OTHB5300 Introductory Hebrew Grammar
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Biblical Studies Division
Internet - Summer 2021

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Mission Statement

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Course Description

Students explore the foundations of Hebrew grammar and basic vocabulary so that they will be able to do basic translation and exegesis of the Hebrew text of the Old Testament. The course emphasizes basic grammatical constructions and rules of grammar as well as tools necessary for the student to work with the original language. The course includes basic readings from the Hebrew text.

Student Learning Outcomes

A. *Knowledge*

Students who complete this course should have:
- Learned basic grammatical forms and functions of biblical Hebrew
- Come to understand the basic syntax of Hebrew narrative texts
- Mastered a basic vocabulary of biblical Hebrew
- Acquired an adequate foundation for further study of biblical Hebrew

B. *Attitudes*

Students who complete this course successfully will have:
- Begun to see the value of reading from the "original" Hebrew for interpreting the Old Testament
- Achieved a growing appreciation for the richness of the Old Testament language
- Become motivated to embrace the discipline of Hebrew language study as a part of an ongoing commitment to excellence in ministry

C. *Skills*

Students who complete this course successfully should be able to:
- Read biblical Hebrew properly (using proper pronunciation)
- Translate from representative Hebrew narrative texts
- Implement basic grammatical and syntactical elements of basic Hebrew narrative texts
- Utilize a basic lexicon, an introductory grammar, and other selected resources as effective tools for translating and interpreting biblical Hebrew texts

Textbooks and Resources
    A. Required
- Cook, John A. and Robert D. Holmstedt. *Beginning Biblical Hebrew: A Grammar and Illustrated Reader*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2013. (**BBH**)
- Holladay, William L. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1998.
- Seow, C. L. *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew*. Revised edition. Nashville: Abingdon, 1995.

    B. Optional Resources
- Elliger, K. and W. Rudolph. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. New York: American Bible Society, 2001.
- Long, Gary V. *Grammatical Concepts 101 for Biblical Hebrew*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2013.
- Van Pelt, Miles and Gary Pratico. *Charts of Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007.

Course Teaching Methodology
This course consists of a basic study of the fundamentals of biblical Hebrew using an inductive method and focusing on narrative literature. The course serves as a foundation for reading in the Hebrew Old Testament and for advanced study of Hebrew grammar and syntax.

Course Requirements
    A. Weekly Exercises (**10%**): Students will be required to submit weekly exercises from the *Beginning Biblical Hebrew* textbook. The required exercises for each week will be given on Blackboard under the "Weekly Exercises" assignment tab in each unit. Students will submit their exercises on Blackboard by Sunday of each week.
    B. Class Participation & Discussion Boards (**10%**): Students will submit at least one (1) response to Discussion Board questions posted on Blackboard throughout the term, but are encouraged to use this as an opportunity to interact with classmates as well. The students' class participation grade will be made up regular, on-time assignment submissions and Discussion Board posts throughout the course.
    C. Hebrew Readings (**15%**): The *Beginning Biblical Hebrew* textbook contains thirteen (13) "Readings," starting from the back of the book and moving right to left and back to front—in true Hebrew fashion. Students will be required to complete selected portions of eleven (11) these readings, designed to be immersive, throughout the semester. The required portions for each "Reading" will be given on Blackboard under the "Hebrew Reading" tab in each unit. Students will submit these assignments on Blackboard by Sunday of each week.
    D. Parsing Exercises (**10%**): The second half of the course contains four (4) parsing exercises, requiring students to parse a number of words and provide explanation for the parsing. These assignments will be submitted on Blackboard by Sunday of each week.
    E. Vocabulary Quizzes (**15%**): Students will take a total of eight (8) vocabulary quizzes on Blackboard throughout the semester. The quizzes are to be taken without the aid of outside resources and must be completed by Sunday of each week. While other assignments may be submitted late, quizzes are made unavailable after 11:59 pm each Sunday and may not be reopened for individual students without prior approval.
    F. Sectional Exams (**25%**): Students will take two (2) sectional exams during the term: one in Unit 6 and one in Unit 11. The exams will be taken on Blackboard prior to the end of the day on Sunday. While other assignments may be submitted late, the sectional exams are made unavailable after 11:59 pm on Sunday and may not be reopened for individual students without prior approval.

G. <u>Final Exam (**15%**)</u>: Students will take a final exam for this course on Blackboard. The final exam for this course must be taken by the end of the day **Thursday, July 29.**

H. <u>Extra Credit</u>: Students will be given the opportunity to earn up to three (3) points toward their final average by submitting the translation for one of the two remaining Hebrew Readings (**יב** or **יג**) from *Beginning Biblical Hebrew*. You are only required to submit translation of the story; you do not have to complete all of the other questions in the Reading. The extra credit must be submitted before **Thursday, July 29**.

<u>Late Work</u>: Assignments submitted after the due date will incur a **three (3) point penalty each day** the assignment is not submitted, including weekends. Quizzes and exams may not be made up after they have closed unless prior approval has been granted by the professor.

Evaluation of Grade
The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Weekly Exercises	10%
Class Participation/Discussion Boards	10%
Hebrew Readings	15%
Parsing Exercises	10%
Vocabulary Quizzes	15%
Sectional Exams (2 @ 12.5% each)	25%
Final Exam	15%

Technical Assistance
For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:
1. <u>Selfserve@nobts.edu</u> - Email for technical questions/support requests with the <u>Selfserve.nobts.edu</u> site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. <u>BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu</u> - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System <u>NOBTS.Blackboard.com</u>.
3. <u>ITCSupport@nobts.edu</u> - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. <u>www.NOBTS.edu/itc/</u> - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Attendance and Classroom Etiquette
While an online course does not have an "attendance policy" per se, students are expected to be active participants each week of the class. Students are expected to complete all assignments in a timely manner, including weekly assignments, quizzes, and exams.

Students are also expected to be respectful of their classmates in any online discussion and interaction. Any student who repeatedly demonstrates a lack of respect for classmates or the professors may be required to meet with the professors and the Dean of Students and could be subject to removal from the class.

Help for Writing Papers at "The Write Stuff"
NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments
NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Course Schedule

Week and Units	Assignments due	Due Date
WEEK ONE **(Units 1 & 2)**	**BBH: Lessons 1-2** *Unit 1* *Course Covenant, Hebrew Alphabet Exercise, Weekly Exercises, Unit 1 Discussion Board* **BBH: Lessons 3-6** *Unit 2* *Vocabulary Quiz 1, Weekly Exercises*	**Sunday, June 6**
WEEK TWO **(Units 3 & 4)**	**BBH: Lessons 7-9** *Unit 3* *Hebrew Reading א, Weekly Exercises* **BBH: Lessons 10-12** *Unit 4* *Vocabulary Quiz 2, Weekly Exercises*	**Sunday, June 13**
WEEK THREE **(Units 5 & 6)**	**BBH: Lessons 13-15** *Unit 5* *Vocabulary Quiz 3, Hebrew Reading ב, Weekly Exercise* **BBH: Lessons 16-18** *Unit 6* *Hebrew Reading ג, Weekly Exercises,* ***Sectional Exam 1***	**Sunday, June 20**
WEEK FOUR **(Units 7 & 8)**	**BBH: Lessons 19-22** *Unit 7* *Vocabulary Quiz 4, Hebrew Reading ד, Weekly Exercises* **BBH: Lessons 23-26** *Unit 8* *Vocabulary Quiz 5, Hebrew Reading ה, Weekly Exercises*	**Sunday, June 27**
Summer Break (Catch-up Week) June 28 - July 4		
WEEK FIVE **(Units 9 & 10)**	**BBH: Lessons 27-30** *Unit 9* *Vocabulary Quiz 6, Hebrew Reading ו, Weekly Exercises* **BBH: Lessons 31-34** *Unit 10* *Parsing Exercise 1, Hebrew Reading ז, Weekly Exercises*	**Sunday, July 11**
WEEK SIX **(Units 11 & 12)**	**BBH: Lessons 35-38** *Unit 11* *Vocabulary Quiz 7, Hebrew Reading ח,* ***Sectional Exam 2*** **BBH: Lessons 39-41** *Unit 12* *Parsing Exercise 2, Hebrew Reading ט, Weekly Exercises*	**Sunday, July 18**
WEEK SEVEN **(Units 13 & 14)**	**BBH: Lessons 42-44** *Unit 13* *Vocabulary Quiz 8, Parsing Exercise 3, Hebrew Reading י* **BBH: Lessons 45-46** *Unit 14* *Parsing Exercise 4, Hebrew Reading יא, Weekly Exercises*	**Sunday, July 25**
WEEK EIGHT **(Unit 15)**	**BBH: Lessons 47-50** *Unit 15* ***Final Exam***	**Thursday, July 29**

 *Any assignments submitted after Thursday, July 29 will not be accepted.

Additional Items

Attendance: The term may seem strange for an Internet course, but you are expected to "show up" on a regular basis, participate consistently, and submit work as indicated in unit instructions. Failure to "show up" regularly may result in an administrative withdrawal from the course. If you have severe problems that are hindering your adequate participation, please contact the professor as soon as possible.

Courtesy: All members of the class are to follow the rules of common courtesy in all communications and interaction. Remember that real people are out there struggling at their keyboards just as you are. Timely and considerate response will be particularly important when students are interacting with other members of the class individually or corporately.

Submission of Work: The course is taught at present in something of an "open format," meaning that to some extent you may work at your own pace, within reason of course, but you should submit work on a regular basis. The problem, particularly in study of a language, is that if you get behind in the course, you will find it very difficult to catch up as you might in other types of courses. So, approach the work in a disciplined manner, plan specific times to complete your work, and submit assignments regularly and systematically no later than the date given on the schedule above.

NOTE: Calling the course "open format" and allowing you to submit work at your own pace, within reason, does not mean that you can submit assignments in any order that you choose. The course is designed so that you make gradual progress in mastery of the language and assignments that you are to submit are a part of that design. Consequently, assignments are to be submitted according to the order in which they are assigned and will be accepted for grading only in that order. If you are having problems with a particular assignment, that may be a sign that you need to do more study/work/review at that point. It may also be a signal that you need to consult with the professor on the matter.

Marvels and Messes: Computers are great tools, but they do not always work correctly all the time. You already know that, so make a practice of backing up your work. Because this is an online class, students are expected to have regular access to a working computer as well as an internet connection. While the professor recognizes that computers sometimes crash or are otherwise problematic, it is the student's responsibility to have a "back-up plan" in place should his/her computer malfunction. In addition, do not wait until the last day, hour, or minute to complete and/or submit your work. You may not be able to log on, the server may down (which does happen from time to time), and God alone knows what else might happen. So plan ahead. *Encountering these kinds of problems during last minute rushes does not constitute an excuse for failure to complete your work in a timely fashion*.

Honesty and Education: The Course Covenant already addresses some issues falling into this arena, but another note is in order. In a standard classroom educational environment, the time that all students are together with the professor is a very restricted time, so that great potential for dishonesty has always existed in that setting. With an Internet course, such a potential is certainly more real. While most components of the course will have built-in safeguards, some will not, by the very nature of the work. The challenge, then, for each of you is to keep before you the goal of learning well the subject matter of this course. In your case, it is the Hebrew language, mastery of which will allow you to read the word of God written in one of its original languages. Such a privilege can hardly be overvalued. So determine to do the work, as it is assigned, so that you will have the best opportunity to succeed in the best sense.

Selected Bibliography

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