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OT 501 Survey of Biblical Hebrew

Richard E. Cornell

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1. Course Description

This course introduces students to Biblical Hebrew for purposes of exegetical work in pastoral ministry. Particular emphasis is given to the fundamentals of Biblical Hebrew and basic exegetical tools, including types of parsing aids especially suited for pastoral use.

2. Course Objectives

Having successfully completed this course, students will be able to:

2.1. analyze Biblical Hebrew words through the use of elementary phonology,
2.2. determine the range of grammatical functions and choose the most appropriate one(s) by observing word formation (morphology),
2.3. interpret the interrelations of Hebrew words (syntax),
2.4. identify the use and significance of basic grammatical constructions.
2.5. benefit from the use of standard lexica and reference grammars.

3. Course Requirements

3.1. A critical element of language study is attendance. Each student is allowed one unexcused absence without penalty. Additional unexcused absences will result in the loss of one grade increment in the final grade (i.e. from a B to a B-).
3.2. Students will periodically receive an assignment to complete before the next session. Full completion of assignments is essential in order to obtain the learning goals of this course. Students should be prepared to discuss the assigned exercises by the beginning of following class period. The instructor will collect the assignments after each session in order to determine that they are being completed in a timely fashion. Feel free to collaborate with others on these assignments, but be sure that all work submitted is your own.
3.3 Late assignments: Late assignments will be deducted 25% for each day late, and will be returned with no written comments. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Please note that this syllabus is subject to revision by the professor.
after four days. The timely completion of all assignments is a requirement for passing this course.

3.4 In the event of an emergency, it is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor as soon as possible. Absences or work submitted late will be considered unexcused if no notice is given.

3.5 There will be eleven quizzes during the term (see schedule below) and one exam. The quizzes will include vocabulary, listed in Seow, as well as certain grammatical issues covered in class.

3.6 Final Exam: Info TBA

3.7 Asbury Seminary has a chapter of Eta Beta Rho (HBR or ΗΒΡ) a national Hebrew honor society. Students who earn a grade of “B” or higher in OT 501 and one subsequent ATS course requiring Hebrew will be eligible and encouraged to seek membership in the society.

4. Required Texts

4.1 Required texts


4.2 Recommended texts


BibleWorks 5.0. Hermenuetika, Big Fork, Mont. (available in the Media Center at ATS for those who do not purchase the software.)


A note about these resources: BDB (*A Hebrew and English Lexicon...*), while a bit outdated, remains the best English language lexicon for the student. If you are interested in continuing Hebrew studies, this is a resource you should not do without; thus, for this course, it will be more than an adequate substitute for Holladay.

BibleWorks and *A Reader's Lexicon* are very helpful resources. However, as with all resources, you should take care in using them. Keep in mind that exegesis, and a
meticulous and diligent interpretation of the text involves more than copying the information from these or other sources. It involves a close reading and analysis of the text and its syntax, which no resource except a basic knowledge of Hebrew grammar will provide.

5. Student Evaluation

5.1. Class attendance, preparation, and participation  10%
5.2. Assignments and Exercises    25%
5.3. Quizzes            35%
5.4. Final examination     30%

6. Course Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics and Quiz schedule</th>
<th>Seow Reading (page #s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Introduction, The Alphabet, The writing system, Dagesh and begadkepat letters</td>
<td>Seow 1-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Sept 3rd - 5th)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Quiz – alphabet, Simple vowels, stress, and accents, Vowel markers and the Sheva, Syllabification</td>
<td>Seow 5-16</td>
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<td>(Sept 10th – 12th)</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Quiz – alphabet (again), weak consonants, and vowels, Nouns, Word patterns (geminate, segholate, prefixed, etc.), Hebrew roots and patterns, Introduction to Holladay and BDB Lexica</td>
<td>Seow 17-45</td>
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<td>(Sept 17th -19th)</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Definite article, Prepositions and simple conjunctions, Introduction to Syntax Guides</td>
<td>Seow 54-69</td>
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<td>(Sept 24th – 26th)</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Quiz – Nouns/Weak Roots/Prepositions, The Adjective, Excursus B: Reading Markers and Pausal Forms</td>
<td>Seow 70-77</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Oct 1st – 3rd)</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Quiz – Adjectives (form and uses), The Qal participle, Verbal Derived Stems, Excursus C: Nomenclature for the Stems, Introduction to all the verbal derived stems in general</td>
<td>Seow 78-91</td>
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<td>(Oct 8th – 10th)</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Quiz – verbal patterns/The Binyanim, Independent Personal Pronouns, Suffixixed pronouns</td>
<td>Seow 92-103</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Oct 15th – 17th)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topics</td>
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| 8    | (Oct 22nd – 24th) | Quiz – Uses of the Qal/The Binyanim (again)  
Introduction to Demonstratives  
Relative clauses  
Interrogative clauses, exclamations and emphatic questions  
Uses of the Piel, Pual, Hithpael | Seow 104-13        |
| 9    | (Oct 29th – 31st) | Quiz – Vocabulary and Short Translations/Uses of the Piel  
The Construct Chain  
The Superlative  
Nouns with pronominal suffixes  
Uses of the Hiphil, Hophal  
Excursus D: Reference grammars (introduction) | Seow 116-44        |
| 10   | (Nov 5th – 7th)  | Quiz – Vocabulary and Short Translations/Uses of the Hiphil  
Introduction to “aspect” in the Hebrew verb  
The Qal perfect (forms and uses)  
Translation Exercises  
Excursus E: Poetic Hebrew | Seow 145-59        |
| 11   | (Nov 12th – 14th) | Quiz – Qal perfect (form and uses)  
The Qal perfect of weak roots  
Stative verbs  
Excursus F: Orientation to the Hebrew Bible  
Introduction to word study methodology | Seow 160-72        |
| 12   | (Nov 19th – 21st) | Quiz – Vocabulary  
Imperfect aspect – forms and uses. | Seow 205-13        |
|      |                | **Reading Week**                                                                           |                    |
| 14   | (Dec 3rd – 5th)  | Quiz – Qal imperfect (form and uses)  
Qal Infinitive Absolute and Infinitive Construct  
Narrative discourse patterns  
Introduction to Exegetical Process | Seow 225-32        |
|      |                | **Finals Week**                                                                            |                    |
|      |                | Final Exam: Details TBA.                                                                   |                    |