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OT 501 Survey of Biblical Hebrew

Asbury Theological Seminary

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OT 501 Survey of Biblical Hebrew
Spring 2002

Enrollment Limit: 35 Students

Instructor:
John H. Choi
AD304C
858-2153

3 credit hours

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 several types of parsing aids especially well 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. distinguish the basics of Hebrew prose and poetry,
- 2.6. benefit from the use of standard lexica and reference grammars.

3. Course procedures and requirements

3.1. As always in language study, attendance is essential and therefore, required for the class. Each student is allowed three unexcused absences during the semester 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. At the end of each lesson, students will receive an assignment to complete before the next class period. Full participation 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 each class period. The instructor will collect the assignments randomly in order to determine that they are being completed in a timely fashion. Late assignments will be 25% for each day late. Feel free to collaborate with others in completing these assignments. However, please take care that all work submitted is your own. While collaboration is encouraged, plagiarism is certainly not.

3.3 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 without prior notice.

3.4. There will be eleven quizzes during the term (see schedule below) and one exam. The quizzes will include vocabulary, listed in Seow, throughout the term.

3.5. The final exam will consist of an in-class portion, consisting of vocabulary and short translations. There will also be a take home portion that will involve applying exegetical skills learned throughout the term to a specific passage. The take home portion of the final is due on Monday, December 17th, by Noon Eastern time.

3.6. Asbury Seminary has a chapter of Eta Beta Rho (HBR or **rb[]**) 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. Course texts

4.1. Required texts

- Elliger, K., and W. Rudolph. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1967-77.
- Holladay, William L. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1971.
- Scott, William R. *A Simplified Guide to BHS*. Berkley, Calif.: BIBAL, 1987.
- Seow, C. L. *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew*. Rev. ed. Nashville: Abingdon, 1995.

4.2. Recommended texts

- BibleWorks 4.0. Hermenuetika, Big Fork, Mont. (available in the Media Center at ATS for those who do not purchase the software.)
- Brown, Francis, S. R. Driver, and Charles A. Briggs. *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Oxford: Oxford, 1907; reprint, Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1979.
- Armstrong, Terry, Douglas Busby, and Cyril Carr. *A Reader's Hebrew-English Lexicon of the Old Testament: Four Volumes in One*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 1989.

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	30%
5.3. Quizzes	35%
5.4. Final examination	25%

6. Schedule

Date	Topics and Quiz schedule	Seow Reading
2/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Introduction ➤ The Alphabet ➤ The writing system ➤ Dagesh and begadkepat letters 	Seow 1-4
2/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Quiz – alphabet ➤ Simple vowels, stress, and accents ➤ Vowel markers and the Sheva ➤ Syllabification 	Seow 5-16
2/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Quiz – alphabet (again), weak consonants, and vowels ➤ Nouns ➤ Word patterns (geminate, segholate, prefixed, etc.) ➤ Hebrew roots and patterns ➤ Introduction to Holladay and BDB Lexica 	Seow 17-45
3/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Definite article ➤ Prepositions and simple conjunctions ➤ Introduction to Syntax Guides 	Seow 54-69
3/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Quiz – Nouns/Weak Roots/Prepositions ➤ The Adjective ➤ Excursus B: Reading Markers and Pausal Forms 	Seow 70-77
3/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 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 	Seow 78-91
3/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Quiz – verbal patterns/The Binyanim ➤ Independent Personal Pronouns ➤ Suffixed pronouns ➤ Introduction to Secondary Resources/BibleWorks ➤ Uses of the Qal and Niphal 	Seow 92-103
4/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Quiz – Uses of the Qal/The Binyanim (again) ➤ Demonstratives ➤ Relative clauses ➤ Interrogative clauses, exclamations and emphatic questions ➤ Uses of the Piel, Pual, Hithpael 	Seow 104-13
4/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 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
4/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Quiz – Vocabulary and Short Translations/Uses of the Hiphil ➤ Introduction to “aspect” in the Hebrew verb ➤ The Qal perfect (forms and uses) 	Seow 145-59

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Translation Exercises ➤ Excursus E: Poetic Hebrew 	
4/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 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
5/6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Quiz – Vocabulary</i> ➤ Imperfect aspect – forms and uses. 	Seow 205-13
5/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Quiz – Qal imperfect (form and uses) ➤ Qal Infinitive Absolute and Infinitive Construct ➤ Narrative discourse patterns ➤ Introduction to Exegetical Process 	Seow 225-32
Finals Week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Final Exam: Take Home Final. Due Date TBA 	