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

G. Pratico and M. Van Pelt, Basics of Biblical Hebrew (grammar and workbook)
A lengthy bibliography of other helpful Hebrew study aids will be presented (in class) during the 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 four exams that are scheduled on the following dates: February 27th, April 2nd, April 16th and May 4th. In order for a student to pass Spring semester Hebrew, the averaged grade for the four Spring semester exams must be C or above. In the event that a student does not achieve a C or above as the average of these three exams, a make-up final examination (three hours) will be offered (once only) within three weeks of the conclusion of classes with the possibility of substituting the "new" grade for the average of the three semester exams which did not achieve the required level of C. Again, the make-up exam will be offered only once.

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 for the Spring Semester
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.

Monday (30 January)
Course Introduction
Issues of Transition (Fall to Spring Semester)
Review Topics: distinguishing between daghesh lene and daghesh forte; identifying vocal and silent Shewa; recognizing subject pronouns and demonstratives; distinguishing between construct and absolute nouns

Wednesday (1 February)
Review of the Qal Perfect and Imperfect (strong and weak verbs)
Imperfect preformative vowels
Introduction to Chapter 17 (Waw Consecutive)

Friday (3 February)
Chapter 17 (Waw Consecutive)
Exercises in 17: Parsing (1-10) on p. 125; Bible translations (7, 10, 11 on pp. 127-128); Parsing (1-10 on p. 130); Bible translations (2, 3 on pp. 131-132)
Introduction to Chapter 18, Part 1 (18.1-18.8)

Monday (6 February)
Chapter 18, Part 1 (Qal Imperative, Cohortative and Jussive/Sections 18.1-18.8)
Exercises in 18a: Parsing (1-19 on pp. 135-136); Translations (1-9 on p. 136); Bible translations (4, 5 on pp. 137-138). An exercise for strong Imperative verbs is given on pp. 139-140 but it is not required, though it would be helpful practice for quizzes.
Introduction to Chapter 18, Part 2 (18.9-18.18)

Wednesday (8 February)
Quiz: Qal Perfect and Imperfect strong and weak verbs with the vocabulary of chapters 12-17. Waw Consecutive will be a part of this quiz.
Completion of any remaining exercises from Chapter 18, Part 1 and a few more introductory observations on Chapter 18, Part 2

Friday (10 February)
Chapter 18, Part 2 (Qal Imperative, Cohortative and Jussive/Sections 18.9-18.18)
Exercises in 18b: Parsing (1-10 on p. 141); Translations (1-3, 5 on p. 142); Bible translations (6, 12 on pp. 143 and 145)
Exercises in 18c: Parsing (1-15 on pp. 149-150); Bible translations (2, 3, 7 on pp. 152-153)

Introduction to Chapter 19 (a largely inductive approach to the recognition of pronominal suffixes on verbs)

Monday (13 February)
Quiz: Qal Perfect, Imperfect and the Volitional Conjugations (Cohortative, Imperative and Jussive)
Chapter 19 (Pronominal Suffixes on Verbs)
   Again, it is important for you to understand that we will adopt a largely inductive approach to the recognition of pronominal suffixes on verbs.
Exercises in 19: Bible translations (1, 6, 10, 11 on pp. 160-162)
Introduction to Chapter 20 (Qal Infinitive Construct)

Wednesday (15 February)
Chapter 20 (Qal Infinitive Construct)
   Exercises in 20: Parsing (1-30 on pp. 163-164); Translations (3-6, 13, 14 on pp. 165-166); Bible translations (5, 8, 15 on pp. 167-169)
Introduction to Chapter 21 (Qal Infinitive Absolute)

Friday (17 February)
Chapter 21 (Qal Infinitive Absolute)
Exercises in 21: Parsing (1-23 on pp. 173-174); Translations (1-5 on p. 174); Bible translations 1-3 on p. 175)
Introduction to Chapter 22 (Qal Participle) due on Wednesday (29 February)

Reading Week (20-24 February)
Preparations for the first Spring semester exam

Monday (27 February)
Exam: First Spring semester exam covering the Qal Imperative, Cohortative and Jussive (parsing with selected production of forms in Hebrew); Qal Infinitive Construct and Infinitive Absolute (parsing and translation); recognition of pronominal suffixes on verbs (Chapter 19); some earlier verbal forms (Perfect and Imperfect strong and weak) will also appear on this quiz. You will also be accountable for the vocabulary of chapters 17-20. The class period will be given to this exam.

Wednesday (29 February)
Chapter 22 (Qal Participle)
Exercises in 22: Parsing (1-25 on pp. 179-180); Translations (1-6 on pp. 180-181); Bible translations (1, 3, 6 on pp. 181-182)
Introduction to Chapter 23 (Issues of Sentence Syntax)

Friday (2 March)
Chapter 23 (Issues of Sentence Syntax)
Exercises in 23: Bible translations (1, 3, 7 on pp. 187-188)
Introduction to Chapter 24 (Niphal Strong Verb). With the introduction of the Qal strong verb we have now completed the Qal verbal stem and begin the study of the derived stems. Students will find it helpful to review the content of Chapter 12 (Introduction to Hebrew Verbs), especially those sections that present the derived stems.

Monday (5 March)
Chapter 24 (Niphal Strong Verb)
Exercises in 24: Parsing (1-20 on pp. 191-192); Translations (1-12 on p. 193); Bible translations (8 and 9 on p. 195)
Introduction to Chapter 25 (Niphal Weak Verbs)

Wednesday (7 March)
Quiz: Parsing all Qal strong and weak verbs and Niphal strong verbs. Be sure to carefully review the volitional conjugations, the two infinitives and the two participles in the Qal stem; these will be emphasized in terms of the Qal forms.
Chapter 25 (The Niphal Stem: Weak Verbs)
Exercises in 25a: Parsing (1-20 on pp. 197-198); Translations (8-13 on p. 199); Bible translations (14, 19 on p. 202)
Exercises in 25b: Parsing (1-15 on pp. 205-206)
The exercises of this lesson will likely be completed on Friday. Introduction to Chapter 26 (Piel Strong Verb)

Friday (9 March)
Chapter 26 (The Piel Stem: Strong Verbs)
Exercises in 26: Parsing (1-20 on pp. 211-212); Translations (6-15 on p. 213). Look over Genesis 37:6-10 in Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia (hereafter BHS). With this text, we will introduce the standard critical edition of the Hebrew Bible. It is not expected that you will have completed this reading.
Introduction to Chapter 27 (Piel Weak Verbs)

Monday (12 March)
Chapter 27 (The Piel Stem: Weak Verbs)
Exercises in 26: Bible translations (12 and 13 on p. 216)
Exercises in 27a: Bible translations (6 and 7 on p. 220)
Introduction to Chapter 28 (Pual Strong Verb)

Wednesday (14 March)
Chapter 28 (The Pual Stem: Strong Verbs)
Exercises in 27b: Bible translations (4, 5, 8, 10, 15 on pp. 223-225)
Exercises in 28: Parsing (1-15 on pp. 227-228); Translations (1-4 on p. 228)
Introduction to Chapter 29 (Pual Weak Verbs)

Friday (16 March)
Quiz: Parsing Qal, Niphal and Piel verbs (strong and weak) and parsing Pual strong verbs only
Chapter 29 (The Pual Stem: Weak Verbs)
Exercises in 29a: Parsing (1-25 on pp. 231-232); Bible translations (1 and 2 on p. 233)
Introduction to Chapter 30 (Hiphil Strong Verb)

Monday (19 March)
Chapter 30 (The Hiphil Stem: Strong Verbs)
Exercises in 30: Parsing (1-23 on pp. 239-240); Translations (1-11 on pp. 241-242); Bible translations (3 and 8 on pp. 243-244).
Introduction to Chapter 31 (Hiphil Weak Verbs)

Wednesday (21 March)
Quiz: Parsing Qal, Niphal, Piel, Pual and Hiphil verbs (only strong verbs for the Hiphil) and a Bible translation with parsing in context
Chapter 31 (The Hiphil Stem: Weak Verbs)
Exercises in 31: Parsing (1-17 on p. 248); Bible translations (1, 12 on pp. 251 and 253)

Friday (23 March)
Most of today's class will be given to the translation of Genesis 37:6-10, the BHS text that we introduced on Friday (9 March). Come to class with translation and grammatical identification well in hand.
Introduction to Chapters 32 and 33 (Hophal Strong and Weak Verbs) due on Wednesday (4 April)

Reading week (26-30 March)
Preparations for the second Spring semester exam

Monday (2 April)
Exam: Second Spring semester exam covering the parsing and translating of Qal Perfect, Imperfect, Cohortative, Imperative, Jussive, Infinitive Construct, Infinitive Absolute, and Participle forms (all categories above are for strong and weak verbs); additionally the parsing will cover Niphal, Piel, Pual and Hiphil verbs (strong and weak). Additionally, this exam will have a Bible translation with parsing in context. You will be allowed a standard lexicon for the translation only.

Wednesday (4 April)
Chapter 32 (The Hophal Stem: Strong Verbs)
Exercises in 32: Parsing (1-18 on pp. 255-256)
Chapter 33 (The Hophal; Stem: Weak Verbs)
Exercises in 33: Parsing (1-20 on pp. 259-260)
Today, we will begin the translation of Genesis 22:1-19 in BHS. It will be expected that students will prepare the first five verses. The chapter will be completed through later classes in April.
Introduction to Chapter 34 and 35 (Hithpael Strong and Weak Verbs)

Friday (6 April)
No class on Good Friday
Monday (9 April)
Chapter 34 (The Hithpael Stem: Strong Verbs)
Exercises in 34: Parsing (1-17 on pp. 267-268)
Chapter 35 (The Hithpael Stem: Weak Verbs)
Exercises in 35: Parsing (1-20 on pp. 273-274)
Continued translation in Genesis 22 which was begun on Wednesday past.

Wednesday (11 April)
Continued translation in Genesis 22

Friday (13 April)
Continued translation in Genesis 22
Details on the third Spring semester exam

Monday (16 April)
Exam. Third Spring semester exam covering the Qal and all derived stems (strong and weak verbs). The exam will be composed of two parts: a parsing section and a Bible translation with parsing in context.

The next six classes of the the semester (April 18, 20, 23, 25, 27, 30) will be devoted to translation in BHS. Once we have completed Genesis 22:1-19, we will return to the narrative of Genesis 37. The precise translation assignments for these classes will be announced as will the quiz schedule and the contents of the quizzes.

Wednesday (2 May)
Review session

Friday (4 May)
Exam. Fourth Spring semester exam which should be regarded as the final exam for the course. It will consist of three parts: a parsing section; two Bible texts that have been part of your Spring semester assignments; and a sight translation, that is, a Bible text that you have not worked on in the semester assignments. You will be allowed the use of a standard lexicon for the sight translation only.