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OT 501 Survey of Biblical Hebrew

Christina Bosserman

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OT501 – Survey of Biblical Hebrew

Fall 2006

Tuesday / Thursday 9:30-10:45 am

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Please note that this syllabus is subject to revision by the professor.

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 lexical and reference grammars.

3. Course Requirements & Comments

- 3.1. A critical element of language study is attendance. Faithful attendance is expected.
- 3.2. Students will *daily* receive assignments (exercises from the textbook and worksheet handouts) 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. Feel free to collaborate with others on these assignments, but be sure that all work submitted is your own.
- 3.3. In an intensive course late work will significantly hinder the student's learning of the Hebrew language. Therefore, it is imperative that students complete all assignments and quizzes on time. Unexcused late assignments will be deducted 25% for each class day late.
- 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 13 quizzes during the term (see **Course Outline** below) and one exam. Most of the quizzes will be take-home, closed book, closed notes. Some of the quizzes will be in-class vocab quizzes (these are boldfaced in the **Course Outline** below). The take-home quizzes will include vocabulary, as well as certain grammatical issues covered in class. Take-home quizzes are due the next class day. The lowest quiz will be dropped.
- 3.6. The in-class Final Exam will be held during finals week (Dec. 12-16), exact date and time TBA. Students with an average of 95% or higher on *quizzes + the midterm* prior to the final exam may elect not to take the exam. The Word Study Assignment will be due by **5:00 pm Fri. Dec. 8**. The Grammatical Analysis Assignment will be due by **5:00 pm Friday December 15**.

- 3.7 There will be an opportunity for extra credit. Any level of completion of the “Inductive Worksheet” will be eligible for *up to* 3 extra points on your final grade. The worksheet will be handed out on the first day of class, and will be due on Thursday with the grammatical analysis.
- 3.8 Asbury Seminary has a chapter of Eta Beta Rho (HBR or $\eta\beta$ []) 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. Texts & Software

4.1 Required texts [abbreviations in brackets, cf. **Course Outline** below]

- Arnold, Bill T. and John H. Choi. *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. **[Guide]**
- Elliger, K., and W. Rudolph. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1967-77. **[BHS]**
- Holladay, William L. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1971. **[HALOT]**
- Scott, William R. *A Simplified Guide to BHS*. Berkeley, Calif.: BIBAL, 1987. **[SG]**
- Seow, C. L. *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew*. Rev. ed. Nashville: Abingdon, 1995. **[Seow]**

4.2 Optional texts

- 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.
- An acceptable substitute for Holladay above. For those going on to OT502, this lexicon might be preferable.
 - The lexicon of choice for nearly 100 years. Still useful, though out-dated in some respects.
 - Arranges words on by their root, instead of in strict alphabetical order (thus making it more difficult for the beginning student to use).
- Chisholm, Robert. *From Exegesis to Exposition: A Practical Guide to Using Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998. **[FEE]**
- Helps to make the move from reading Biblical Hebrew to preaching, teaching, etc.
- Long, Gary A. *Grammatical Concepts 101 for Biblical Hebrew*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 2002.
- Introduces Hebrew concepts by first introducing the concept in English.

4.3 Recommended software

BibleWorks 5.0. Hermenuetika, Big Fork, Mont. (available in the Library)

- A powerful and flexible biblical language software program.
- Equipped with parsing tools, lexicons and other resources.

Hebrew Tutor. Parsons Technology.

- A first year course in Biblical Hebrew Course with interactive features.
- Provides practice drills and exercises and pronounces Hebrew words.

5. Student Evaluation

5.1. Homework		10%
5.2. Worksheets		25%
5.3. Quizzes		25%
5.4. Exams		15%
Midterm Exam (10/19/06)	(5%)	
Final Exam (12/14/06)	(10%)	
5.5. Grammar Analysis (Due: 12/8/06)		15%
5.6. Word Study Assignment (Due: midnight 12/15/06)		10%

A	95-100%	C	73-76.9%
A-	90-94.9%	C-	70-72.9%
B+	87-89.9%	D+	67-69.9%
B	83-86.9%	D	63-66.9%
B-	80-82.9%	D-	60-62.9%
C+	77-79.9 %	F	Below 60

7. Course Schedule

		Topics	Quizzes*	Homework*	Reading
Week 1	9/5 & 9/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Introduction ➤ The Alphabet ➤ The writing system ➤ Dagesh and begadkepat letters ➤ Introduction to final assignment. ➤ Hand out <i>Concept Sheet</i>. 			• Seow, Lesson 1 <i>Guide</i> , 1.0
Week 2	9/12 & 9/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Simple vowels, stress, and accents ➤ Vowel markers and the Sheva ➤ More vowels ➤ Syllabification 	• Quiz #1 Due: Alphabet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seow, 1.b.c. • <i>Part I of inductive worksheet</i> 	• Seow, Lesson 2
Week 3	9/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Nouns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #2 Due: Lesson 2 • Quiz #3: Vocab Quiz [2] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seow, 2.a(odd), 2.b (odd). • <i>Part II of inductive worksheet</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seow, Lessons 3 • <i>Guide</i>, 2.0; 2.1; 2.1
	9/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Word patterns (geminate, segolate, prefixed, etc.) ➤ Hebrew roots and patterns 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seow 3.a (odd), 3.b(odd) • <i>Part III of inductive worksheet</i> 	• Seow, Lessons 4-5
Week 4	9/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Definite article ➤ Introduction to Holladay lexicon (nouns) 	• Quiz #4 Due: Lessons 3-5 [3][4]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.a #1-10, 5.b #1-8, 17, 20. • <i>Part III of Inductive worksheet</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seow, Lesson 6 • <i>Guide</i>, 2.6;
	9/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prepositions and simple conjunctions ➤ Verbless Clauses 		• Holladay worksheet (nouns)	• <i>Guide</i> , 4.1.5, 9, 10; 4.3.3, 5.1.1
Week 5	10/3 & 10/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Introduction to all the verbal derived stems in general ➤ Nomenclature for the Stems ➤ Uses of the Qal and Niphal ➤ Tetragrammaton 	• Quiz #5: Vocab Quiz [5][6]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seow, 6.c (odd) • Prepositions worksheet • <i>Part IV of Inductive Worksheet</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seow, Lesson 8.1; Excursus C (Tuesday) • <i>Guide</i>, 3.0; 3.1; 3.1.1; 3.1.2 (Thursday)

Week 6	10/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Introduction to “aspect” in the Hebrew verb ➤ The Qal perfect (forms & uses) ➤ Word Order, DDOM. 	• Quiz #6 Due: Binyamin [8]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Niphal Worksheet • <i>Part V of Inductive Worksheet</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seow, Lesson 13.1-6; 9.3 • <i>Guide</i>, 3.2; 3.2.1
	10/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Negation ➤ Directive “he” ➤ Midterm Review 		• Perfect Worksheet	• <i>Guide</i> , 2.3.1
Week 7	10/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Qal perfect of weak roots ➤ Stative verbs ➤ Introduction to Holladay Lexicon (verbs) 	Quiz #7: Perfect Aspect [13][14]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handout #1 on Perfect • <i>Part VI of Inductive Worksheet</i> 	• Seow, Lesson 14
	10/19	➤ In-Class Midterm			
Week 8	10/24	➤ The Adjective		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handout #2 on perfect • Holladay Worksheet (verb) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seow, Lesson 7 • <i>Guide</i>, 2.5; 2.5.1-4
	10/26	➤ The Qal Participle		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seow, 7.b (odd) • <i>Part VII of Inductive worksheet</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seow, Lesson 8 • <i>Guide</i>, 3.4.3
Week 9	10/31 & 11/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pronouns ➤ Uses of the Piel, Pual, Hithpael ➤ Orientation to the Hebrew Bible ➤ Text-Criticism & BHS ➤ Reading Markers & Pausal Forms 	• Quiz #8 Due: Adjective [7]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8.d (odd) • Adjective Worksheet • Parsing Worksheet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seow, Lesson 9, 10; Excursus F • <i>Guide</i>, 3.1.3-5 • Excursus B • Scott, pp. 1-27
Week 10	11/7 & 11/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Demonstratives ➤ Relative clauses ➤ Interrogative clauses, exclamations and emphatic questions ➤ Uses of the Hiphil, Hophal 	• Quiz #9 Due: Pronoun & Participle [9]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seow, 9.d (odd) • Factive-Causitive Worksheet • <i>Part VIII of Inductive worksheet.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Guide</i>, 4.3.4 (Tuesday) • <i>Guide</i>, 3.1.6-7; 4.3.4 (Thursday)

Week 11	11/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Construct Chain ➤ The Superlative 	• Quiz #10 Due: Demonstratives [10]	• Seow, 10.b (#1-10) • Causative Worksheet	• Seow, Lesson 11 • <i>Guide</i> , 2.2; 2.2.1-13; (cf. 2.5.4 above).
	11/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Nouns with pronominal suffixes ➤ Grammar Analysis & Word Study Preview 		• Seow, 11.c (#s 4-6)	• Seow, Lesson 12, 13.7
Week 12: Fall Reading Week (November 20-24)					
Week 13	11/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Imperfect aspect – forms and uses. ➤ Imperfect – weak forms 	• Quiz #11 Due: Construct [11 & 12]	• Seow, 12.c (#s 4-6) • Genitive Relationship • <i>Part IX of Inductive Worksheet</i>	• Seow, Lesson 18, 19 (skim lesson 19) • <i>Guide</i> , 3.2.2
	11/30	➤ Volitionals		• Seow, 18.c (#1,4,8,10)	• Seow, Lesson 21 • <i>Guide</i> , 3.3; 3.3.1-3
Week 14	12/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Qal Infinitive Absolute ➤ Qal Infinitive Construct 	• Quiz #12 Due: Imperfect	• Imperfect Worksheet • Translation Worksheet	• Seow, 22.2-3 & 23 • <i>Guide</i> , 3.4; 3.4.1-2
	12/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Preterite ➤ Waw-consecutives ➤ Narrative discourse patterns ➤ Secondary Resources ➤ Poetic Hebrew 	• Quiz #13: Vocab Quiz [18]	• Infinitive Worksheet	• Seow, Lesson 20 3.5; 3.5.1-2 • Seow, Excursus E
Word Study Due: 5:00 pm Friday, December 8.					
Grammatical Analysis Due: 5:00 pm Friday, December 15.					

* Note that in-class quizzes are in bold. The numbers in brackets represent the vocabulary lists from which vocabulary will be taken for the quiz.

* All homework/quizzes will be due on Tuesday of the appropriate week unless otherwise noted on the course calendar.

* Homework in italics is optional, and an opportunity for extra credit. See inductive worksheet.