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)

W.L. Holladay, A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament
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 three exams that are scheduled on the following dates: February 28th, April 3rd and May 3rd. In order for a student to pass Spring semester Hebrew, the averaged grade for the three 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 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.

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.

Tuesday (31 January)
Chapter 17 (Waw Consecutive)
Exercises in 17: Parsing (1-10) on p. 125; Bible translations (7, 10, 11, 13 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)

Thursday (2 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, 10 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)

Tuesday (7 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

Thursday (9 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 (2, 6, 12 on pp. 143-145)
Exercises in 18c: Parsing (1-15 on pp. 149-150); Bible translations (2, 3, 7 on pp. 52-153)
Introduction to Chapter 19 (a largely inductive approach to the recognition of pronominal suffixes on verbs)

Tuesday (14 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, 8, 10, 11, 14 on pp. 160-162)
Introduction to Chapter 20 (Qal Infinitive Construct)

Thursday (16 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)

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

Tuesday (28 February)
Exam: First Spring semester exam covering the Qal Imperative, Cohortative and Jussive (parsing with selected production of forms in Hebrew); Qal Infinitive Construct (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 entire class period will be given to this exam.

Thursday (1 March)
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)

Tuesday (6 March)
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)

Thursday (8 March)
Quiz: Parsing and translating Qal Infinitives (Infinitive Construct and Infinitive Absolute) and Qal Participles (Active and Passive). Be sure to review vocabulary.
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)

Tuesday (13 March)
Chapter 24 (Niphal Strong Verb)
Students will find it helpful to review the content of Chapter 12 (Introduction to Hebrew Verbs), especially those sections that present the derived stems.
Exercises in 24: Parsing (1-20 on pp. 191-192); Translations (1-12 on p. 193); Bible translations (8-10 on p. 195)
Introduction to Chapter 25 (Niphal Weak Verbs)

Thursday (15 March)
Quiz: Parsing Qal (strong and weak) 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 (5, 14, 19, 20 on pp. 200-203)
Exercises in 25b: Parsing (1-15 on pp. 205-206)
Introduction to Chapter 26 (Piel Strong Verb)

Tuesday (20 March)
Chapter 26 (The Piel Stem: Strong Verbs)
Exercises in 26: Parsing (1-20 on pp. 211-212); Translations (6-15 on p. 213); Genesis 37:6-10 in Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia (hereafter BHS). It is likely that this reading will be continued into the next class or soon thereafter.
Introduction to Chapter 27 (Piel Weak Verbs)

Thursday (22 March)
Quiz: Parsing Qal and Niphal (strong and weak verbs); Piel strong verbs only; and a Bible translation with parsing in context
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)

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

Tuesday (3 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 the Niphal and Piel stems (strong and weak verbs)

Thursday (5 April)
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)

Tuesday (10 April)
Quiz: Parsing Qal, Niphal and Piel (strong and weak verbs); Pual strong verbs only; and a Bible translation with parsing in context
Chapter 29 (The Pual Stem: Weak Verbs)
Exercises in 29a: Parsing (1-25 on pp. 231-232); Bible translations (1-3 on p. 233)
Introduction to Chapter 30 (Hiphil Strong Verb)

Thursday (12 April)
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, 5, 8, 13 on pp. 243-245). Some of these exercises may spill over into the next class.

Introduction to Chapter 31 (Hiphil Weak Verbs)

Tuesday (17 April)
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)

Introduction to Chapters 32 and 33 (Hophal Strong and Weak Verbs)

Thursday (19 April)
Chapter 32 (The Hophal Stem: Strong Verbs)
Exercises in 32: Parsing (1-18 on pp. 255-256); Genesis 22:1-5 in BHS. It is almost certain that our work on this Bible translation will continue into the next class.
Chapter 33 (The Hophal; Stem: Weak Verbs)
Exercises in 33: Parsing (1-20 on pp. 259-260)

Introduction to Chapter 34 and 35 (Hithpael Strong and Weak Verbs)

Tuesday (24 April)
Quiz: Parsing Qal through Hophal verbs (strong and weak)
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 in the previous class. In the remaining classes of the spring semester, we will seek to complete Genesis 22:1-19.

Thursday (26 April)
Continued translation in Genesis 22

Tuesday (1 May)
Continued translation in Genesis 22
Details on the third Spring semester exam

Thursday (3 May)
Third Spring semester exam which might be regarded as the final examination for Spring semester Hebrew. The contents of this exam will be detailed in the previous class.