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## OT 502 Comprehensive Hebrew II

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## Comprehensive Hebrew II – OT 502

Spring 2001 – A Three Hour Course

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Office Hours: W 10:00-11:30; F 2:30-4:00; or by appointment

### Semitic Mania

Prepare yourself for Hebrew mania once again. A language whose letters resemble unidentified foreign objects, where the book begins at the end and sentences are read from right to left, and where *dog* means fish, *he* means she, *me* means who, and *who* means he.

### Personal Welcome

Shalom! I am looking forward to our month long journey together from “Dan to Beersheba.” Let’s pray for and encourage one another so that learning Hebrew is a positive experience. I am excited about our collaborative course this semester because we are studying Biblical Hebrew, a wonderful language through which God chose to reveal himself and his relationship to his creation.

If you have never taken a class with me, please type for me a brief profile of yourself (limited to 100 words) and give it to me the second day of class so that I can know you better. By the way, you may discover some things about me by accessing my bio on the Internet at [www.asburyseminary.edu/exl/people/faculty/matlock.htm](http://www.asburyseminary.edu/exl/people/faculty/matlock.htm). Let me encourage you to sign up for an email account in the Media Center of Asbury Seminary; this is one of the ways you can correspond with your colleagues and me during and after the course.

### Course Description

This course is designed to build upon Concise Hebrew (OT 501) in order to give the student a complete mastery of elementary Hebrew grammar.

### Objectives

1. To properly pronounce/read Biblical Hebrew by reviewing phonology
2. To be able to determine the range of grammatical functions and choose the most appropriate one(s) by knowing the changes in word formation (morphology)
3. To learn to interpret the interrelations of BH words (syntax)
4. To gain facility translating and interpreting the Hebrew Bible (*Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*) for the purposes of preaching and teaching in the Church
5. To gain further facility using a standard Hebrew lexicon such as Brown, Driver, and Briggs (BDB) and reference grammars such as Waltke/O’Connor (W-O’C), Gesenius/Kautzsch/ Cowley (GKC), and Joüon/Muraoka (JM) in order to interpret the Hebrew Scriptures
6. To learn nouns, verbs, and particles used more than 100 times in the Hebrew Bible (app. 427 words and meanings)

### Required Texts

- 1. Seow, C. L. A Grammar For Biblical Hebrew. Rev. Ed. Nashville: Abingdon, 1995.

2. Brown, Francis, S. R. Driver, and Charles A. Briggs. A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament. Oxford: Oxford, 1907; reprint, Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1979.

3. Elliger, K., and W. Rudolph. Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1967-77.

□4. Mitchel, Larry A. A Student's Vocabulary for Biblical Hebrew and Aramaic. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984.

Mitchel's book is arranged by frequency. He lists the word and definition(s) of some 2000 Hebrew words and all 648 biblical Aramaic words. We will be memorizing all the Hebrew words used 100 times or more. He groups nouns, verbs, and particles all together.

□5. Scott, William R. A Simplified Guide to BHS. Berkley, CA: BIBAL, 1987.

This is a basic introduction to many of the peculiarities of the Hebrew Bible. Scott provides an English key to the Latin text critical notes at the very bottom of the page which were added by scholars this century who edited BHS and to the Aramaic side marginal notes (a.k.a. "massorah") which were put there by Medieval Jewish rabbis who created the vowel and accent system of the Hebrew Bible. Scott also explains many other features of the Hebrew Bible that will help you to understand how it has been put together through hundreds of years.

□6. Williams, Ronald J. Hebrew Syntax: An Outline. Toronto: University of Toronto, 1976.

This book is a brief introduction to Hebrew syntax (how words are put together). We will utilize this book throughout the course. Williams is too brief at many points, but the alternative books pertaining to syntax are of massive proportion or too expensive. Williams uses many terms for syntax that are now outdated; nevertheless, his text continues to be useful for beginning Hebrew students.

### **Recommended Texts & Software**

You do not need to buy these Hebrew tools; however each one has value for gaining further competence with the Hebrew language and thought-world.

1. Armstrong, Terry, Douglas Busby, and Cyril Carr. A Reader's Hebrew-English Lexicon of the Old Testament: Four Volumes in One. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1989.

This text is helpful to do rapid reading of Hebrew after you complete this semester of Hebrew. Of course, reading speeds will vary upon individual skill and knowledge of Hebrew.

2. BibleWorks 4.0 Hermenueitika, Big Fork, MT.

This software program will assist us in spotting grammatical forms of Hebrew words (also called parsing) which we could not otherwise understand and provide an abridged Hebrew dictionary (*Brown, Driver, and Briggs*) for quick reference. It is also a powerful tool for doing Hebrew word studies functioning as a concordance to find all usage of a word and providing a quick and easy way to see how the recurrence of a word functions in context.

**\*WARNING:** BibleWorks is a tool for ministry, but if you utilize it take some precautionary measures. Always try to push yourself to parse and translate as much Hebrew as possible before going to BibleWorks for parsing help.

3. Chisholm, Robert. From Exegesis to Exposition. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.

This book is designed to show how Hebrew study can inform sermon and Bible study preparation and how to craft a way to communicate its significance. Key chapters include word study methodology, syntactical issues, and the narrative/poetry issues of the Hebrew Bible

- 4. Joüon, Paul, S.J. A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew. Edited and translated by T. Muraoka. 2 Vols. Subsidia Biblica 14/I-II. Roma: Editrice Pontificio Istituto Biblico, 1993.

This is the most up-to-date and comprehensive reference grammar. It was written by the French biblical studies scholar, Joüon, in 1923 and subsequently revised and translated by the Japanese biblical studies scholar, Muraoka, in 1991. It is clearly written and it has a thorough section on syntax, a section often neglected in Hebrew grammars. It is full of useful insights and information for anyone with a basic knowledge of Biblical Hebrew grammar. Also, his subject, Hebrew word, and scripture indices are invaluable.

- 5. Waltke, Bruce, and Michael O'Connor. An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1990.

This wonderful text contains virtually all the "ins and outs" of Hebrew syntax. In comparison, Williams' text which you have purchased is like a "reader's digest" version of Waltke-O'Connor. If you read and understand 50 percent of this text, you will have at least an intermediate knowledge of Biblical Hebrew.

- indicates that the resource is on the reserve shelf in the library under "Matlock." Also, another beginning Hebrew grammar which has been used recently to learn Hebrew here at ATS is on the reserve shelf: Page H. Kelley, Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar, (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992). I also put another reference grammar, Wilhelm Gesenius, Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar, (Oxford: Clarendon, 1910; reprint 1970) on the reserve shelf which has been the standard in Hebrew studies for almost a century.

## Evaluation

### Attendance Policy:

When studying a language, it is absolutely necessary that a student keep pace with the class. If a student falls behind, it can be disastrous. Therefore, each student is allowed to miss up to 10% of the total class sessions without penalty. **However, every absence (for any reason) beyond 10% will result in the loss of one grade increment in the final grade (e.g. from a B to a B-).**

*Attendance throughout the course is expected; persons absent for more than 25% of the course will not be eligible for a passing grade.*

If you have any questions, please see me the first day of class.

### Approximate Grade Scale:

A 93-100	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66
A- 90-92	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62
B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F 0-59

Your grade is calculated on the following factors:

Class Participation	10%
Assignments & Readings	20%
Quizzes – Celebration of S. L.	40%
Final Exam – Celebration of B. L.	30%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

1. Class Participation – 10% of course grade

A key factor of this part of your grade is your attitude and affectation towards the material in this course. It goes without saying, but bears repeating, that a large majority of your success in understanding Hebrew is achieved by a positive attitude and lots of motivation. You will be evaluated on your level of preparation for class each week. Students should expect to spend 6-9 hours a week beyond class time. Students will learn Hebrew grammar and vocabulary most effectively through daily study and constant review.

2. Assignments & Readings - 20% of course grade

We will plod through our main text, *Seow*, completing his exercises. Full participation and engagement is essential in order to obtain the learning goals of this course, so please be prepared and ready to discuss the pertinent material.

Language is retained and clarified through use and interaction. You are encouraged to find study partners and work together on assignments outside of class. If you decide to study in this fashion, make sure you understand the objectives of that lesson first-hand. By the time of the quizzes and exam, make sure you know how to translate the Hebrew without peer assistance. Collaboration is helpful in learning, but wholesale co-optation is detrimental.

At my discretion, I will spot check assignments in order to determine that work is being completed and is fairly accurate. If I take up an assignment I will either give it a numerical grade or check it only for completion. You are to fill in regularly your homework record sheet.

NOTE: Late assignments will be accepted, but penalized 25% each calendar day and receive no comments.

Please stay current with your reading. Students will be asked to turn in a reading report at the end of the semester for all assigned reading.

3. Celebrations of Small Learning (Quizzes) - 40% of course grade

There will be approx. six quizzes throughout the course. Each quiz will test knowledge of the grammar and vocabulary covered in *Seow*.

Unless otherwise noted by the instructor, scheduled quizzes will be take home quizzes on the days noted on the Course Schedule below.

Your combined quiz points will be totaled and averaged to form 50% of your total grade for the course.

*For EXTRA CREDIT, you may take a quiz on the first three sections of vocabulary from Mitchel. Quizzes one and two will include 25 words, whereas quiz three will include 50 words from the author's list.*

4. Celebration of Big Learning (Final Exam) – 30% of course grade

At the end of the course, you will take an in-class comprehensive exam. The exam will primarily involve translating a Hebrew narrative with a couple of verses of poetry along with parsing and analysis of some key words.

*Put your name and SPO # on the back of the last sheet of everything you hand in (e.g. assignment, quiz, exam)!*

**Further Study in the Hebrew Language**

1. This course should prepare a student and is therefore a prerequisite for any Hebrew exegesis course and other Semitic language courses (e.g. Biblical Aramaic, Akkadian, Ugaritic, Arabic, NW Semitic).
2. Students will be challenged and encouraged to read daily from the Hebrew Scriptures, and participate in weekly Hebrew reading groups that meet on campus (during fall and spring terms only).
3. Asbury Seminary now has a chapter of Eta Beta Rho (HBP or  $\epsilon\beta\rho$ ), a national Hebrew honor society. Students who earn a grade of 3.0 or higher after taking OT 501 and OT 502 with intent to complete a exegesis class or an OT 700 class are eligible for membership into the society.

**Course Procedure & Tentative Schedule**

Our daily schedule will typically follow this format:

- 1<sup>st</sup> class of the week) reviewing the prior lessons, drilling, covering the exercises
- 2<sup>nd</sup> class of the week) presenting new material .

Bring your Hebrew Bible to EVERY class period.

**Module 1**

February 6: *Alphabet; Syllables and Vowels*  
GBH: 1-16

February 8: *The Noun: Gender and Number; Hebrew Roots and Patterns (Part I)*  
GBH 17-37  
Exercises (GBH 4): A, B, C (odds); (GBH 14-16): Vocab, A (evens), B;  
(GBH 21-22): Vocab, A (evens), B (odds), C; (GBH 35-37): Vocab, A (odds), B, D

**Module 2**

February 13: **Reviewing the prior lessons, Drills, Covering the exercises**

February 15: *Hebrew Roots and Patterns (Part II); Geminates and Segolates*  
GBH 38-53 (Excursus A)  
Exercises (GBH 44, 53): Vocab (44), C, Additional Exercise (53)

**Module 3**

February 20: **\*\*Quiz One\*\***

**Reviewing the prior lessons, Drills, Covering the exercises**

\*Read GBH 64-69, 170-72 (Excursus B, F) & A Simplified Guide to BHS 1-36

February 22: *The Definite Article and Prepositions; The Adjective*  
GBH 54-63, 70-77  
Exercises (GBH 60-63): Vocab, C, D; (GBH 75-76): Vocab, B

**Module 4**

February 27: **Reviewing the prior lessons, Drills, Covering the exercises**

March 1: *Qal Participles; Pronouns*  
GBH 78-88, 92-103  
Exercises (GBH 85-88): Vocab, A (evens), B (odds), D (evens); (GBH 101-03): Vocab, A, D

**Module 5**

March 6: **\*\*Quiz Two\*\***

**Reviewing the prior lessons, Drills, Covering the exercises**

March 8: *Demonstratives, Relative Clauses and Particles; The Construct Chain*  
GBH 104-128  
Exercises (GBH 112-15): Vocab, B; (GBH 125-28): Vocab, C (evens), D

**Module 6**

March 13: **Reviewing the prior lessons, Drills, Covering the exercises**

March 15: *Nouns with Pronominal Suffixes; The Qal Perfect (Part I)*  
GBH 132-156  
Exercises (GBH 142-44): Vocab, B (odds), C; (GBH 154-56): Vocab, B, C

**Module 7**

March 20: **\*\* Quiz Three\*\***

**Reviewing the prior lessons, Drills, Covering the exercises**

\*Read GBH 157-59 (Excursus E)

March 22: *The Qal Perfect (Part II); The Piel Verbal Pattern*  
GBH 160-69, 173-80  
Exercises (GBH 167-69): Vocab, A, C (odds); (GBH 177-80): Vocab, A (odds), C

**Module 8**

March 27: **Reviewing the prior lessons, Drills, Covering the exercises**

March 29: *The Hiphil Verbal Pattern; The Perfect with Object Suffixes*  
GBH 181-204

Exercises (GBH 189-92): Vocab, A (evens), C; (GBH 201-04): Vocab, A, C, D (odds)

**Module 9**

April 3: **\*\*Quiz Four\*\***  
**Reviewing the prior lessons, Drills, Covering the exercises**

April 5: *The Imperfect (Part I and II)*

GBH 205-24 (Qal), 264-65 (Piel), 275-79 (Hiphil)

Exercises (GBH 210-13): Vocab, A, C (odds), D (evens); (GBH 221-24): Vocab, A (odds), C

□□□□□□□□□□ April 9-13 is Spring Reading Week □□□□□□□□□□

**Module 10**

April 17: **Reviewing the prior lessons, Drills, Covering the exercises**

April 19: *The Preterite and Waw-Consecutive; Jussives, Cohortatives, Imperatives*  
GBH 225-34, 235-46 (Qal), 266 (Piel), 279-82 (Hiphil)

Exercises (GBH 233-34): Vocab, A (evens), C; (GBH 244-46): Vocab, A, C [27 Scripture vss]

**Module 11**

April 24: **\*\*Quiz Five\*\***  
**Reviewing the prior lessons, Drills, Covering the exercises**

April 26: *The Infinitive Absolute, Infinitive Construct, and Numbers;*  
GBH 247-61 (Qal), 266-74 (Piel), 283 (Hiphil)

*The Niphal and Hithpael*

GBH 288-302

Exercises (GBH 252-54): Vocab, A; (GBH 261-63): Vocab, A (evens);

(GBH 273-74): Vocab, A (odds); (GBH 287): A (evens);

(GBH 297): A (odds); (GBH 307): A (odds)

**Module 12**

May 1: **\*\*Quiz Six\*\***  
**Reviewing the prior lessons, Drills, Covering the exercises**

May 3: *TBA*

**Module 13**

May 8: *TBA*

May 10: *Site Reading*

**Module 14**

May 16: **Final Exam 12:30-3:00**



## **Select Bibliography**

### ***Elementary Biblical Hebrew Grammars***

1. Kelley, Page H. Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992.
2. Kittel, Bonnie. Biblical Hebrew: A Text and Workbook. New Haven: Yale, 1989.
3. Lambdin, Thomas O. Introduction to Biblical Hebrew. New York: Scribner, 1971.
4. Seow, C. L. A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew. rev. ed. Nashville: Abingdon, 1995.

### ***Advanced Biblical Hebrew Grammars***

1. Gesenius, Wilhelm. Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar. Edited by E. Kautzsche. Oxford: Clarendon, 1910; reprint 1970.
2. Gibson, J. C. L. Davidson's Introductory Hebrew Grammar – Syntax. 4th ed. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1994.
3. Joüon, Paul. A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew. Translated and edited by T. Muroaka. 2 Vols. Subsidia Biblica. Vols 14/I-14-II. Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1991.
4. Waltke, Bruce, and Michael O'Connor. An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1990.
5. Williams, Ronald J. Hebrew Syntax: An Outline. Toronto: University of Toronto, 1976.

### ***Hebrew Lexicons***

1. Brown, Francis, S. R. Driver, and Charles A. Briggs, eds. A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament. Oxford: Oxford, 1907; reprint, Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1979.
2. Clines, David J. A., ed. The Dictionary of Classical Hebrew. 3 Vols. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic, 1993-. (3 vols. to date – more coming!)
3. Holladay, William. A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1971.
4. Koehler, Ludwig, Walter Baumgartner, eds. The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament. 4 Vols. Leiden: Brill, 1994-. (3 vols. published in English thus far.)

### ***Hebrew Lexical Helps***

1. Armstrong, Terry, Douglas Busby, and Cyril F. Carr. A Reader's Hebrew-English Lexicon of the Old Testament: Four Volumes in One. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1989.
2. Beall, Todd, William Banks, and Colin Smith. Old Testament Parsing Guide. rev. & updated ed. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2000.
3. Einspahr, Bruce. Index to Brown, Driver, & Briggs Hebrew Lexicon. Chicago: Moody, 1977.

### ***Hebrew Analytical Lexicons***

1. Accordance 3.0. Oaktree, Altamonte Springs, FL. (Macintosh based)
2. BibleWorks 4.0. Hermenueitika, Big Fork, MT. (Windows based)
3. Davidson, Benjamin. The Analytical Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1992.
4. Owens, John Joseph. Analytical Key to the Old Testament. 4 Vols. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1989-1992.

### ***Hebrew Interlinears***

- Kohlenberger, John III. The Interlinear NIV Hebrew-English Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1987. (One volume)

***Hebrew Word Study Tools***

1. Botterweck, Johannes, and Helmer Ringgren, eds. Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament. 9 Vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974-1998. (9 vols. to date – more coming!)
2. Harris, R. Laird, Gleason Archer, and Bruce Waltke, eds. Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament. 2 Vols. Chicago: Moody, 1981.
3. Jenni, Ernst, and Claus Westermann, eds. Theological Lexicon of the Old Testament. 3 Vols. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1997.
4. VanGemeren, Willem, ed. The New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis. 5 Vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.

***Hebrew Concordances***

1. Accordance 3.0. Oaktree, Altamonte Springs, FL. (Macintosh based)
2. BibleWorks 4.0. Hermenueitika, Big Fork, MT. (Windows based)
3. Even-Shoshan, Abraham. A New Concordance of the Old Testament. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1993.
4. Lisowsky, Gerhard. Konkordanz zum Hebraischen Alten Testament. 2nd ed. Stuttgart: Wurttembergische Bibelanstalt, 1958.
5. Mandelkern, Solomon. Veteris Testamenti Concordantiae: Hebraica atque Chaldaicae. Tel Aviv: Sumptibus Schocken Hierosolymis, 1971.
6. Wigram, George. The New Englishman's Hebrew Concordance. Revised ed. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1984.

***Hebrew Vocabulary Aids***

1. Hebrew Tutor. Parsons Technology, Hiawatha, IA.
2. Landes, George M. A Student's Vocabulary of Biblical Hebrew. New York: Scribner, 1961.
3. Mitchel, Larry A. A Student's Vocabulary for Biblical Hebrew and Aramaic. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984.
4. Watts, John D. W. Lists of Words Occurring Frequently in the Hebrew Bible. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987. (Out of print)