

**Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary**  
**OL 501 & OL 502 Hebrew I & II**  
**Summer Sessions II & III**  
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## **Introduction**

As a seminary we now find ourselves addressing two battles: “The Peril of Pastors *without* the Biblical Languages”<sup>1</sup> *and* the peril of pastors languishing *with* the languages. Many preachers in the pulpit make little to no use of the original languages EVEN AFTER seminary. The statistics are grim. This is why Zondervan has recently published both a Greek and Hebrew Readers of the bible.

Knowing the language DOES enhance your effectiveness in the call to communicate biblical truths. Knowing the language DOES provide a better comprehension of the Old Testament. But it is not without cost.

Admittedly, there is a high price tag attached to learning Hebrew. Without an aggressive investment of time, energy, and patience, you will not get the valuable and relevant skills needed to interpret the Word of God. Once you see the fruit of your labor (particularly through exegesis and time in the text) you will never become part of those grim statistics!

## **I. Course Description and Objectives**

1. The main objective of this course is to furnish students with basic knowledge of Hebrew grammar and vocabulary. Should you come to this challenge with due diligence in *both* sessions the results will be rewarding! You will be able to read your Hebrew Bible with the aid of a dictionary (lexicon).
2. Acquisition of vocabulary, pronunciation and reading proficiency will be emphasized in each break out session as we give attention to reading select biblical texts. You can also access the website ([www.basicsofbiblicalhebrew.com](http://www.basicsofbiblicalhebrew.com)) and accompanying CD for extra help with vocabulary and pronunciation.
3. Creative and helpful mnemonics are offered regularly so that the student might readily retain aspects of the grammar. Furthermore, a variety of learning strategies are employed to aid the learning process. Likewise, visit [www.hebrewsyntax.org/bbh2](http://www.hebrewsyntax.org/bbh2) (user name and password both bbh2), a website developed by a former GCTS student, John Beckman, for additional online help.

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<sup>1</sup> Dennis E. Johnson, “The Peril of Pastors Without the Biblical Languages,” *PJ* (1986): 23-24.

4. Due to a large enrollment in both sessions of Hebrew, TA's will be working with me to help meet the objectives of this course. Break-out sessions enable class participation and review of homework that is, otherwise, not possible with a large class.

## II. Required Textbooks

1. Gary D. Pratico and Miles V. Van Pelt, *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001). 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition.
2. Gary D. Pratico and Miles V. Van Pelt, *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Workbook* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001). 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition
3. William L. Holladay, *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988).

## III. Recommended Textbooks

1. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* (BHS)

## IV. Course Requirements

**1. Daily quizzes (40%).** Quizzes will mostly be given every day during summer sessions of Hebrew. Should you miss a class (for ANY reason) you will be required to write a make-up quiz at the END of the session just prior to the final exam. Rather than covering small sound bites of material, the make-up quiz will entail more of the session's material. It is to your advantage not to miss a quiz. No exceptions.

**2. Final examinations (40%).** A final exam will be given on the last day of each summer session. ATTENTION: in order to pass Hebrew I and Hebrew II you must earn a grade of C (70% or higher) on each of the final exams. Note also that a total score of 59% or lower will not enable you to pass OL 501 or OL 502. Please keep this in mind as you embark in the summer format of learning Hebrew. If full-time devotion to summer Hebrew is not possible, you might consider options in the regular academic calendar.

**3. In-class recitations (10%).** Each student will be called upon to interact with homework assignments previously prepared. Your responses will be evaluated by the TA and recorded. Accountability on a daily basis with assignments is the foundation for a long term mastery of the language. PLEASE come to class prepared. If you are not

prepared, however, DO NOT STAY HOME! Furthermore, don't slip out after the quiz! It is far better to come to class unprepared so that you can benefit from hearing in-class discussions (auditory learning). Failure to attend daily sessions with the TA's on a regular basis will result in a grade penalty.

**4. Required Reading of All 36 Exegetical Insights (10%).** There is a "Table of Insights" (p. xii) that will convince you to stay the course with the language! Read these weekly as part of your devotions. I will give you a reading accountability sheet at the end of the course.

**5. Regular class attendance is required.** I will keep a record of your attendance. Should you fail to attend class regularly your grade will reflect this choice.

**6. Arriving on time** This is crucial for two reasons. First, each class commences with a quiz and necessary instructions for that quiz. You do not want to be late for this. Second, I tend to give instructions regarding future quizzes and assignments at the beginning of class times as well. It is to your benefit to be present for these matters when we meet at 9:00 a.m. My commitment to you is as follows: I will begin classes precisely as scheduled, with or without you! And I will never keep you beyond 12:00 p.m.

- A Suggestion: Our weekly schedule is such that two day's a week we have no classes. Perhaps you might want to form study groups. If anyone would like the assistance of tutor, upon request I will supply you with names.

**Daily Assignment Schedule**  
**Basics of Biblical Hebrew Workbook**  
**Hebrew I (OL 501)**

**How to use this schedule:** All exercises are found in the accompanying Workbook. The assignments detailed for each day and date are DUE on the day and date indicated. Carefully read all explanatory comments with each assignment. Note also that this schedule tells you when each quiz is scheduled along with the expected content of that quiz. Only on rare occasions will there be adjustments. Keeping up with the vocabulary on a daily/weekly basis is crucial. Thus all formal vocabulary sections in each chapter of BBH are required on the date that the chapter's grammar content and exercises are due.

**Summer Session II**

**WEEK ONE:**

**Monday, June 14**

Course Introduction  
Intro to Hebrew alphabet  
Intro to Hebrew vowels  
Helpful handout

**Wednesday, June 16**

Chapter 1 (The Alphabet/Sections 1.1-1.10)  
Exercises: pp. 1-4; NOT transliteration on p. 5  
Chapter 2 (The Vowels/Sections 2.1-2.12)  
Exercises: pp. 7-9 (for the exercise on pp. 8-9, do only 1-15)  
*Introduction to chapter 3*

**Friday, June 18**

**Quiz: Consonant and vowel identification**  
Chapter 3 (Syllabification-Pronunciation/Sections 3.1-3.14)  
All Exercises: pp. 11-13  
*Introduction to chapters 4 & 5 (special attention to 4.8)*

## **WEEK TWO:**

### **Monday, June 22**

#### **Quiz: Syllabification**

Chapter 4 (Hebrew Nouns/Sections 4.1-4.10, 12)

Exercises: ALL on pp. 15-18 with special attn. to noun pluralizations on pp. 17-18

Chapter 5 (Hebrew Definite Article/Sections 5.1-5.9)

Exercises: pp. 21-23 (do only Bible trans. 1-5 on p. 23)

*Introduction to chapters 6 & 7*

### **Wednesday, June 23**

#### **Quiz: vocab (chs. 3-5), noun, and article**

Chapter 6 (Hebrew Prepositions/Sections 6.1-6.11)

Exercises: pp. 25-28 (exclude the composition exercise on p. 27 and do only Bible trans. 1-5 on pp. 27-28.

Chapter 7 (Hebrew Adjectives/Sections 7.1-7.10)

Exercises: Parsing (even only); trans. (even only); inflecting (1-10); Bible trans. 2, 4, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13)

*Introduction to chapter 8*

### **Friday, June 25**

#### **Quiz: vocab (chs. 3-7; emphasis 6-7), prepositions, and adjective**

Chapter 8 (Hebrew Pronouns)

Exercises: Translation Parts 1-3 (odd only); Bible trans. 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 11

*Introduction to chapter 9 & 10*

## **WEEK THREE:**

### **Monday, June 28**

#### **Quiz: vocab (chs. 3-8; emphasis 8), and pronouns**

Chapter 9 (Hebrew Pronominal Suffixes/Sections 9.1-9.19)

Exercises: Part 1 (1-13 only); Part 2 (odd only); Part 3 (odd only); Bible trans. 1,2,4,8

Chapter 10 (Hebrew Construct Chain/Sections 10.1-10.7)

Exercises: Translation 1-20; Bible trans. 1-13; construct nouns, Part 1 (odd)

*Introduction to chapters 11, 12, 13*

### **Wednesday, June 30**

#### **Quiz: vocab (chs. 3-10; emphasis 9-10), pronominal suffixes, construct chain**

Chapter 11: treat as a reference section. No exercises only select vocab (TBA)

Chapter 12 (Hebrew Verbs/Sections 12.1-12.18)

Exercises: p. 59 1-15, strong and weak verb; Translation 1-11 (pp.60-61); also read 12b (lexicon selection) on pp 63-66.

Chapter 13 (Qal Perfect: Strong/Sections 13.1-13.15)

Exercises: Parsing 1-10 (p. 67); trans. 1-10 (p. 68); Bible trans. 1, 2, 4, 5;

Inflecting 1-10 (p. 71)

*Introduction to chapter 14*

### **Friday, July 2**

#### **Quiz: vocab (chs. 3-10; emphasis ALL), strong and weak verb identification, qal perfect strong**

Chapter 14 (Qal Perfect; Weak/Sections 14.1-14.16)

Exercises from 14a: Parsing (even only); trans. (even only); Bible trans. 1, 3, 4; Inflecting (even)

Exercises from 14b: Parsing (1-13 (p. 81); trans (even only); Inflecting (even); Bible trans. 1,4,7

*Introduction to chapters 15 & 16 (Part I, 16a-c in Workbook)*

## WEEK FOUR

### Monday, July 5

**Quiz: vocab (chs. 3-14; emphasis 11-14), qal perfect weak verb**

Chapter 15 (Imperfect Strong/Sections 15.1-15.11)

Exercises: Parsing 1-15; trans. (odd only); Bible trans. 1 2, 3, 9; Inflecting(even)

Chapter 16 (Qal Imperfect weak/Sections 16.1-16.11)

Exercises in 16a: Parsing (1-10); trans. (1-10); Bible trans (8-10)

Exercises in 16b: Parsing (1-10); trans. (1-5); Bible trans. 7, 9, 10; (p. 104)

Exercises in 16c: Parsing 1-15 (p. 107); Bible texts 1, 3, 4

*Introduction to chapter 16 (Part II, 16d-f in Workbook)*

### Wednesday, July 7

**Quiz: vocab (chs. 3-16; emphasis 15-16), qal imperfect strong verb and weak (16a-c)**

Chapter 16 (Qal Imperfect weak/Sections 16.12-16.24)

Exercises in 16d: Parsing 1-10 (p. 111); Bible text 2

Exercises in 16e: Parsing 1-12 (p. 115)

Exercises in 16f: Parsing 1-11 (p. 119)

### Friday, July 9

**Final Examination: All chapters to date (including 16)!**

All vocabulary to date (chs. 3-16)

Parsing

Producing forms

Paradigms

TBA (other possible items)

## July 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> BREAK

**Rest, Relax, and Review**

**Read handout on chapter 17**

**No Quiz for first class of Session III**