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 many poetical passages will be read with relative ease after having completed Beginning Hebrew, a considerable amount of Hebrew poetry requires an 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 specified in the context of each chapter's content. Additionally, there will be an emphasis on the acquisition of a frequency vocabulary (each chapter of the grammar has a vocabulary section that will be required) and the pronunciation of the language. Students will be required to participate regularly in class in the BBH Workbook assignments (reading the Hebrew text, translation of exercises and biblical passages and the 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. Occasionally, lecture time will be devoted to any number of topics related to the study of Hebrew language, such as a word study, an exegetical insight or even a biblical-theological theme.

Gordon-Conwell has a strong commitment to the biblical languages and exegesis in the training of men and women for ministry. The level of our commitment will be apparent to students in our mission and vision statements; in our advertising and promotional materials; in every class across the divisional structure of faculty instruction and the list goes on and on. One of your first assignments in this class will be to read an article by Jason DeRouchie, a GCTS graduate, entitled "The Profit of Employing the

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
ISBN-13 (978-0802834133)

Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia
ISBN: 3-438-05218-0

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

III. Course Requirements and Logistics (for both OL 501 and 502)

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, family emergency or the like. 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 time together.

Weekly quizzes will constitute 40% of the course grade; 40% will be based on the average of two major semester exams; and the remaining 20% of the course grade will be based on the final examination that will be given during the final exam period at the end of the semester. In order for a student to continue from Fall semester Hebrew to Spring semester, the final examination grade for the Fall semester class must be C or above. In the event that a student does not achieve a C or above on the Fall final, a make-up final examination will be offered within two weeks of the conclusion of Fall semester classes. There is a similar requirement for Spring semester Hebrew. The Spring semester final examination must be C or above in order for a student to pass OL 502. The Spring semester has the same make-up policy as in the Fall. Only one make-up opportunity will be offered each semester.
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 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. Be sure that you understand the quiz and exam make-up policy for both semesters and, equally important, be certain that you understand what constitutes a passing grade on the fall and spring semester final exams. All of this information is noted above.
4. All formal vocabulary sections in each chapter of BBH are required on the date that the chapter's grammar content and exercises are due.
5. All exercises are to be found in the Workbook.
6. Carefully review every graded quiz or exam and be certain that you understand and correct mistakes.

Tuesday (10 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 (12 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; the transliterations on p. 5 are not required)
Introduction to Hebrew Vowels (chapter 2)
Continued work on the Introductory Handout

Tuesday (17 September)
Chapter 2 (The Vowels/Sections 2.1-2.12)
Exercises: pp. 7-9 (do all of the exercises)
Introduction to Syllabification (chapter 3). Give careful attention to *BBH* sections 3.5 and 3.6 because the identification of daghesh (as lene or forte) and shewa (as silent or vocal) will appear on Thursday's quiz.
Completion (or near completion) of the Introductory Handout

Thursday (19 September)
Quiz: Consonant and vowel identification (by name and classification); identification of daghesh (as lene or forte) and shewa (as silent or 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). To remind you again, special effort should be given to the exercises on p. 13 because the identification of daghesh and shewa will be a significant topic throughout the course.

Introduction to Hebrew Nouns (chapter 4)

Tuesday (24 September)
Completion of Syllabification
Chapter 4 (Hebrew Nouns/Sections 4.1-4.10, 12)
Exercises: do all exercises on pp. 15-19 but the most important will be those in the Advanced Exercise, part 1 (excluding numbers 15 and 17) and in the Advanced Exercise, part 2 (1-6)

Introduction to the Definite Article (chapter 5)

Thursday (26 September)
Quiz: Syllabification; identification of daghesh and shewa; beginning noun pluralization; and the vocabulary of chapters 3-4
Chapter 5 (Definite Article/Sections 5.1-5.9, 11)
Exercises: pp. 21-23 (all exercises). With respect to the definite article and the conjunction that are the topics of study in this chapter, it should be noted that this material is for recognition only, that is, I will never ask you (on a quiz or in class) to prefix either the article or the conjunction to a word.

Introduction to Prepositions (chapter 6)

Tuesday (1 October)
Chapter 6 (Prepositions/Sections 6.1-6.11)
Exercises: pp. 25-28 (all exercises excluding the composition exercise on the top of p. 27)

Introduction to Adjectives (chapter 7). The most important section in this chapter is 7.10 because you will be asked to inflect adjectives in Hebrew.

Thursday (3 October)
Quiz: Noun pluralization; translation of prepositional phrases; and the vocabulary of chapters 3-6
Chapter 7 (Adjectives/Sections 7.1-7.10). Again, the most important section in this chapter is 7.10 because you will be asked to inflect adjectives in Hebrew.
Exercises: parsing (1-20); translation (1-15); inflecting (1-3, 7-9); Bible translations (1-8)

Introduction to Pronouns (chapter 8)
The contents of the October 8th exam will be detailed today.

Tuesday (8 October)
Today's class will be given (in its entirety) to the first of the semester's two major exams. With respect to content, the broad categories of this exam will be:
consonant and vowel identification (by name and classification)
identification of daghesh as forte or lene
identification of shewa as vocal or silent syllabification
noun pluralization, including those that pluralize irregularly
translation of prepositional phrases and perhaps Bible phrases from the exercise book
inflection and translation of adjectives and the identification of adjectival usage
the vocabulary of chapters 3-7

Thursday (10 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 translations 1-7
  only; do not do the composition exercise on p. 38
  Introduction to Pronominal Suffixes on Nouns and Prepositions (chapter 9)

Reading Week (14-18 October)
  Students who had any difficulties on the first major exam (Tuesday, 8 October) are
  encouraged to take time during this reading week to remedy the problems.

Tuesday (22 October)
  Quiz: Inflection and translation of adjectives (7.10); identification of adjectival usage (7.4);
  independent personal pronouns (8.3 and 8.4); demonstrative pronouns and adjectives
  (8.6 and 8.7) and perhaps a repeat of some earlier material depending on the results of
  the October 16th 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 translations
  3, 5 only)
  Introduction to the Construct Chain (chapter 10). The section that will likely take most of
  your study time will be 10.5 (pp. 99-103) because you will be asked on quizzes to give
  the construct spelling (in Hebrew) of various absolute nouns.

Thursday (24 October)
  Chapter 10 (Construct Chain/Sections 10.1-10.7). In lecture, special consideration will be
  given to section 10.5 at the beginning of class.
  Exercises: translations (1-25 only); Bible translations (1-12 only); construct nouns, part 1
  (even only)

Tuesday (29 October)
  Quiz: Forming construct nouns (section 10.5) and translating construct chains; the
  vocabulary of chapters 7-10
  Observations on chapter 11 (Hebrew Numerals) but no assignment from this chapter; a few
  words in the vocabulary section (11.8) will be required. These will be noted in class.
  Introduction to Hebrew Verbs (chapter 12)

Thursday (31 October)
  Chapter 12 (Hebrew Verbs/Sections 12.1-12.18)
  Exercises: translations (1-12); also part 12b (pp. 63-66). Please carefully read this material
  on choosing and using a standard lexicon because you will be using a lexicon during
  both semesters, especially in OL 502.
  Introduction to the Qal Perfect Strong Verb (chapter 13)
Tuesday (5 November)
Chapter 13 (Qal Perfect Strong Verb/Sections 13.1-13.15)
Exercises: parsing (1-10); translations (1-10); Bible translations (1-2, 4 and 6 only);
inflecting (1-10 only)
Introduction to Qal Perfect Weak Verbs (chapter 14)

Thursday (7 November)
Quiz: Qal Perfect strong verb paradigm: inflecting and parsing verbs and the vocabulary of
chapters 11-13
Chapter 14 (Qal Perfect Weak Verbs/Sections 14.1-14.16)
Exercises in 14a: parsing (1-20); translations (odd only); Bible translations (1, 3 and 4 only)
Exercises in 14b: parsing (1-15); Bible translation (1 and 4 only)
Introduction to the Qal Imperfect Strong Verb (chapter 15)
The contents of the November 19th exam will be detailed today.

Reading Week (11-15 November)
No class but diligent preparations for the November 19th exam will be expected

Tuesday (19 November)
Today's class will be given (in its entirety) to the second of the semester's two major
exams. With respect to content, the broad categories of this exam will be:
reproducing (in Hebrew) selected independent personal pronouns from section 8.3
and demonstratives from 8.6
translating demonstrative pronouns and adjectives
recognizing and translating the full range of Hebrew pronominal suffixes on nouns,
prepositions and the accusative marker; the content of section 9.14 will surely
appear on the exam
forming construct nouns and translating construct chains; be sure that you have section
10.5 under control
inflecting, parsing and translating Qal Perfect strong and weak verbs
the vocabulary of chapters 3-14
and perhaps some earlier material from chapters 3-7; to be announced

Thursday (21 November)
Chapter 15 (Qal Imperfect Strong Verb/Sections 15.1-15.11)
Exercises: parsing (1-15); translations (odd only); Bible translations (1-3 and 9 only);
inflecting (1-15)
Introduction to Qal Imperfect Weak Verbs, Part 1 (16.1-16.11)

Tuesday (26 November)
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); translations (1-10); Bible translations (8-10 only)
Introduction to Qal Imperfect Weak Verbs, Part 2 (16.12-16.24)
Thursday (28 November)
    Thanksgiving Day/No Class

Tuesday (3 December)
    Chapter 16 (Qal Imperfect Weak Verbs, Part 2/Sections 16.12-16.24)
    Exercises in 16b: parsing (1-10); translations (1-5); Bible translations (7, 10 and 11 only)
    Exercises in 16c: parsing (1-15); translations (1-5); Bible translations (1, 3 and 4 only)
    Introduction to Waw Consecutive (chapter 17)

Thursday (5 December)
    This is the last regularly scheduled class of the fall semester.
    Quiz: Inflecting, parsing and translating Qal Perfect and Imperfect verbs (strong and weak) and the vocabulary of chapters 3-16
    Review and preparation for the final examination.
    The date and time of the final are to be announced though it will likely be scheduled on Thursday morning, December 12th. Be certain to confirm the date and time of this exam. The schedule will be issued during the fall semester and announced in class.