Description:

(Prerequisites: Intermediate Hebrew Grammar; or 600-level exegesis or equivalent, e.g., Independent reading in Biblical Hebrew)

In addition to solidifying components of grammar learned in first and second-year Biblical Hebrew instruction, the course introduces students to advanced principles of grammar and to some of the current debates in the field. By the end of the course, students should have developed competence in addressing complex grammatical issues in the text. Throughout the course emphasis is placed on building skills to assess the import of a particular grammatical inquiry in the exegetical process. Subjects include the following:

- Reading, parsing and analyzing in BH (from narrative and poetry). Developing Hebrew compositional skills will be introduced as well as reading Hebrew in transliteration.
- Vocabulary development (from readings and the “common root” frequency list in The Vocabulary Guide to Biblical Hebrew (M.V. Van Pelt and G.D. Pratico).
- Situating BH within its linguistic environment (West Semitic, later forms of the language)
- Dating BH (diachronic features)
- Verbal system (tense and aspect)
- Word order variations
- Syntax above clause level

Requirements:

- Review essay on problems in Hebrew grammar (10-15 pages). Choice of topics are: tense and aspect in the verbal system; word order (40%). Further instructions will be given in class.
- Mid-term exam on required Hebrew texts, lecture topics and vocabulary, transliteration (30%).
- Final exam on required Hebrew texts, lecture topics, readings and vocabulary, transliteration (30%). Note: for the final, students will be required to produce (or recite) a text of their choice in Hebrew (minimum 10 verses).
- In keeping with an interactive/seminar format, active student participation is expected.

**Required Texts:**


**Note:** There will be weekly required readings posted on Reserve and/or Cams throughout the semester. I have listed some below but there may be some changes to the reading schedule.

**Recommended:**


**Note:** For both weekly preparation of texts and the essay, whenever necessary, students should consult introductory grammars (Pratico-Van Pelt, Blau, Hackett, Ross, Garrett-DeRouchie, Lambdin, Cook-Holmstedt), intermediate grammars (Williams-Beckman, van der Merwe, Arnold-Choi), and advanced grammars (Waltke-O’Connor, Joüon-Muraoka, Gesenius (also, if able, Joüon [French] and Bauer-Leander [German]).

**Schedule:**

**Week 1 (30 Jan, 1 Feb)**
Topic: Biblical Hebrew in its Northwest Semitic environment
Texts: 1 Sam 1, 2
Reading: SB chs 1, 2; J.A. Hackett, “Hebrew (Biblical and Epigraphic)” in Beyond Babel; Begin reading Ska

Assignment: learn Hebrew consonants and vowels in transliteration (cf. SBL Handbook of Style)
Recommended reading: ch. 2 in Young, Diversity in Pre-Exilic Hebrew

Week 2 (6, 8 Feb)
Topic: Diachrony
Text: 1 Sam 3-4
Readings: SB chs 3, 4; chs. 1, 3 in Young, Diversity; finish Ska

Week 3 (13, 15 Feb)
Topic: Hebrew verb: tense and aspect
Texts: 1 Sam 5-7
Ch. 5 in Young, Diversity
(continue reading SB until completed by end of reading week)
Assignments: Select paper topic during reading week; begin preparing for midterm

Week 4 READING WEEK (20, 22 Feb)

Week 5 (27 Feb, 1 March)
Topic: Hebrew verb: tense and aspect, continued
Texts: 1 Sam 8-10

MIDTERM EXAM ON FRIDAY 1 MARCH (90 minutes)
(includes Van Pelt vocabulary list p 91-115 [verbal roots only])

Week 6 (6 March)
Topic: Hebrew verb: tense and aspect: other solutions
Texts: 1 Sam 11-13

No class on Friday
Week 7 (13, 15 March)
Topic: Word order
Texts: 1 Sam 14-16
Readings: chs 1-3, in A. Moshavi, *Word Order in the Biblical Hebrew Finite Clause*

Week 8 (20, 22 March)
Topic: Word order continued
Texts: 1 Sam 17

Week 9 READING WEEK (27, 29 March)

Week 10 (3, 5 April)
Topic: Syntax of Hebrew poetry
Texts: 1 Sam 31-2 Sam 1
Reading: A. Nicacci, *ibid* p 114-127

Week 11 (10 April)
Topic: Syntax of Hebrew poetry continued
Text: 2 Sam 22
Reading: M. O’Connor TDA

No class on Friday

Week 12 (17, 19 April)
Topic: How to integrate advanced concepts of grammar in preaching and teaching
Texts: 2 Sam 5-7

Week 13 (24, 26 April)
Review: Exam preparation
Paper is due Friday 26 April

Week 14 (Final exam, day TBA)
Includes: Hebrew composition; Van Pelt vocabulary list p 116-137

**Bibliography (preliminary)**


Peckham, B. “Tense and Mood in Biblical Hebrew” ZAH 1997

