Syllabus
Hebrew I and II (OL 501 and 502)
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
Academic Year 2008-2009
MWF and TTh 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 in 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. Failure to achieve a C on the Spring semester final examination will result in failure of the course (OL 502).

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 II (OL 502A)
Spring 2008
Monday, Wednesday and Friday
8:00-9:00 AM
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.

Friday (23 January)
Chapter 17 (Waw Conversive/Sections 17.1-17.10)
Exercises in 17: Parsing (1-10 on p. 125); Bible translations (7, 10, 11, 13 on pp. 126-129); Parsing (1-10 on p. 130); Bible translations (2, 3 on pp. 131-132)
Introduction to Chapter 18, Part 1 (18.1-18.8)

Monday (26 January)
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. 137-139). An exercise for inflecting 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)

Wednesday (28 January)
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, 6, on p. 142; Bible translations (2, 6, 12)
Exercises in 18c: Parsing (1-15 on pp. 149-150); Bible translations (1, 2, 3, 7, 13 on pp. 152-154)

Friday (30 January)
Quiz: Double review of Perfect and Imperfect strong and weak verbs

Monday (2 February)
Quiz: Vocabulary of chapters 12-18
Completion of left-over exercises from Chapter 18
Introduction to Chapter 19 (largely inductive approach to the recognition of pronominal suffixes on verbs)

Wednesday (4 February)
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) on pp. 160-162
Introduction to Chapter 20 (Qal Infinitive Construct)

Friday (6 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)

Monday (9 February)
Quiz: Qal Imperative (strong and weak verbs), Cohortative and Jussive; recognition of pronominal suffixes on verbs; parsing and translating the Infinitive Construct and translation of Waw Converive
Completion of left-over exercises from Chapter 20
Introduction to Chapter 21 (Qal Infinitive Absolute)
Wednesday (11 February)
Chapter 21 (Qal Infinitive Absolute)
Exercises in 21: Parsing (1-23 on pp. 173-174); Translations
(1-5 on p. 174); Bible translations (1, 2, 3, 6, 9, on pp.
175-176)
Introduction to Chapter 22 (Qal Participle)

Friday (13 February)
Chapter 22 (Qal Participle)
Exercises in 22: Parsing (1-25 on pp. 179-180); Translations
(1-9 on pp. 180-181); Bible translations (1, 3, 6 on pp.
181-182)
Introduction to Chapter 23 (Issues of Sentence Syntax)

Reading Week (16-20 February)
No Class

Monday (23 February)
Chapter 23 (Issues of Sentence Syntax)
Exercises in 23: Bible translations (1, 3, 7, 9, 10 on
pp. 187-188)
Introduction to Chapter 24 (Niphal Strong Verb)

Wednesday (25 February)
Double Review Quiz: Recognizing, translating and parsing Qal
Perfect, Imperfect, Imperative, Cohortative, Jussive,
Infinitive Construct, Infinitive Absolute and Participle
forms (all categories above for strong and weak verbs)

Friday (27 February)
Chapter 24 (The Niphal Stem: Strong Verbs)
Students will likely find it helpful to review the content of
Chapter 12 (Introduction to Hebrew Verbs), especially
those sections that study the derived stems.
Exercises in 24: Parsing (1-20 on pp. 189-190); Translations
(1-12 on p. 191); Bible translations (8, 9, 10 on pp.
192-193)
Introduction to Chapter 25 (Niphal Weak Verbs)
Monday (2 March)
Chapter 25 (The Niphal Stem: Weak Verbs)
Exercises in 25a: Parsing (1-20 on pp. 195-196);
Translts (1-4 and 8-13 on pp. 196-197); Bible
translations (1, 3, 5, 12, 14, 19, 20 on pp. 198-200)

Wednesday (4 March)
Quiz: Parsing and translating Qal and Niphal verbs (strong
and weak)
Exercises in 25b: Parsing (1-15 on pp. 203-204)
Introduction to Chapter 26 (Piel Strong Verb)

Friday (6 March)
Chapter 26 (The Piel Stem: Strong Verbs)
Exercises in 26: Parsing (1-20 on pp. 209-210); Translations
(6-15 on p. 211); Genesis 37: 6-10 in Biblia Hebraica
Stuttgartsensia (hereafter BHS)
Introduction to Chapter 27 (Piel Weak Verbs)

Monday (9 March)
Chapter 27 (The Piel Stem: Weak Verbs)
Exercises in 26: Bible translations 12 and 13 on p. 214
Exercises in 27a: Parsing (9-25 on pp. 215-216); Bible
translations (5, 6 and 7 on pp. 217-218)

Wednesday (11 March)
Quiz: Parsing and translating Qal, Niphal and Piel verbs
Exercises in 27b: Parsing (1-20 on pp. 219-220); Bible
translations (4, 5, 8, 10, 15 on pp. 221-223)
Introduction to Chapter 28 (Pual Strong Verb)

Friday (13 March)
Return to the Qal stem for review
Chapter 20 (Qal Infinitive Construct)
Exercises in 20: Parsing (1-30 on pp. 163-164); Parsing
(1-10 on p. 165; Translations 1, 2, 12, 13, 14 on
pp. 165-166); Bible translations (3, 6, 14, 16 on
pp. 167-169)
Monday (16 March)
Return to the Qal stem for review
Chapter 22 (Qal Participle)
Exercises in 22: Parsing (1-25 on pp. 179-180); Bible translations (5, 7, 10 on pp. 181-182) and continued reading in Genesis 37 (verses to be announced)

Wednesday (18 March)
Quiz: Parsing Qal, Niphal and Piel verbs and a Bible translation with the use of the lexicon
Continued reading in Genesis 37 (verses to be announced)

Friday (20 March)
No Class

Reading Week (23-27 March)
No Class

Monday (30 March)
Chapter 28 (The Pual Stem: Strong Verbs)
Exercises in 28: Parsing (1-15 on pp. 225-226); Translations (1-4 on p. 226)
Introduction to Chapter 29 (Pual Weak Verbs)

Wednesday (1 April)
Quiz: Parsing Qal, Niphal and Piel (strong and weak verbs) and Bible translation with the use of a lexicon
Chapter 29 (The Pual Stem: Weak Verbs)
Exercises in 29: Parsing (1-25 on pp. 229-230); Bible translations (1, 2, 3, on p. 231)
Introduction to Chapter 30 (Hiphil Strong Verb)

Friday (3 April)
No Class

Monday (6 April)
Chapter 30 (The Hiphil Stem: Strong Verbs)
Exercises in 30: Parsing (1-23 on pp. 237-238); Translations (1-11 on pp. 239-240); Bible translations (3, 5, 8, 13 on pp. 241-243)
Introduction to Chapter 31 (Hiphil Weak Verbs)

Wednesday (8 April)
Quiz: Parsing Qal, Niphal, Piel, Pual and Hiphil verbs;
also a Bible translation
Chapter 31 (The Hiphil Stem: Weak Verbs)
Exercises in 31: Parsing (1-17 on pp. 245-246); Bible
translations (1, 3, 6, 12 on pp. 249-251)

Friday (10 April)
Good Friday
No Class

Monday (13 April)
Completion of Chapter 31 exercises
Introduction to Chapter 32 (Hophal Strong Verbs)

Wednesday (15 April)
Chapter 32 (The Hophal Stem: Strong Verbs)
Exercises in 32: Parsing (1-18 on pp. 253-254); Bible
translation (Genesis 22: 1-7 in BHS)
Introduction to Chapter 33 (Hophal Weak Verbs)

Friday (17 April)
Snow Day or No Class

Monday (20 April)
Chapter 33 (The Hophal Stem: Weak Verbs)
Exercises in 33: Parsing (1-20 on pp. 257-258)
Introduction to Chapter 34 (Hithpael Strong Verbs)

Wednesday (22 April)
Chapter 34 (The Hithpael Stem: Strong Verbs)
Exercises in 34: Parsing (1-17 on pp. 265-266); Bible
translation (Genesis 22: 8-19 in BHS)
Introduction to Chapter 35 (Hithpael Weak Verbs)

Friday (24 April)
Quiz: Parsing of Qal and all derived stem verbs
Chapter 35 (The Hithpael Stem: Weak Verbs)
Exercises in 35: Parsing (1-20 on pp. 271-272)
Completion of assigned Bible readings

Tentatively, the final examination for this class will be held on Friday morning of exam week. The final date, time and place will be announced.