Introduction

As a seminary we now find ourselves addressing two battles: “The Peril of Pastors without the Biblical Languages”¹ 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 most narrative sections of your Hebrew Bible with the aid of a dictionary (lexicon).

2. Acquisition of vocabulary (@ 392 vocabulary words in the first semester), pronunciation and reading proficiency will be emphasized as we give attention to reading select biblical texts. You can also access the website (www.basicsofbiblicalhebrew.com) and accompanying CD for extra help with vocabulary and pronunciation. Visit www.hebrewsyntax.org/bbh2 (user name and

password both bbh2), a website developed by a former GCTS student, John Beckman, for additional online help.

3. Creative and helpful mnemonics are offered so that the student might readily retain aspects of the grammar. Furthermore, a variety of learning strategies are employed to aid the learning process.

II. Required Textbooks/Readings


III. Recommended Resource


IV. Grading & Course Requirements

1. Weekly Quizzes (a total of 8)

All quizzes will be proctored. All quizzes should be taken no later than midnight on the due date given unless otherwise noted. General quiz content is indicated in brackets on the schedule below. All quizzes are cumulative regardless of the general content highlighted in brackets. Weekend one and three will have a Saturday quiz. *Eight quizzes are given. An average will be taken. Total score = 1/3 of final grade*

2. Tests (a total of 3)

All tests will be proctored unless otherwise noted.
All tests should be taken no later than midnight on the due date given unless otherwise noted. General cumulative test content is indicated in brackets on the schedule below. Three term tests are given. An average will be taken
Total score = 1/3 of final grade

3. A Final exam
The final exam = 1/3 of final grade
This will be proctored.
A review sheet will be provided.
This will be a three-hour exam written during exam week in December.

ATTENTION: in order to pass Hebrew I and continue with Hebrew II in the spring semester you must earn a grade of C- (70% or higher) in the class. Please keep this in mind as you configure your course load for the semester.

4. Required readings
There is a “Table of Insights” (p.xii) that will convince you to stay the course with the language! Read these as part of your devotions during the semester. I will give you a reading accountability sheet at the end of the course. Extra credit possible!

5. Class attendance and participation
For each weekend session attendance is REQUIRED. Due to the nature of the class absences will not be excused and a grade penalty will prevail.

Participation is crucial to language learning. Students will be called upon to interact with homework assignments previously prepared when we meet. Accountability with assignments through participation is the foundation for a long-term mastery of the language. For this reason your in-class responses will be noted with a basic grading system of a check mark, check plus, or a minus. Failure to do homework assignments will award you an automatic minus. If you receive two or more of these little marks, consequences will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Therefore, PLEASE come to class prepared. If you are not prepared, however, DO NOT STAY HOME! It is far better to come to class unprepared so that you can benefit from the classroom dynamic.
Assignment Expectations

Assignment Mechanics:

- Read each chapter’s summary **FIRST**
- Read my introductory comments handout (Hebrew Helps Handout on Sakai) **SECOND**. The latter document outlines the irreducible minimum elements in the chapter that you must master. It puts a zoom lens on where you should spend most of your time and energy relative to that chapter’s material. Too often students spin their wheels wondering what is most important in a given chapter and lose valuable time trying to figure it all out. While it is true that all of it is important, the document I created alleviates this guesswork and allows you to focus and be efficient in language learning.
- Read the entire chapter in the grammar **THIRD**.
- **FOURTH.** IF necessary, desired, or as time permits, listen to Sakai lectures/sound bites on a given chapter.
- Do workbook exercises **LAST**. Remember that the exercises in the workbook include new vocabulary from the chapter. In an ideal world it is best to get mastery over the vocabulary before beginning the exercises. However, if this is not possible you will have to apply the hunt and search method in order to complete your exercises. If you have to resort to the latter method (memorizing vocab after doing the exercises) at least be certain you comprehend the chapter’s grammar.
- In summation you are required to complete the workbook exercises, get comfortable with the chapter’s main grammatical content, and memorize the vocabulary of each chapter **BEFORE** we meet.

Keep in mind that each chapter has a corresponding lecture on Semlink featuring Dr. Pratico. Likewise, each/most chapters have a corresponding lecture/sound bite on Sakai featuring Dr. Petter. The CD-ROM accompanying the textbook gives answers to all workbook exercises. With these resources your language learning will be reinforced utilizing several learning strategies.

Please also note the important order outlined above for the mechanics of working through each week’s assignments. You will find your groove in the course of the semester. However, please try to follow my suggestions as closely as possible in order to get the most out of this course.
*Please note that on select chapters a video class may be required at the discretion of the professor. TBA

**Assigned Vocabulary:**

- Vocabulary is from Hebrew to English AND English to Hebrew unless otherwise noted. This means you must reproduce/compose Hebrew for most lessons. Full expectations for each chapter’s vocabulary are given on the accompanying Hebrew Helps Handout (HHH). Keeping up with the vocabulary on a weekly basis is crucial. Students strong in the language know vocabulary cold. All the formal vocabulary sections in each chapter of BBH are required on the weekend/date that the chapter’s grammar content and exercises are due.

- Review old words first, make flashcards for new words (or use pre-made vocab cards – not the best option, however) commence memorization of new words for the chapter(s). Review the whole batch and start process all over again. Flashworks and other on-line vocabulary aides are readily available and recommended for pronunciation purposes.

- Daily **NOT** weekly review is the key to long-term mastery of vocabulary. Small sound bites work best rather than massive review sessions. The latter is appropriate but only after establishing a daily routine.

- Write and recite for great delight! Let this be your motto for Hebrew vocabulary. In terms of writing, I am convinced that pre-made vocab cards short circuit the learning process because the tactile side of learning is neglected. In terms of reciting vocab words, both auditory and visual learning is taking place. Three of the five senses are, therefore, utilized! Indeed, you should write and recite for great delight!

**Assignment Basics:**

- Transliteration **NOT** required regardless of what the textbook says.
- Advanced Information sections **NOT** required unless otherwise noted. Please look for instructions on this weekly.
Fall Class & Assignment Schedule

Pre-class preparation: NOT OPTIONAL

Make sure you have READ the SYLLABUS in FULL BEFORE getting started on this pre-class assignment, pgs. 1-5 above.

Note also that I reserve the right to modify or change things in this document as I deem it necessary to reach our course objectives. This is especially important to keep in mind given the weekend design of the class. I do not anticipate, however, any major modifications.

Read: Chapter 1 summary on pg. 5
Read: My introductory comments handout for the chapter (Hebrew Helps Handout on CAMS/Sakai)
Read: Chapter 1 (The Alphabet/Sections 1.1-1.10) DO read Advanced Information pg.7
Listen: to Sakai on Chapter 1
Do: Exercises in 1: pp. 1-4 (all exercises)

REVIEW and start Chapter two!

Read: Chapter 2 summary on pgs. 14-16
Read: My introductory comments handout for the chapter
Read: Chapter 2 (The Vowels/Sections 2.1-2.12)
Listen: to Sakai on Chapter 2
Do: Exercises in 2: pp. 7-8 (do only 1-10 of the second exercise on p. 8)

**Your Primary Goal:** to know how to recite and write the Hebrew alphabet in order from right to left. You must also be able to identify each character out of order. You must know how to recite (with a consonant), write, and identify all the Hebrew vowels summarized by the charts on pg. 15, chapter 2.

**Your Secondary Goal:** to reproduce this information for your first quiz which will be given on Saturday morning, September 22. A thorough review on Friday evening will prepare you for this quiz!
**Weekend One:**
**Class: Fri/Sat September 21-22**

Class Introduction
Review grammar & workbook exercises chapters 1-2
Sat Sept 22: Quiz #1 (Consonant and vowel identification)
Introduction of new materials (chapters 3-5; brief comments on 6-9 see IH)

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**Homework:**
Chapter 3 (Syllabification-Pronunciation/Sections 3.1-3.14)
Exercises in 3: pp. 11-13 (all exercises)
*Wed Sept 26: Quiz #2 Syllabification only no vocab*

Chapter 4 (Hebrew Nouns/Sections 4.1-4.10, 12)
Exercises in 4: Revised instructions. Follow this NOT the workbook
1. Do numbers 1-25 on pgs. 15-16 give the following information for each noun listed:

   Gender   number   lexical form   translation

   Please note that the *lexical form* is the form without the plural endings or the singular form found in your vocab list /lexicon. You must be able to reproduce the *lexical form* in Hebrew with all consonants and vowels.

2. For #’s 1, 12, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25 of that same list on pgs. 15-16 look at the plural form. Try to determine if the plural is exhibiting: no change in spelling, propretonic reduction spelling change, segholate pattern spelling change, or just an irregular spelling change.

3. Do #’s 1-10 (feminine nouns on pg. 16)4. Do #’s 1-10 (segholate nouns on pg. 17)

5. Do #’s 2, 6, 10, 14, 18, 19, 24 (advanced exercise part 1 on pgs. 17-18) according to the following instructions NOT those in workbook:
   ✓ start with the answer key by looking at the plural noun
   ✓ determine/write out the lexical form
   ✓ determine the spelling change

6. Do #’s 1-8 (advanced exercise part 2 on pg. 19)
   ✓ start with the answer key by looking at the plural noun
   ✓ translate the plural
   ✓ translate the singular

*Wed Oct 3: Quiz #3: Nouns and noun pluralization rules and vocab 3-4.*

Chapter 5 (Hebrew Definite Article/Sections 5.1-5.9, 11)
Exercises in 5: pp. 21-23 (all exercises)

*Wed Oct 10:* Quiz #4: Nouns and noun pluralization and Definite Article; vocabulary of chapters 3-5.

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**Homework after all quizzes are completed:**
Note that you have roughly nine days from your last quiz date until we meet again. These nine days should be used to work through the assigned chapters. Make sure you have worked through the chapters in the manner outlined above under assignment mechanics. The hardest part will most likely be the mastery of the vocabulary. You could consider condensing things by taking the quizzes sooner but only if you feel/are ready!

Chapter 6 (Prepositions/Sections 6.1-6.11)
Exercises in 6: pp. 25-28 (excluding composition exercise)

Chapter 7 (Adjectives/Sections 7.1-7.10)
Exercises in 7: Parsing (1-20); Translation (1-15); Inflecting (1-3, 7-9); Bible translations 1-14). Focus on identifying and producing the lexical form of an adjective

Chapter 8 (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 1-11; do not do the composition exercise on p. 38

Exercises in 9: Part 1 (1-15); Part 2 (odd only); Part 3 (odd only); Bible translations (3,5)

In sum you will have worked through three chapters (3-5), taken three quizzes on those chapters, and started work on four new chapters before the next weekend session!

**Weekend Two**
**Class: Fri/Sat October 19-October 20**
Review grammar & workbook exercises chapters 6-9
No Sat quiz!
Introduction of new materials (10-13)

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**Homework:** Review for quizzes
**Wed Oct 24:** Quiz #5 (prepositions, Inflection, use, and translation of adjectives, pronouns, pronominal suffixes, vocab through 9)

**Wed Oct 31:** Test #1 Chapters 1-9

**Wed Nov 7:** No Quiz!

**Homework after all quizzes are completed:**

Note again that you have roughly nine days from your last quiz date until we meet again. These nine days should be used to work through the assigned chapters. Make sure you have worked through the chapters in the manner outlined above under assignment mechanics. The hardest part will most likely be the mastery of the vocabulary due to volume.

Chapter 10 (Hebrew Construct Chain/Sections: 10.1-10.7)
Exercises in 10: Translation (1-24); Bible translations (1-20); Construct nouns: Part 1-2 (know the rules that govern construct nouns so you can identify a construct noun when you see one (see HHH). For all exercises in Part 1 start with the answer key. Look at the construct form (answer) and compare it to the absolute form given, determine the rule that was applied (either... ending change +vowel reduction or just vowel reduction). For Part 2 start with the answer key. All you have to do is make vocab. cards for these irregular constructs that do not follow the standard rules (make cards for #'s 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, and 14).

Chapter 11 (Hebrew Numerals)
Read only no exercises except for vocabulary

Chapter 12 (Verbs/Sections 12.1-12.18)
Exercises in 12: Translation (1-12); also 12b (pp. 63-66; read this carefully)

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)

**Weekend Three**

**Fri/Sat November 9-10**
Review grammar & workbook exercises chapters 10-13
Sat Nov 10 : Quiz #6 (Construct Chain and rules, vocab thru 10)
Introduction to chapter 14-16 (Part I) Imperfect weak verbs, Part 1 = (Chapter 16.1-16.11 ONLY)
Homework: Review for quizzes

Wed Nov 14: Test #2 Chapters 1-11

Wed Nov 21: Quiz #7 (Qal Perfect Strong verb, vocab thru 13)

Wed Nov 28: No Quiz

Homework after all quizzes are completed:

Note again that you have roughly nine days from your last quiz date until we meet again. These nine days should be used to work through the assigned chapters. Make sure you have worked through the chapters in the manner outlined above under assignment mechanics.

Chapter 14 (Qal Perfect: Weak Verbs/Sections 14.1-14.16)
Exercises in 14a: Parsing (1-20); Translation (odd only); Bible translations 1,3,4,7
Exercises in 14b: Parsing (1-15); Bible translations (1,4,7)

Chapter 15 (Imperfect Strong Verbs/Sections 15.1-15.11)
Exercises in 15: Parsing (1-15); Translation (odd only); Bible translation (1-5, 9); Inflecting (1-15)

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 (7,9,10)

Weekend Four
Fri/Sat Dec 7-8
Review grammar & workbook exercises chapters 14-16 Part I
No Sat. quiz!
Introduction to 16 (Part II Introduction to Qal Imperfect weak verbs, Part 2 = {Chapter 16.12 – 16.23} and 17)

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Homework: Review for test and quiz

Wed Dec 12: Test #3 (Chapters 1-14)

Wed Dec 19: Quiz: #8 (Qal Perfect Strong - Imperfect Strong and weak (16PI), vocab thru 16)
Homework after all quizzes completed:

Exercises in 16 Part II
Exercises in 16c: Parsing (1-15); Bible translations (1, 3-6)
Exercises in 16d: Parse and find verb pg. 112 only
Exercises in 16e: Parsing (1-15); Bible translations (1-5)

Chapter 17 (Waw Consecutive 17:1-12)
Exercises in 17: Parsing (1-10 on p. 125); Bible translations (1-4, 7,10, 11, 13 on pp. 126-128): Parsing (1-10 on p. 130): Bible translations (2,3,9 on pp. 131-132)

Review and Preparation for Final

Friday, Dec 21st Final exam: g & w exercises 1-17

Note: The final exam will cover chapters 1-17. You will not have been tested on the content of chapter 16 (part II) and chapter 17. Therefore, make sure you review this material well before the final exam.
Spring Assignment Schedule

**Weekend One**
Friday, January 4  
Saturday, January 5

**Weekend Two**
Friday, February 1  
Saturday, February 2

**Weekend Three**
Friday, March 1  
Saturday, March 2

**Weekend Four**
April?