

**Introduction to Biblical Hebrew**  
Austin Graduate School of Theology  
HEB 6310—Course Syllabus, Fall 2020

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**Office Hours:** No office hours this semester; call or e-mail me.

**Class Meeting Time:** Thurs. 1:00–3:40 PM.

**MATS Course Goal:**

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

**Course Objectives and Requirements:**

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.

Regular attendance at all class meetings and timely submission of all class assignments is a requirement.

All students are expected to prepare a notebook, with all your relevant

translation homework and other notes that I may provide from time to time. The notebook will include all assigned portions from Pratico as well as selected readings and exegetical notes. This notebook will be due the last day of class. There will be several 20 point quizzes on vocabulary and grammatical points. There will also be two exams on grammar, vocabulary, and translation.

*Grading:*

Homework and notebooks:20%

5 20 point Quizzes (vocabulary, paradigms): 20%

2 Exams over grammar:60%

**Textbooks and Bible Search Software:**

*Required Texts:*

Pratico, Gary D. and van Pelt, Miles V. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew*. 3rd. edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2019.

Pratico, Gary D. and van Pelt, Miles V. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew: Workbook*. 3rd. edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2019.

*If you do not have a Bible search software program, you will need this dictionary:*

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 13 in this course. *Accordance* is a powerful Bible concordance and search engine, for the Mac or

PC. If you do not already own Logos, BibleWorks, Olive Tree, or a previous version of Accordance, the purchase and download of Accordance or one of these other programs onto your computer is required.

## **Schedule:**

*Week 1: August 26: The Hebrew alphabet.*

Pratico chap. 1.

Workbook chapter 1.

*Week 2: September 3: Vowels. Quiz #1 (Alphabet).*

Pratico chap. 2.

Workbook chapter 2.

*Quiz #1, Hebrew alphabet.*

*Week 3: September 10: Syllables and Pronunciation; Quiz #2 (Vowels).*

Pratico chap. 3.

Workbook chapter 3.

*Quiz #2, Hebrew vowels.*

*Week 4: September 17: Hebrew Nouns.*

Pratico chap. 4.

Workbook chapter 4.

*Week 5: September 24: Definite article, conjunction, and prepositions.*

Pratico chaps. 5-6.

Workbook chaps. 5-6.

*Week 6: October 1: Hebrew adjectives.*

Pratico chap. 7.

Workbook chapter 7.

*Week 7: October 8: Hebrew pronouns; Quiz #3; Vocabulary, Pratico chaps. 2-7.*

*Quiz #3, vocabulary, Pratico chaps. 2-7.*

Pratico chapter 8.  
Workbook chapter 8.

*Week 8: October 15: Mid-term exam and Hebrew pronoun suffixes.*  
*Mid-term Exam: Pratico chaps. 1-7.*  
Pratico chap. 9.  
Workbook chap. 9.

*Week 9: October 22: Hebrew construct chain.*  
Pratico chap. 10.  
Workbook chap. 10.

*Week 10: October 29: Numbers and Intro. to Hebrew verbs.*  
Pratico chaps. 11-12.  
Workbook chaps. 11-12.

*Week 11: November 5: Qal perfect—strong verbs.*  
Pratico chap. 13.  
Workbook chap. 13.

*Week 12: November 12: Qal perfect—weak verbs; Quiz #4, Vocabulary,*  
*Pratico chaps. 8-14.*  
Pratico chap. 14.  
Workbook chap. 14.  
*Quiz #4 (Vocabulary, Pratico chaps. 8-14.*

*Week 13: November 19: Qal imperfect—strong verbs.*  
Pratico chap. 15.  
Workbook chap. 15.

*Week 14: November 26: Thanksgiving Holiday*

*Week 15: **December 3:** Qal imperfect—weak verbs; Quiz #5, Qal Perfect*  
*and Imperfect of the Strong Verb*  
Pratico chap. 16.  
Workbook chap. 16.

*Quiz #5, Qal Perfect and Imperfect of the Strong Verb*

*Week 16: December 10: Exam #3 (Final Exam).*