with vocabulary and pronunciation.

3. Creative and helpful mnemonics are offered regularly so that the student might readily retain aspects of the grammar. Furthermore, a variety of learning strategies are employed

to aid the learning process. As time permits key grammatical insights in the original language are discussed in order to illumine the value of Old Testament exegesis, the step beyond reading Biblical Hebrew.

4. My Teaching Assistants are Mr. Dustin Ray and Mr. Jin Kim.

II. Required Textbooks/Readings


III. Recommended Textbooks/Optional Resource

1. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* (BHS)  
ISBN 3-438-05218-0

2. Gary D. Pratico, Biblical Hebrew Semlink CD-ROM ($20). Order from Semlink office. Semlink.office@gcts.edu or 1-877-736-5465 toll free.
IV. Course Requirements

1. **Weekly quizzes (40%)**. Quizzes will be offered weekly. On occasion there will be a week or two where you will have two quizzes in a given week. This is an exception and not the rule. Quizzes will be taken in the library unless otherwise noted. If a quiz is scheduled on the syllabus for a Wednesday then it will be available the previous Monday morning @ 7:45 a.m., and must be written/completed NO LATER than class time on Wednesday @ 9:35 a.m. If a quiz is scheduled on the syllabus for a Friday then it will be available the previous Wednesday morning @ 7:45 a.m., and must be written/completed NO LATER than class time on Friday @ 9:35 a.m. The library staff possesses the necessary documents. When you give them your name and associate yourself with my section of Hebrew (for better or worse!), they will bless you with the expected quiz! Upon completion you will return it to the librarian. I will then collect and grade the quizzes in a timely fashion. Please note these are not take home quizzes.

Should you miss a quiz you will be required to write a make-up but at the END of the semester. One make-up quiz will be given at the end of each term just prior to the final exam. Rather than covering small sound bites of material, the make-up quiz will entail more. It is to your advantage not to miss the quiz. No exceptions. This includes sickness or adverse weather.

2. **Final examination (40%)**. This will be a three-hour exam written during exam week in December. ATTENTION: in order to pass Hebrew I and continue with Hebrew II in the spring semester you must earn a grade of C- (70% or higher) in the class. Please keep this in mind as you configure your course load for the semester.

3. **In-class recitations (10%)**. Each student will be called upon to interact with homework assignments previously prepared. Accountability on a weekly basis with assignments is the foundation for a long-term mastery of the language. For this reason your homework and in-class responses will be noted with a basic grading system of a check mark, check plus, or a minus. Failure to do all the homework will award you an automatic minus. If you receive three or more of these little marks consequences will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Therefore, PLEASE come to class prepared. If you are not prepared, however, DO NOT STAY HOME! It is far better to come to class unprepared so that you can benefit from hearing in-class discussions (auditory learning).

4. **Required Reading: Exegetical Insights through Chapter 22 (10%)**. There is a “Table of Insights” (p. xii) that will convince you to stay the course with the language! Read these weekly as part of your devotions. I will give you a reading accountability sheet at the end of the course.
5. **Regular class attendance is required.** I will keep a record of your attendance. Should you fail to attend class regularly your grade will reflect this choice.

6. **Arriving on time.** I tend to give instructions regarding quizzes and assignments at the beginning of class times. It is to your benefit to be present for these matters when we first meet. My commitment to you is as follows: I will begin classes precisely as scheduled, with or without you! And I will never keep you beyond 11:00 a.m. so as not to be late for our exciting chapel services!

- A Suggestion: Perhaps you might want to form study groups. If anyone would like the assistance of a personal tutor, upon request, I will supply you with names and contact information.

---

**Daily Assignment Expectations and Schedule**

**Basics of Biblical Hebrew Workbook**

**Hebrew I (OL 501)**

**Wed/Fri 9:35 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

---

**Assignment Expectations**

**Assignment Mechanics:**

- Read each chapter's summary **FIRST**

- Review any class notes and read my introductory comments handout (Hebrew Helps Handout on CAMS/Sakai) **SECOND**. The latter document outlines the irreducible minimum elements in the chapter that you must master. It puts a zoom lens on where you should spend most of your time and energy relative to that chapter's material. Too often students spin their wheels wondering what is most important in a given chapter and lose valuable time trying to figure it all out. While it is true that all of it is important, the document I created alleviates this guesswork and allows you to focus and be efficient in language learning.

- Read the entire chapter in the grammar **THIRD**
➤ **FOURTH.** IF necessary, desired, or as time permits, listen to Sakai lectures/sound bites on a given chapter. Please ask me about this option.

➤ Do workbook exercises **LAST.** Remember that the exercises in the workbook include new vocabulary from the chapter. In an ideal world it is best to get mastery over the vocabulary before beginning the exercises. However, if this is not possible you will have to apply the hunt and search method in order to complete your exercises. If you have to resort to the latter method (memorizing vocab after doing the exercises) at least be certain you comprehend the chapter’s grammar.

➤ In summation you are required to complete the workbook exercises, get comfortable with the chapter’s main grammatical content, and memorize the vocabulary of each chapter **BEFORE** we meet.

Please note the important order outlined above for the mechanics of working through each week’s assignments. You will find your groove in the course of the semester. However, please try to follow my suggestions as closely as possible in order to get the most out of this course.

The CD-ROM accompanying the textbook gives answers to all workbook exercises. Visit [www.hebrewsyntax.org/bbh2](http://www.hebrewsyntax.org/bbh2) (user name and password both bbh2), a website developed by Dr. John Beckman, for additional online help. With these resources your language learning will be reinforced utilizing several learning strategies.

**Assigned Vocabulary:**

➤ Vocabulary is from Hebrew to English **AND** English to Hebrew unless otherwise noted. This means you must reproduce/compose Hebrew for most lessons. Full expectations for each chapter’s vocabulary are given on the accompanying Hebrew Helps Handout (HHH). Keeping up with the vocabulary on a weekly basis is crucial. All the formal vocabulary sections in each chapter of BBH are required on the day and date that the chapter’s grammar content and exercises are due.

➤ Review old words first, make flashcards for new words (or use pre-made vocab cards – not the best option, however) commence memorization of new words for the chapter(s). Review the whole batch and start process all over
again. Flashworks and other on-line vocabulary aides are readily available and recommended.

- **Daily NOT** weekly review is the key to long-term mastery of vocabulary. Small sound bites work best rather than massive review sessions. The latter is appropriate but only after establishing a daily routine.

- Write and recite for great delight! Let this be your motto for Hebrew vocabulary. In terms of writing, I am convinced that pre-made vocab cards short circuit the learning process because the tactile side of learning is neglected. In terms of reciting vocab words, both auditory and visual learning is taking place. Three of the five senses are, therefore, utilized! Indeed, you should write and recite for great delight!

**Assignment Basics:**

- Transliteration NOT required **regardless** of what the textbook says.
- Advanced Information sections **NOT** required unless otherwise noted. Please look for instructions on this weekly.

**Assignment Schedule**

**Optional Pre-class preparation**

Make sure you have READ the SYLLABUS in FULL BEFORE getting started on this optional pre-class assignment (pgs. 1-5 above).

- **Read**: Chapter 1 summary on pg. 5
- **Read**: My introductory comments for the chapter (Hebrew Helps Handout on CAMS/Sakai)
- **Read**: Chapter 1 (The Alphabet/Sections 1.1-1.10) READ Advanced Information pg.7
- **Listen**: to my sound bite on Chapter 1 in Sakai
- **Do**: Exercises in 1: pp. 1-4 (all exercises)

**REVIEW and start Chapter two!**

- **Read**: Chapter 2 summary on pgs. 14-16
- **Read**: My introductory comments for the chapter (HHH)
**Read:** Chapter 2 (The Vowels/Sections 2.1-2.12)
**Listen:** to my sound bite on Chapter 2 in Sakai
**Do:** Exercises in 2: pp. 7-8 (do only 1-10 of the second exercise on p. 8)

If for some reason my sound bites on chapters one and two are not yet available on Sakai, you might consider purchasing the course on Semlink for $20 in order to hear proper pronunciation of the alphabet and vowels. See above under additional resources.

**Your Primary Goal:** to know how to recite and write the Hebrew alphabet in order from right to left. You must also be able to identify each character out of order. You must know how to recite (with a consonant), write, and identify all the Hebrew vowels summarized by the charts on pg. 15, chapter 2.

**Your Secondary Goal:** to reproduce this information for your first quiz which will be given on Friday, September 21.

If you do not do any pre-class preparation you should still READ the SYLLABUS in FULL (pgs. 1-5) above BEFORE starting any assignments in the first week.

**Note:** I do reserve the right to modify anything on this document including quiz or homework content at any time should I deem it beneficial for the group and the goals of this course.

---

**WEEK ONE**

*Wed: Sept 12*
Course Introduction
Introduction to Hebrew Alphabet (Chapter 1)

*Friday: Sept 14*
Chapter 1 (The Alphabet/Sections 1.1-1.10)
Exercises in 1: pp. 1-4 (all exercises)
Introduction to Hebrew Vowels (Chapter 2)

**WEEK TWO**

*Wednesday: Sept 19*
Chapter 2 (The Vowels/Sections 2.1-2.12)
Exercises in 2: pp. 7-8 (do only 1-10 of the second exercise on p. 8)
Introduction to Syllabification (Chapter 3)

Friday: Sept 21 (Professor out of town TA conducting classes)

**First Quiz:** Consonant and vowel identification
Chapter 3 (Syllabification-Pronunciation/Sections 3.1-3.14)
Exercises in 3: pp. 11-13 (all exercises)

Introduction to Hebrew Nouns (Chapter 4)

**WEEK THREE**

Wednesday: Sept 26
Chapter 4 (Hebrew Nouns/Sections 4.1-4.10, 12)
Exercises in 4: Revised instructions. Follow THIS NOT the workbook
1. Do numbers 1-25 on pgs. 15-16 give the following information for each noun listed:
   - Gender
   - number
   - lexical form
   - translation

   Please note that the **lexical form** is the form without the plural endings or the singular form found in your vocab list /lexicon. You must be able to reproduce the **lexical form** in Hebrew with all consonants and vowels.

2. For #’s 1, 12, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25 of that same list on pgs. 15-16 look at the plural form. Try to determine if the plural is exhibiting: no change in spelling, propretonic reduction spelling change, segholate pattern spelling change, or just an irregular spelling change.

3. Do #’s 1-10 (feminine nouns on pg. 16) 4. Do #’s 1-10 (segholate nouns on pg. 17)

5. Do #’s 2, 6, 10, 14, 18, 19, 24 (advanced exercise part 1 on pgs. 17-18) according to the following instructions **NOT** those in workbook:
   - start with the answer key by looking at the plural noun
   - determine/write out the lexical form
   - determine the spelling change

6. Do #’s 1-8 (advanced exercise part 2 on pg. 19)
   - start with the answer key by looking at the plural noun
   - translate the plural
   - translate the singular

Introduction to the Definite Article (Chapter 5)
Introduction to Prepositions (Chapter 6)

Friday: Sept 28

**Quiz:** Syllabification, recognition of plural nouns and vocabulary of chapters 3-4
Chapter 5 (Hebrew Definite Article/Sections 5.1-5.9, 11)
Exercises in 5: p. 23 only (carefully translate)
Chapter 6 (Prepositions/Sections 6.1-6.11)
Exercises in 6: pp. 25-28 (excluding composition exercise)
Introduction to Adjectives (Chapter 7)

WEEK FOUR

Wednesday: Oct 3
Chapter 7 (Adjectives/Sections 7.1-7.10)
Exercises in 7: Parsing (1-20); Translation (1-15); Bible translations 1-14). Focus on identifying and producing the lexical form of an adjective

Introduction to Pronouns (Chapter 8)

Friday: Oct 5
Quiz: Def. article, prepositions; Inflection, use, and translation of adjectives and vocabulary of chapters 3-7

Chapter 8 (Pronouns/Sections 8.1-8.12)
Exercises in 8: Translation, Part 1 (5-10 only); Part 2 (1-10); Part 3 (1-5); Bible Translations 1-11; do not do the composition exercise on p. 38

Introduction to Pronominal Suffixes on Nouns and Prepositions (Chapter 9)

WEEK FIVE

FIRST READING WEEK OCTOBER 8-12th
Review sessions with TA (TBA)

WEEK SIX

Wednesday: Oct 17
Quiz: vocabulary (3-8)
Chapter 9 (Hebrew Pronominal Suffixes/Sections 9.1-9.19)
Exercises in 9: Part 1 (1-15); Part 2 (odd only); Part 3 (odd only); Bible translations (3,5)

Introduction to the Hebrew Construct Chain (Chapter 10)

Friday: Oct 19 (Professor out of town TA assisting)

Possible Quiz?: Pronouns, pronominal suffixes and vocab 3 - 9
Chapter 10 (Hebrew Construct Chain/Sections: 10.1-10.7)
Exercises in 10: Translation (1-24); Bible translations (1-20); Construct nouns: Part 1-2(know the rules that govern construct nouns so you can identify a construct noun when you see one (see HHH). For all exercises in Part 1 start with the answer key. Look at the construct form (answer) and compare it to the absolute form given, determine the rule that was applied (either… ending change +vowel reduction or just vowel reduction). For Part 2 start with the answer key. All you have to do is make vocab. cards for these irregular constructs that do not follow the standard rules (make cards for #’s 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, and 14).

WEEK SEVEN

Wednesday: Oct 24
Mid-term (IN CLASS) on chapters 1-10 emphasizing the following:
Translation (reading) of plural nouns
Translation of prepositions
Inflection (to reproduce in Hebrew) and translation of adjectives
Translating suffixes on nouns, prepositions, and the object marker
Translating the independent personal pronouns
Translating demonstrative adjectives and pronouns
Translating construct chains (not covered on last quiz so be mindful)
Vocabulary 3-10

Friday: Oct 26
Chapter 11 (Hebrew Numerals) Read only: No exercises from this chapter; only selected vocabulary will be required (TBA in class)
Chapter 12 (Verbs/Sections 12.1-12.18) Read carefully
Exercises in 12: 12a 1-15; Translation (1-12); also 12b (pp. 63-66; read this carefully)
Introduction to the Qal Perfect strong verb (Chapter 13)

WEEK EIGHT
Wednesday: Oct 31
Chapter 13 (Qal Perfect: Strong Verbs/Sections 13>1-13.15)
Exercises in 13: Parsing (1-10); Translation (1-10); Bible translations (1-2, 4-6); Inflecting (1-10)
Introduction to Qal Perfect weak verbs (Chapter 14)

Friday: Nov 3
Quiz: Qal Perfect verb; vocabulary of chapters 3-12
Chapter 14 (Qal Perfect: Weak Verbs/Sections 14.1-14.16)
Exercises in 14a: Parsing (1-20); Translation (odd only); Bible translations 1,3,4,7
Exercises in 14b: Parsing (1-15); Bible translations (1,4,7)
Introduction to the Qal Imperfect strong verb (Chapter 15)

WEEK NINE
SECOND READING WEEK: NOVEMBER 8-12th

WEEK TEN
Wednesday: Nov 14
Quiz: vocabulary (3-14)
Chapter 15 (Imperfect Strong Verbs/Sections 15.1-15.11)
Exercises in 15: Parsing (1-15); Translation (odd only); Bible translation (1-5, 9); Inflecting (1-15)
Introduction to Qal Imperfect weak verbs, Part 1 = (Chapter 16.1-16.11 ONLY)

Friday: Nov 16
Quiz: Qal perfect strong and weak, Qal Imperfect strong and vocab 3-14
Chapter 16 (Imperfect Weak Verbs/Sections 16.1-16.11)
Exercises in 16a: Parsing (1-10); Translation (1-10); Bible translations (8-10)
Exercises in 16b: Parsing (1-10); Translation (1-5); Bible translations (7,9,10)
Introduction to Qal Imperfect weak verbs, Part 2 = (Chapter 16.12 – 16.23)

WEEK ELEVEN
Wednesday: Nov 21
Chapter 16 (Imperfect Weak Verbs/Sections 16.12-16.23)
Exercises in 16c: Parsing (1-15); Bible translations (1, 3-6)
Exercises in 16d: Parsing TBA; Bible translations (2, 5)
Exercises in 16e: Parsing TBA; Bible translations (1-5)
Introduction to Waw Conversive (Chapter 17)

Friday: Nov 22 NO CLASS THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

WEEK TWELVE
Wednesday: Nov 28
Quiz: Qal Imperfect strong and weak and vocab 3-16
Chapter 17 (Waw Conversive/Sections 17.1-17.10)
Exercises in 17: Parsing (1-10 on p. 125); Bible translations (1-4, 7,10, 11, 13 on pp. 126-128); Parsing (1-10 on p. 130): Bible translations (2,3,9 on pp. 131-132)
Introduction to Volitionals (Chapter 18)
Introduction to Pronominal Suffixes on Verbs (Chapter 19)

Friday: Nov 30
Quiz: Qal Imperfect strong and weak (esp), conversives
Chapter 18, (Qal Imperative, Cohortative and Jussive/18.1-18.8)
Exercises in 18a: Parsing (1-19 on pp. 135-1360; Translations (1-9 on p. 136); Bible trans. (4, 5, 10 on pp. 137-139).
Exercises in 18b: Parsing (1-10 on p. 141); trans 1-3, 5, 6, on p. 142
Bible trans (2, 6, 12)
Exercises in 18c: Parsing (1-15 on pp. 149-150); Bible trans (2, 3, 7 on pp. 152-153)
No exercises in 19
Introduction to Chapter 20 (Qal Infinitive Construct)
Introduction to Chapter 21 (Qal Infinitive Absolute)

WEEK THIRTEEN
Wednesday: Dec 5
Exercises in 20: Parsing (1-30 on pp. 163-164); trans (3-6, 13, 14 on pp. 165-166); Bible trans (5, 8, 15 on pp. 167-169)
Exercises in 21: Parsing (1-23 on pp. 173-174); Trans (1-5 on p. 174); Bible trans (1, 2, 3, on p. 175)
Introduction to Chapter 22 (Qal Participle)
**Friday Dec 7 (Professor out of town)**

**Quiz:** Volitionals and Infinitives with vocab 3-21 (excluding 19)
Exercises in 22: Parsing (1-25 on pp. 179-180); trans (1-6 on pp. 180-181); Bible trans (1, 3, 6 on pp. 181-182).
Review and Preparation for Final

**WEEK FOURTEEN**

**Final Exam: Friday, December 14th (TBD)**
- Mastery of nouns and nominals: Emphasizing chapters 4-10 (mainly through translation)
- Mastery of Qal material: Emphasizing chapters 12-22 (Parsing, reproducing select items in Hebrew, and translation and identification of ALL Qal material).
- Vocabulary: chapters 3 through and including chapter 22