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# OT 502 Grammar and Readings in Biblical Hebrew

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# OT502 GRAMMAR & READINGS IN BIBLICAL HEBREW

Spring 2006

Tues/Thurs 1:00-2:15 pm

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

## 1. Course Description

This course builds upon OT501 in order to complete the student's introduction to Biblical Hebrew grammar and syntax. Prerequisite: OT501.

## 2. Course Objectives

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

- 2.1 Master the elements and subtleties of Hebrew phonology.
- 2.2 Determine the range of function based on word formation (morphology).
- 2.3 Develop further knowledge of the Hebrew verbal system, as well as the forms and uses of the verbal derived stems.
- 2.4 Gain facility in using a standard Hebrew-English Lexicon (BDB), theological dictionaries and reference grammars.
- 2.5 Develop basic skills in reading and translating Biblical Hebrew.
- 2.6 Distinguish the basic differences between Hebrew prose and poetry.

## 3. Course Requirements

- 3.1 A critical element of language study is attendance. Faithful attendance is expected and necessary.
- 3.2 Students will receive assignments 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 each class period. Feel free to collaborate with others on these assignments, but be sure that all work submitted is your own. All assignments are due at the beginning of class.
- 3.3 Since each day's work will depend on the completion of prior work, it is imperative that students complete all assignments and quizzes on time. Unexcused late assignments will be deducted 25% for each class day late. Unexcused quizzes will be deducted 33% 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 *prior* notice is given. However, prior notice does not guarantee excused lateness!
- 3.5 There will be regular take-home quizzes and one final exam, as per the Course Outline, below. Some of the quizzes will be vocabulary only. Most quizzes will include a vocabulary, grammar and translation component. The final exam will be a comprehensive in-class translation exam, which will include parsing.

3.6 Asbury Seminary has a chapter of Eta Beta Rho (EBR or  $\eta\beta\rho$  [ ]) a national Hebrew honor society. Students who have taken OT501 and are interested in OT or Hebrew study will be eligible and encouraged to seek membership in the society.

#### 4. Course Texts

##### 4.1 Required texts [abbreviations in brackets]

Arnold, Bill T. and John H. Choi. *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003. [Guide, Arnold & Choi]

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. [Holladay]

Scott, William R. *A Simplified Guide to BHS*. Berkley, Calif.: BIBAL, 1987. [Scott]

Seow, C. L. *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew*. Rev. ed. Nashville: Abingdon, 1995. [Seow]

##### 4.2 Optional texts

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.

Baker, David and Elaine Heath. *More Light on the Path*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1999

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. [BDB]

Chisholm, Robert. *From Exegesis to Exposition: A Practical Guide to Using Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.

Kelley, Page H., Daniel S. Mynatt, and Timothy G. Crawford. *The Masorah of Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1998.

Waltke, Bruce K. and M. O'Connor. *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Winona Lake, Indiana: Eisenbrauns, 1990. [Waltke-O'Connor]

#### 5. Student Evaluation

5.1 Assignments	30%
5.2 Class Participation/Daily Readings	10%
5.3 Quizzes	30%
5.4 Final Examination (8:00am, Tuesday, May 16)	30%

#### 6. Letter Grade/Percentage Standard:

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 Outline

\* Note: the Cumulative Vocabulary Quiz will be held in class. All other quizzes will be take home, *closed book* quizzes. For all quizzes, the numbers in brackets represent the lesson(s) in Seow from which vocabulary primarily will be taken.

		Topics	Quizzes	Homework	Reading
Week 1	A	Review of OT501			
	B	Piel Perfect Intro to BDB			Seow, lesson 15, Excurs. A <i>Guide</i> , 3.1.3
Week 2	A	Hiphil Perfect	Quiz 1 [15] <b>*Cum. Vocab Quiz [1-14, 18, 20]</b>	Seow, 15a	Seow, 16 <i>Guide</i> , 3.1.6
	B	Perfect with Obj. Suffixes		Seow, 16a (odd), c (1-6)	Seow, 17
Week 3	A	Qal Synopsis I	Quiz 2 [16 & 17]	Seow, 17a (odd); c (odd)	Seow, 18-20 <i>Guide</i> , 3.1.1
	B			Seow, 19a (odd), c (8-10)	
Week 4	A	Qal Synopsis II	Quiz 3 [19]	Seow, 20a (odd), c (vv. 1-3)	Seow, 21-23
	B			Seow, 21a (odd), 22a (odd)	
Wk. 5	A	Piel Imperfect	Quiz 4 [21]	Seow, 23d (vv. 1-5)	Seow, 24 <i>Guide</i> , 2.7
	B				
Week 6	A	Hiphil Imperfect	Quiz 5 [22]	Parsing Practice 01; Seow 24b (vv. 1-5)	Seow, 25 Excursis E
	B				
Wk. 7	A	Niphal	Quiz 6 [23]	Parsing Practice 02; Seow 25b	Seow, 26 <i>Guide</i> , 3.1.2
	B				
Week 8	A	Hithpael, Hishtaphel, Oaths	Quiz 7 [24]	Parsing Practice 03; Seow 26b (vv. 23-27)	Seow, 27 <i>Guide</i> , 3.1.5 <i>Guide</i> , 5.3
	B				
<b>Reading Week: April 3-7</b>					
Week 9	A	Geminate Verbs	Quiz 8 [25 & 26]	Parsing Practice 04; Seow, 27b (vv. 7-14)	Seow, 28
	B				
10	A	Dp, Hp, G Passive, Conditionals	Quiz 9 [27]	Seow, 28b (vv. 16-22)	Seow, 29 <i>Guide</i> , 5.2
	B				

11	A	Polel, Polal, Hithpolel	Quiz 10 [28]	Trans. Jonah 1	Seow 30
	B				
12	A	Reading Hebrew	Quiz 11 [29]	Trans. Jonah 2	
	B				
13	A	Reading Hebrew	Quiz 12 [30]	Trans. Jonah 3	
	B				
14	A	Reading Hebrew		Trans. Jonah 4	
	B				
<b>Final Exam: 8:00-10:00am, Tuesday, May 16</b>					