Syllabus
Hebrew I and II (OL 501 and 502)
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
Academic Year 2008-2009
MWF and TTTh AM Sections
Gary Pratico

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. The core textbook will be Basics of Biblical Hebrew by Gary Pratico and Miles Van Pelt. It consists of two volumes: a grammar and a workbook. Both of these volumes are required. It is essential that you acquire the second edition of the grammar and the workbook (Zondervan 2007).

Students who complete both semesters 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 demands an intermediate facility with the language.

Throughout both semesters, there will be an emphasis on pronunciation and the acquisition of a frequency vocabulary. The former will be accomplished through daily recitation in class; the latter will focus on the grammar’s formal vocabulary sections and selected vocabulary from biblical texts to be translated in class. An interactive vocabulary memorization program is available on CD for BBH through www.learningmill.org. Most students find this resource extremely helpful in the memorization of the grammar's vocabulary.

It is my hope that we will have 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, students will see that it does make
a difference to approach the Old Testament text from the perspective of the original language. Additionally, each chapter of the grammar has an "exegetical insight" that will show the importance of knowing Hebrew for understanding selected biblical texts and topics.

II. Required Textbooks (OL 501 and 502)

G. Pratico and M. Van Pelt, Basics of Biblical Hebrew (grammar and workbook; second edition)

W. L. Holladay, A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament

Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia

III. Recommended Textbooks (OL 502)

Certain of the following textbooks may be helpful during this year of basic language instruction or in the upper-level exegesis courses. It is best that you do not purchase any of these works, however, until we have commented on each one in class. A basic bibliography of Hebrew language tools will be discussed at the end of the course.

Intermediate Grammars


B. Waltke and M. O'Connor, *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Considered by many to be the standard reference grammar, though highly technical and dense.

There are many other reference grammars. These are the ones that elicit enthusiasm, especially Arnold and Choi as students move toward 600-level exegesis.

**Standard Lexicons**

L. Koehler and W. Baumgartner, *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. This is clearly the standard lexicon of choice. It is now available in two volumes at a reasonable cost. Our required lexicon (W. L. Holladay, *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*) is based on this work.

F. Brown, S. R. Driver and C. A. Briggs, *Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*. This is still a valuable lexicon, though it is somewhat dated.

**Analytical Lexicons**

J. Owens, *Analytical Key to the Old Testament* (4 vols.). Perhaps the easiest to use of the analytical lexicons but it has a high frequency of errors.

B. Davidson, *Analytical Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon*. One volume and inexpensive but not as easy to use as the Owens analytical.

T. S. Beall and W. A. Banks, *Old Testament Parsing Guide*. Slightly more complicated to use than the works of Owens and Davidson.

**Frequency Vocabulary Lists**


Other Grammar Aids

M. Van Pelt and G. Pratico, *Charts of Biblical Hebrew.* This volume contains nearly 500 colored charts (text and CD) which present a wide range of beginning grammar concepts.


Many grammar helps are also provided on our website (basicsofbiblicalhebrew.com).

IV. Course Requirements for OL 501 and 502

Regular class attendance is required. Please give attention to the language. Regular class attendance is required not recommended. It is understood that there may be rare circumstances in which it will be necessary for a student to miss a class. It must be emphasized that it will be expected that such an occasion will be rare. Failure to attend class regularly will impact your 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 precisely as scheduled. This is not an issue that will formally impact grade but it may impact your understanding of assignments and quiz instructions since these are subjects considered at the beginning of most classes. On an informal level, therefore, tardiness may impact your course grade.

Weekly quizzes will constitute 80% of the course grade. Please note that missed quizzes, even for reason of illness, will be made up at the end of each semester. One make-up quiz, covering the semester's material, will be given before the final examination to those who have missed a quiz. It is to your advantage not to miss any quizzes. Each quiz during the semester will cover a discrete block of material; whereas the make-up will cover the entire semester's work. This make-up policy will be explained in further detail on the first day of class. Please don't ask for exceptions to this quiz make-up policy.

A final examination will be given during the regularly scheduled exam period. The final exam will constitute 20% of the course grade. *In order to pass each semester of Hebrew, you must earn a grade of C or above on each of the final examinations.* Failure to achieve a C on the Fall semester final examination will preclude moving on to Spring semester Hebrew.

Students will be called upon regularly in class with respect to homework assignments. Depending on class size, you might be called upon three or four times a week. The key to learning this language is consistency and thoroughness in preparation of daily assignments. The expectation, therefore, is that students will be prepared to go over homework assignments with some measure of mastery, though perhaps not perfection. Daily recitation will not be
graded but unpreparedness on several occasions or consistently poor classroom performance will impact your final grade.

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 this expectation carefully in light of your academic, family, work, church and other commitments and responsibilities.

V. Assignment and Exam Schedule

A schedule of assignments and quizzes for the Fall semester is attached to this syllabus. Please note the schedule of meeting times.

VI. Teaching Assistant

Amy Paulsen-Reed will serve as the teaching assistant for both morning sections (MWF and TTh) of OL 501 and 502. You will meet Amy on the first day of class.
Daily Assignments from Basics of Biblical Hebrew
Hebrew I (OL 501)
Fall 2008
Tuesday and Thursday
8:00-9:30 AM
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
Gary Pratico

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 schedule with specification of quiz content.
3. Note all explanatory comments for each assignment.
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. Be diligent in your preparation of daily assignments and keep up with vocabulary
7. Carefully go over each graded quiz and be certain that you understand mistakes.

Tuesday (9 September)
Course Introduction
Introduction to the Hebrew Alphabet (Chapter 1)
Begin work on the Introductory Handout

Thursday (11 September)
Chapter 1 (The Alphabet/Sections 1.1-1.10)
Exercises in 1: pp. 1-4 (all exercises though we will not continue with transliteration beyond this lesson)
Introduction to Hebrew Vowels (Chapter 2)
Continued work on the Introductory Handout

Tuesday (16 September)
Chapter 2 (The Vowels/Sections 2.1-2.12)
Exercises in 2: pp. 7-8 (do only 1-15 of the third exercise on bottom of p. 8 and top of p. 9)
Introduction to Syllabification (Chapter 3)
Completion of the Introductory Handout

Thursday (18 September)
Quiz: Consonant and vowel identification; identification of Daghest (lene and forte) and Shewa (silent and vocal); beginning syllabification
Chapter 3 (Syllabification-Pronunciation/Sections 3.1-3.14)
Exercises in 3: pp. 11-13 (all exercises; see special handout for full syllabification key for the exercises on pp. 11-12)
Introduction to Hebrew Nouns (Chapter 4)

Tuesday (23 September)
Chapter 4 (Hebrew Nouns/Sections 4.1-4.10, 12)
Exercises in 4: do all exercises but give special attention to
Advanced Exercise: Part 1 (excluding 15-17) and
Advanced Exercise: Part 2
Introduction to the Definite Article (Chapter 5)

Thursday (25 September)
Quiz: Syllabification; identification of Daghest and Shewa; vocabulary of chapters 3-4
Chapter 5 (Hebrew Definite Article/Sections 5.1-5.9, 11)
Exercises in 5: pp. 21-23 (all exercises)
Introduction to Prepositions (Chapter 6)

Tuesday (30 September)
Chapter 6 (Hebrew Prepositions/Sections 6.1-6.11)
Exercises in 6: pp. 25-28 (excluding composition exercise)
Introduction to Adjectives (Chapter 7)

Thursday (2 October)
Quiz: Noun pluralization, prepositions and the vocabulary of chapters 3-6
Chapter 7 (Hebrew Adjectives/Sections 7.1-7.10)
Exercises in 7: Parsing (1-20); Translation (1-15); Inflecting (1-3, 7-9); Bible translations (1-8)
Introduction to Pronouns (Chapter 8)
Tuesday (7 October)
Quiz: Noun pluralization and the inflection, use and translation of adjectives
Chapter 8 (Hebrew Pronouns/Sections 8.1-8.12)
Exercises in 8: Translation, Part 1 (5-10 only); Part 2 (1-10); Part 3 (1-5); Bible translations 1-7; do not do the composition exercise on p. 38
Introduction to Pronominal Suffixes on Nouns and Prepositions (Chapter 9)

Thursday (9 October)
Chapter 9 (Hebrew Pronominal Suffixes/Sections 9.1-9.19)
Exercises in 9: Part 1 (1-15); Part 2 (even only); Part 3 (even only); Bible translations (3, 5)
Introduction to the Hebrew Construct Chain (Chapter 10) for Tuesday (28 October)

Reading Week (13-17 October)
No Class

Tuesday (21 October)
Mid-term exam (this is the equivalent of two quizzes) on chapters 1-9 emphasizing the following:
- syllabification
- identification of Daghesh and Shewa
- noun pluralization
- translation of prepositions
- the inflection and use of adjectives
- suffixes on nouns, prepositions and the object marker
- independent personal pronouns
- demonstrative adjectives and pronouns
- vocabulary of chapters 3-9

Thursday (23 October)
No Class

Tuesday (28 October)
Chapter 10 (Hebrew Construct Chain/Sections: 10.1-10.7)
Exercises in 10: Translation (1-25); Bible translations
(1-12); Construct nouns, Part 1 (even only)

Chapter 11 (Hebrew Numerals)
No exercises from this chapter; only selected vocabulary will be required (to be noted in class)
Introduction to Hebrew verbs (Chapter 12)

Thursday (30 October)
Quiz: Forming construct nouns and translating construct chains; vocabulary of chapters 8-10
Chapter 12 (Hebrew Verbs/Sections 12.1-12.18)
Exercises in 12: Translation (1-12); also 12b (pp. 63-66; you must read this material carefully)
Introduction to the Qal Perfect strong verb (Chapter 13)

Tuesday (4 November)
Chapter 13 (Qal Perfect: Strong Verbs/Sections 13.1-13.15)
Exercises in 13: Parsing (1-10); Translation (1-10); Bible translations (1-2, 4-6); Inflecting (1-10)
Introduction to Qal Perfect weak verbs (Chapter 14)

Thursday (6 November)
Quiz: Qal Perfect strong verb paradigm
Chapter 14 (Qal Perfect: Weak Verbs/Sections 14.1-14.16)
Exercises in 14a: Parsing (1-20); Translation (odd only);
Bible translations 1, 3, 4
Exercises in 14b: Parsing (1-15); Bible translations (1 and 4)
Introduction to the Qal Imperfect strong verb (Chapter 15)

Reading Week (10-14 November)
No Class

Tuesday (18 November)
Quiz: Inflecting, identifying and translating Qal Perfect verbs (strong and weak) and the vocabulary of 10-14
Chapter 15 (Imperfect Strong Verbs/Sections 15.1-15.11)
Exercises in 15: Parsing (1-15); Translation (odd only); Bible translations (1-3, 9); Inflecting (1-15)
Introduction to Qal Imperfect weak verbs, Part 1 (Chapter 16) for Tuesday (25 November)
Thursday (20 November)
Review session

Tuesday (25 November)
Chapter 16 (Imperfect Weak Verbs/Sections 16.1-16.11)
Exercises in 16a: Parsing (1-10); Translation (1-10); Bible translations (8-10)
Exercises in 16b: Parsing (1-10); Translation (1-5); Bible translations (7 and 10)
Introduction to Qal Imperfect weak verbs, Part 2 (Chapter 16)

Thursday and Friday (27-28 November)
Thanksgiving Holiday
No Class

Tuesday (2 December)
Chapter 16 (Imperfect Weak Verbs/Sections 16.12-16.24)
Exercises in 16c: Parsing (1-15); Bible translations (1, 3, 4)
Exercises in 16d: Bible translations (2, 5)
Exercises in 16e: Bible translations (1-3)
Exercises from 16f: Parsing (1-14)
Introduction to Waw Consecutive (Chapter 17)

Thursday (4 December)
Quiz: Inflecting, identifying and translating Qal Perfect verbs (strong and weak) and Imperfect verbs (strong and selected weak); also the vocabulary of 14-17
Chapter 17 (Waw Consecutive/Sections 17.1-17.10)
Exercises in 17: Parsing (1-10 on p. 125); Bible translations (1-3, 10, 11, 13 on pp. 126-128); Parsing (1-10 on p. 130); Bible translations (2 and 3 on pp. 131-132)

The final examination will be scheduled during the regular exam week. See exam schedule for details regarding time and location.