

Introduction to Biblical Hebrew
Austin Graduate School of Theology
HEB 6310—Course Syllabus
Fall 2019

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Office Hours:

Mon., Tues. 11:00-12:00 AM, 1:00–3:00 PM; Thurs., 1:00–3:00 PM.

MATS Course Goal:

The student will interpret passages of the Old Testament in light of its literary, historical, and theological contexts.

Course Objectives:

There are three objectives to this course: first, to gain facility in reading and translating the Hebrew Scriptures; second, to gain a basic understanding of the grammar and syntax of Classical Hebrew; and third, to become familiar with the task of exegesis and the tools of exegesis (concordances, dictionaries, grammars, etc.).

By the end of the semester, the student should have a basic grasp of the grammar and syntax of simple Hebrew sentences and be able to translate simple narrative texts from the Hebrew Bible with the use of a dictionary.

Grading:

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| Homework and notebooks: | 10% |
| 5 twenty point Quizzes (vocabulary, paradigms): | 10% |
| 3 Exams over grammar: | 60% |

Exegesis paper:

20%

Assignments:

Weekly homework and notebooks: All students will do the weekly homework assignments. These assignments, as well as all lecture notes and handouts, will be kept in a binder. The completeness and organization of the binder will be graded at the end of the semester.

5 quizzes: See schedule below. There are periodic quizzes on vocabulary and grammar throughout the course.

3 exams: See schedule below. In lieu of a mid-term or final, there are three exams over the grammar and vocabulary learned up to that point. The exam questions are taken almost entirely from the *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Workbook*.

Exegesis paper: Each graduate credit student will prepare a 5–7 page exegesis of a passage from the Old Testament, utilizing Hebrew skills learned during the semester.

Textbooks and Bible Search Software:

Required Texts:

Pratico, Gary D. and van Pelt, Miles V. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew*. 2nd edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007.

Pratico, Gary D. and van Pelt, Miles V. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew: Workbook*. 2nd edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007.

Brown, F., Driver, S., and Briggs, C. *The New Brown, Driver, and Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1906.

Recommended Resources:

Pratico, Gary D. and van Pelt, Miles V. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Vocabulary Audio CD*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.

Van Pelt, Miles. *Biblical Hebrew: A Compact Guide*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.

Bible Search Software:

I will be using *Accordance* version 12 in this course. *Accordance* is a powerful Bible concordance and search engine, for the Mac or PC. If you do not already own a version of Logos, BibleWorks, Olive Tree *Bible Study App.*, or a version of *Accordance*, the purchase and download of one of these resources onto your computer is highly recommended.

There is also a free, web-based morphological search engine called “STEP Bible,” produced by Tyndale House in England. It is a little difficult to learn initially, but is also very good, and it is affordable!

Schedule:

August 29: The Hebrew alphabet.

Pratico chap. 1.

September 5: Vowels. **Quiz #1** (Alphabet).

Pratico chap. 2.

September 12: Syllables and Pronunciation; **Quiz #2** (Vowels).

Pratico chap. 3.

September 19: Hebrew Nouns.

Pratico chap. 4.

September 26: Definite article and conjunction; **Exam #1**.

Pratico chap. 5.

October 3: Hebrew prepositions. **Quiz #3** (Vocabulary).

Pratico chap. 6.

October 10: Hebrew adjectives and pronouns;

Pratico chaps 7-8.

October 17: Hebrew pronoun suffixes. **Quiz #4** (Vocabulary).

Pratico chap. 9.

October 24: Hebrew construct chain and numbers.

Pratico chaps. 10-11.

October 31: Intro. to Hebrew verbs; **Exam #2**.

Pratico chap. 12.

November 7: Qal perfect—strong verbs.

Pratico chaps. 13.

November 14: Qal perfect—weak verbs; **Quiz #5** (Vocabulary or grammar).

Pratico chap. 14.

November 21: Qal Imperfect—strong verbs.

Pratico chap. 15.

November 28: *No class (Thanksgiving holiday)*.

December 5: Qal Imperfect—weak verbs (or review).

Pratico chap. 16.

December 12: **Exam #3 (Final Exam)**.