Syllabus: OL502

OL502: Hebrew II with Dr. Gary Pratico

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Course Objectives
This course is the second part of a two-course sequence, Hebrew I and Hebrew II, that is designed to equip students with a knowledge of basic Hebrew grammar and vocabulary. With the completion of these two courses, a student can expect to read most prose sections of the Hebrew Bible with the use of a standard lexicon. While students can also expect to be able to read some Old Testament poetry, this genre tends to be more difficult than prose, and it often requires an intermediate capability with the language.

The core textbook for Hebrew I and Hebrew II will be Basics of Biblical Hebrew by Gary Pratico and Miles Van Pelt. Under this title, there is both a grammar and a workbook. Both of these volumes are required. It is essential that you acquire the second edition (Zondervan, 2007) of the grammar and workbook. The course schedule, grammar assignments, and exercises come from the second edition of both works. Attempting to work with an older version of the grammar and workbook will lead to confusion in the assignments and exercises.

It is important for students to understand that until Semlink Hebrew has been updated to reflect the second edition of the grammar and workbook (2007), you will be working with course materials that are built around the first edition of both volumes. We cannot emphasize strongly enough that you must use the second edition of the grammar and workbook.

Hebrew I will cover chapters 1-17 of the grammar. This section of the grammar will study the non-verbal grammar such as nouns, adjectives, and prepositions. It will also study the two major finite verbal inflections, the Perfect and the Imperfect. Hebrew II will complete the grammar, covering chapters 18-36. This section of the grammar will complete the study of Hebrew verbs, focusing primarily on what are called the "derived stems."

Throughout both courses, there will be an emphasis on pronunciation and the acquisition of a frequency vocabulary. The former will be accomplished through the lectures and additional audio aids; the latter will focus on the grammar's formal vocabulary sections and other frequency vocabulary resources detailed below.

Each chapter of the grammar has a section that presents an exegetical insight or word study (among other topics) that will show the importance of knowing Hebrew for the study and understanding of the Old Testament. It is our hope that, even at this beginning level of language study, students will see that it is does make a difference to approach the Old Testament text from the perspective of the
Textbooks

Required textbooks:


Recommended textbooks (not required in this course). The following lexicons may be helpful during basic language instruction and future Old Testament language courses:

- A rather full bibliography of sources for the study of Hebrew and for the exegesis of the Old Testament is given in chapter 36 of the grammar (see especially section 36.8).

Vocabulary resources.


Study guides and other resources.

- For additional study helps, go to our website (www.basicsofbiblicalhebrew.com).

Course Requirements

Please Note: This is a twenty-week course of study. The course schedule (including weekly assignments as well as quizzes and exams) has been spread over the full twenty weeks, with more than a week at the end to prepare for the final examination.

One chapter of the grammar will be required each week. Within a reasonable range of variation, try to establish a schedule of study that is consistent each week.

1. Required Reading and Study

   By way of introduction to the course textbooks, it is essential that you read the preface to *Basics of Biblical Hebrew: Grammar* and also the preface to *Basics of Biblical Hebrew: Workbook*. In these sections, we have explained the layout of the grammar and the workbook. This is information you need to know in order to work effectively with the textbooks for this course. In addition, each week you will be required to read and study the appropriate chapter of the grammar.

   Early in the week, read the assigned chapter carefully and begin to commit required paradigms and vocabulary to memory. Practice these required forms several times throughout the week in short blocks of study (ten to fifteen minutes). Be patient. It takes time to master paradigms and vocabulary. Some will be mastered quickly and easily; others are more difficult and will take longer.

   In every chapter, after each formal vocabulary section, we have included a short study that is designed to illustrate how a
knowledge of the original language makes a difference in your understanding of a biblical text or the meaning of a word in a particular context. There are other studies as well that you will find interesting and informative. They are written by Old Testament scholars, graduate students in Old Testament studies, pastors, and youth leaders. The range of writers indicates that you don't need a doctoral degree in Hebrew Bible to use the language for a deeper understanding of God's Scriptures and for a more effective communication of biblical truth.

2. Memorization
Memorization of the formal vocabulary section is required. You should aim to have the vocabulary for each chapter memorized toward the end of the week in which the chapter is due. The various quizzes and exams will test vocabulary from Hebrew to English only; that is, you will not be asked to produce vocabulary words in Hebrew. Be diligent in your mastery of vocabulary. Don't get behind.

You will also be required to memorize selected paradigms as specified in the course schedule and in the grammar.

3. Completion of Workbook Exercises
Each of the twenty weeks of this course is presented in the following categories:

1. heading with the week and chapter designation (basically one chapter a week)
2. brief survey of chapter content with points of emphasis and helpful hints
3. hints as to how and what to study in the week’s material
4. required exercises
5. a checklist for each chapter that is designed to be certain that you have covered the essentials

The checklist is important. Don’t go on to the next chapter and assignment unless you have checked off each item on the list.

Do your homework on the required exercises in longer blocks of time (an hour or more). Schedule a few of these times for exercises throughout the week. Take the practice quizzes toward the end of the week, leaving time to study those forms or grammar concepts that you appear not to have mastered in light of quiz mistakes. The expectation is that you will spend about four hours (perhaps a little more) on each chapter. This includes the lecture. Don’t spend less than four hours on each chapter and be prepared to spend a little more time on certain others.

Don’t continue on to the next chapter until you have good mastery of the week’s material. In each chapter of the grammar, there is a summary section just before the formal vocabulary. Review the summary section as you prepare to move on to the next chapter. If something is unfamiliar or uncertain in your understanding, review that discussion before continuing.

Carefully study the content and requirements for each assignment. The exercises noted in this schedule of weekly assignments are required. All required exercises are to be found in Basics of Biblical Hebrew: Workbook. The workbook has additional exercises that may be used for practice, but it is important that you do the required exercises first. The additional exercises are optional. The answer key covers all exercises in the grammar so that you can do some optional exercises and know if you’ve done them correctly.

Be certain that you have truly mastered all of the required exercises. This means that you should understand the form (spelling) and the use of every Hebrew word in every exercise. If a particular exercise has a verb, for example, you should be able to provide all parsing information, including verbal root. The grammar gives careful attention to the matter of how to identify and parse various verbal and non-verbal forms.

This word of instruction is particularly important in the translation of Bible texts. On occasion, you may need to consult an English translation, but it is essential that you understand the spelling and use of every Hebrew word in the verse. Don’t make the mistake of relying on an English translation. This should be a last resort and not a point of departure.

Most chapters conclude with an Advanced Information section. These sections are not required unless noted. The Advanced Information sections are for those who might want further detail on a particular topic.

An answer key has been prepared for all of the exercises in the grammar, except the Bible texts. Use the answer key wisely. Don’t begin your work on the exercises with the answer key. Don’t become dependent on the use of the answer key. use it sparingly and only after you have made a serious effort to do the exercise in question on your own. Reliance on the answer key will hinder your mastery of this language.

4. Exams and Quizzes
There will be two required quizzes and two required exams in this course. If you are a student at the Hamilton campus, you may take your exams at the Goddard Library, and you should request one exam at a time. Any other students should designate a proctor who will be able to administer all four exams for the course (see frequently asked questions below). When you are ready to take your first quiz, contact the Semlink office (see contact information below). Please allow at least two weeks for delivery. The Semlink office will send all four exams to your proctor at one time. The exams should be returned to the Semlink office one at a time, by your proctor, as soon as you have completed them. The professor will grade your exam within one day of receiving it from the Semlink office. However, please allow at least 2 weeks for the exam to reach the Semlink office and be
Quiz 1: a two hour exam must be completed by the end of the 5th week. It will review the verbal material of chapters 12-17 and will also include chapters 18-21. The quiz will consist of the following sections:
- Inflection of Qal Perfect, Imperfect and Imperative verbs (strong and weak) as required in the grammar
- Parsing and translation of Qal Perfects, Imperfects, Imperatives, Cohortatives, Jussives, Infinitive Constructs, Infinitive Absolutes, Active Particiles and Passive Particiles (strong and weak verbs)
- Identification and translation of Qal Perfects and Imperfects with Waw Conversive in contexts of narrative sequence
- Translation of one or two verbal forms with an object suffix
- Several sentence translations will be included

Midterm: a three hour exam must be completed by the end of the 10th week. The exam will cover the content of chapters 18-25, including the vocabulary of those chapters, but with an emphasis on the vocabulary of chapters 18-23. Selected verbal forms from earlier chapters (13-17) will also appear on this exam. Further, you understand that grammar and vocabulary are cumulative in the sense that the various translations on this exam will require you to draw upon work from Hebrew I. Most of the following topics will appear on the exam:
- A few Qal Perfect verbs to inflect, parse or translate
- A few Qal Imperfect verbs to inflect, parse or translate
- A few Qal Perfect or Imperfect verbs with Waw Conversive to parse or translate
- Qal Imperative verbs to inflect, parse or translate
- Qal Cohortative and Jussive verbs to parse or translate
- An example or two of a pronominal suffix on a verb for translation only
- Qal Infinitive Constructs to parse or translate
- Qal Infinitive Absolutes to parse or translate
- Qal Active Participles to inflect, parse or translate
- Qal Passive Participles to inflect, parse or translate
- Niphal verbs (strong and weak) to parse or translate
- A few composed sentence translations with parsing in context
- A few Bible translations which have been assigned as part of homework for chapters 18-25

Quiz 2: a two hour exam must be completed by the end of the fifteenth week. In small measure it will review the verbal material of chapters 12-19. The primary focus will be on chapters 20-30. The following sections will appear on this quiz:
- A section in which you will be asked to parse large numbers of verbal forms from any of the Hebrew conjugations (Perfect, Imperfect, Imperative, Cohortative, Jussive, Infinitive Construct, Infinitive Absolute, Active and Passive Participle in the Qal (strong and weak), Niphal (strong and weak), Piel (strong and weak), Pual (strong and weak), and Hiphil (strong only).
- There will also be a few biblical translations that have been taken from the required Bible texts that you have already translated in this class. There will be a restricted use of the lexicon for these texts.
- Lastly, there will be or two short biblical texts that you have not seen before in Hebrew. You will have unlimited use of the lexicon on these texts.

Final: a three hour exam to be taken after you have completed chapter 35, and must be completed by the end of twenty weeks. Please note: You must receive a grade of C or higher on the Final Exam in order to pass the class.

The final exam will cover the contents of chapters 13-35, with focus on the material of chapters 18-35. Of course, you understand that the non-verbal grammar (chapters 1-10) will be assumed and will be required as part of translation. The exam will consist of three parts:
1. parsing of verbs (Qal and derived stem, strong and weak)
2. a selection of Bible texts that were required during Hebrew II (with restricted use of the lexicon)
3. a Bible text that you have not seen in Hebrew (with unlimited use of the lexicon)

This examination format will present you with many of the following:
- a few Qal Parfect verbs to parse or translate
- a few Qal Imperfect verbs to parse or translate
- Qal Imperative verbs to parse or translate
- Qal Cohortative and Jussive verbs to parse or translate
- an example or two of a pronominal suffix on a verb for translation
- Qal Infinitive Constructs to parse or translate
- Qal Infinitive Absolutes to parse or translate
- Qal Active Participles to parse or translate
- Qal Passive Participles to parse or translate
- Niphal, Piel, Pual, Hiphil, Hophal and Hithpael verbs (strong and weak) to parse or translate.
Grading

Your final grade for the course will be computed on the following basis:

- Average of both Quizes 1/3 of final grade
- Midterm Exam 1/3 of final grade
- Final Exam 1/3 of final grade

The grading scale is as follows: A 93-100; A- 90-92; B+ 88-89; B 83-87; B- 80-82; C+ 78-79; C 73-77; C- 70-72; D+ 68-69; D=63-67; D-=60-62; F<60

Important Grading Policies

*** In this class, you are required to complete two (2) quizzes and two (2) exams. Each quiz and test must be completed and post marked by the date assigned to it by the Semlink Office. If a quiz or exam is not postmarked by its due date, a penalty of one full letter grade will be assigned to that assignment. ***

*** Any student who has not demonstrated competency (not perfection, but competency) on any portion of a quiz or exam will be required to contact a teaching fellow for additional help before taking a follow-up examination on that particular topic only. This make-up exam must be completed before a student can take the next exam in the sequence. This requirement will be imposed only if the student's work is considered to be failing, that is, in the D range or below. A notation will be placed on the corrected exam that this exercise will be required. The Teaching Fellow will follow-up with the student to arrange for the make-up. This follow-up evaluation will be pass/fail. ***

*** You must receive a grade of C or higher on the Final Exam in order to pass the class. ***