I. Course Objectives

The primary purpose of this course (OL 501 and OL 502) is to equip students with a knowledge of basic Hebrew grammar and vocabulary in order that they can continue their Hebrew studies in the discipline of exegesis (600 and 700-level courses). The core textbook will be *Basics of Biblical Hebrew* by Gary Pratico and Miles Van Pelt. This title consists of two volumes: a grammar and an accompanying workbook; both are required. It is essential that you acquire the second edition of both the grammar and the workbook.

Students who complete both semesters of Beginning Hebrew will be able to read most prose passages of the Hebrew Bible with the use of a standard lexicon. In fact, the final examination for OL 502 will consist, in part, of several prose texts for translation with parsing and grammatical identification in context. While some poetical passages will be read with relative ease, most poetry will require and intermediate facility with the language.

Throughout both semesters, there will be an emphasis on the identification of grammatical form and this, in turn, will require paradigm memorization to be determined in the context of each chapter's content. Additionally, there will be an emphasis on the acquisition of a frequency vocabulary. Students will be required to participate regularly in class exercises (reading the Hebrew text, translation of exercises and biblical passages and parsing of various grammatical forms).

It is my hope that we will have the opportunity to introduce and discuss, albeit very briefly, some of the component disciplines of Old Testament exegesis. Even at this beginning level of language study, it will become clear that it does make a difference to approach the Old Testament from the perspective of the original language. Each chapter of the grammar ends with a section that might be called an "exegetical insight" that is intended to show the importance of knowing Hebrew for understanding the Bible and how to effectively communicate the wonders and treasures of God's redemptive plan.

II. Required Textbooks


W.L. Holladay, *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*

*Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*

A lengthy bibliography of other helpful Hebrew study aids will be given out (in class) toward the beginning of the Fall semester.

III. Course Requirements
Regular class attendance is required. Please give attention to the language. Regular class attendance is required; not recommended but required. It is understood that there may be occasions and circumstances in which it will be necessary for a student to miss a class. It must be emphasized, however, that this should happen only rarely in each semester, apart from an illness or family emergency. Failure to attend class regularly will impact your course grade.

The key to learning this language is consistency and thoroughness in the preparation of daily assignments. The expectation, therefore, is that students will be prepared to go over homework assignments with some measure of mastery, though not perfection. Daily recitation will not be graded but frequent unpreparedness or consistently poor classroom performance will impact the final course grade.

Related to class attendance is the matter of timely arrival for class. Please make every effort to arrive on time. Class will begin and conclude as scheduled. This is not an issue that will impact your course grade but late arrival will likely impact your understanding of assignments and quiz instructions since these subjects are usually considered at the beginning of class. Of greater significance, however, is my conviction that opening prayer is an important part of our study together.

Weekly quizzes will constitute 60% of the course grade; the remaining 40% of the course grade will be based on the average of three exams that are scheduled on the following dates: October 18th, November 15th and December 15th. In order for a student to continue from Fall semester Hebrew to Spring semester, the course grade for the Fall semester class must be C or above. In the event that a student does not achieve a C or above at the end of the Fall semester, a make-up final examination will be offered within three weeks of the conclusion of classes with the possibility of substituting the "new" grade for the average of the three semester exams. Failure to receive a C or above for the spring semester class will result in failure of the course, though the same "make-up" policy will apply to the spring semester as well.

In terms of homework time, the expectation is that students will study three hours outside of class for each hour in class. Few spend less; many spend a little more. Consider your academic, work, church and family responsibilities in light of this necessary commitment of time.

IV. Course Schedule and Daily Assignments

Please note the following:
1. The assignments detailed for each day and date below are due on the day and date indicated.
2. This assignment schedule also contains the course quiz and exam schedule with the specifics of each quiz.
3. All formal vocabulary sections in each chapter of BBH are required on the date that the chapter's grammar content and exercises are due.
4. All exercises are to be found in the workbook.
5. Carefully review every graded quiz or exam and be certain that you understand and correct mistakes.

Tuesday (13 September)
Course Introduction
Introduction to the Alphabet (chapter 1)
Begin Work on the Introductory Handout (to be given out on the first day of class)

Thursday (15 September)
Chapter 1 (The Alphabet/Sections 1.1-1.10)
Exercises: pp. 1-4 (all exercises though we will not continue transliteration beyond this lesson)
Introduction to Hebrew Vowels (chapter 2)
Continued Work on the Introductory Handout

Tuesday (20 September)
Chapter 2 (The Vowels/Sections 2.1-2.12)
Exercises: pp. 7-8 (do only 1-15 of the third exercise on the bottom of p. 8 and top of p. 9)
Introduction to Syllabification (chapter 3)
Completion of the Introductory Handout

Thursday (22 September)
Quiz: Consonant and vowel identification; identification of daghesh (lene and forte) and shewa (silent and vocal); beginning syllabification of words
Chapter 3 (Syllabification-Pronunciation/Sections 3.1-3.14)
Exercises: pp. 11-13 (all exercises; see special handout for full syllabification key for the exercises on pp. 11-12)
Introduction to Hebrew Nouns (chapter 4)

Tuesday (27 September)
Completion of Syllabification
Chapter 4 (Hebrew Nouns/Sections 4.1-4.10, 12)
Exercises: do all exercises but give special attention to the Advanced Exercise, part 1 (excluding numbers 15 and 17) and Advanced Exercise, part 2
Introduction to the Definite Article (chapter 5)

Thursday (29 September)
Quiz: Syllabification; identification of daghesh and shewa; beginning noun pluralization; vocabulary of chapters 3-4
Chapter 5 (Definite Article/Sections 5.1-5.9, 11)
Exercises: pp. 21-23 (all exercises)
Introduction to Prepositions (chapter 6)

Tuesday (4 October)
Chapter 6 (Prepositions/Sections 6.1-6.11)
Exercises: pp. 25-28 (all exercises excluding composition)
Introduction to Adjectives (chapter 7)

Thursday (6 October)
Quiz: Noun pluralization, prepositions and the vocabulary of chapters 3-6
Chapter 7 (Adjectives/Sections 7.1-7.10)
Exercises: parsing (1-20); translation (1-15); inflecting (1-3, 7-9); Bible translation (1-8)
Introduction to Pronouns (chapter 8)
Assignment over reading week in preparation for the semester's first exam on October 18th

Reading Week (10-14 October)
No class but diligent preparations for the October 18th exam will be expected

Tuesday (18 October)
Fall semester's first exam
Thursday (20 October)
Chapter 8 (Pronouns/Sections 8.1-8.12)
Exercises: translation, part 1 (5-10 only); part 2 (1-10); part 3 (1-5); Bible translation 1-7;
do not do the composition exercise on p. 38
Introduction to Pronominal Suffixes on Nouns and Prepositions (chapter 9)

Tuesday (25 October)
Quiz: Content to be announced based on the results of the October 18th exam
Chapter 9 (Pronominal Suffixes/Sections 9.1-9.19)
Exercises: translation, part 1 (1-15); part 2 (even only); part 3 (even only); Bible translation
3, 5)
Introduction to the Construct Chain (chapter 10)

Thursday (27 October)
Chapter 10 (Construct Chain/Sections 10.1-10.7)
Exercises: translation (1-25); Bible translation (1-12); construct nouns, part 1 (even only)

Tuesday (1 November)
Quiz: Forming construct nouns and translating construct chains; the vocabulary of chapters
8-10
Comments on chapter 11 (Hebrew Numerals) but no assignment from this chapter
Introduction to Hebrew Verbs (chapter 12)

Thursday (3 November)
Chapter 12 (Hebrew Verbs/Sections 12.1-12.18)
Exercises; translation (1-12); also part 12b (pp. 63-66; you must read this material
carefully)
Introduction to the Qal Perfect Strong Verb (chapter 13)
Assignment over reading week in preparation for the semester's second exam on
November 15th

Reading Week (7-11 November)
No class but diligent preparations for the November 15th exam are expected

Tuesday (15 November)
Fall semester's second exam

Thursday (17 November)
Chapter 13 (Qal Perfect Strong Verb/Sections 13.1-13.15)
Exercises: parsing (1-10); translation (1-10); Bible translation (1-2, 4  and 6); inflecting
(1-10)
Introduction to Qal Perfect Weak Verbs (chapter 14)

Tuesday (22 November)
Quiz: Qal Perfect strong verb paradigm
Chapter 14 (Qal Perfect Weak Verbs/Sections 14.1-14.16)
Exercises in 14a: parsing (1-10); translation (odd only); Bible translation (1, 3, 4)
Exercises in 14b: parsing (1-15); Bible translation (1 and 4)
Introduction to the Qal Imperfect Strong Verb (chapter 15)

Thursday (24 November)
Thanksgiving Day/No Class

Tuesday (29 November)
Chapter 15 (Qal Imperfect Strong Verb/Sections 15.1-15.11)
Exercises: parsing (1-15); translation (odd only); Bible translation (1-3, 9); inflecting (1-15)
Introduction to Qal Imperfect Weak Verbs, Part 1 (chapter 16)

Thursday (1 December)
Quiz: Inflecting, parsing and translating verbs (Qal Perfect strong and weak; Imperfect
strong only)
Chapter 16 (Qal Imperfect Weak Verbs, Part 1/Sections 16.1-16.11)
Exercises in 16a: parsing (1-10); translation (1-10); Bible translation (8-10)
Introduction to Qal Imperfect Weak Verbs, Part 2

Tuesday (6 December)
Chapter 16 (Qal Imperfect Weak Verbs, Part 2/Sections 16.12-16.24)
Exercises in 16b: parsing (1-10); translation (1-5); Bible translation (7 and 10)
Exercises in 16b: parsing (1-15); translation (1-5); Bible translation (1, 3, 4)
Introduction to Waw Consecutive (chapter 17)

Thursday (8 December)
Quiz: Inflecting, parsing and translating Qal Perfect and Imperfect verbs (strong and weak)
Chapter 17 (Waw Consecutive/Sections 17.1-17.10)
Exercises: parsing (1-10 on p. 125); Bible translation (1-3, 10, 11 on pp. 126-128); parsing (1-10 on p.
130); Bible translation (2 and 3 on pp. 131)

Tuesday (13 December)
Review of Fall semester material

Thursday (15 December)
Fall semester's third exam