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OT 502 Grammar and Readings in Biblical Hebrew

Richard E. Cornell

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OT502 – Grammar & Readings in Biblical Hebrew – (3 hours)
August 2003
(T, W, R, F // 1-3:50PM // SH408)
Enrollment Limit: 25
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Please note that this syllabus is subject to revision by the professor.

A word about intensive language courses:
All language courses are demanding. Intensive term language courses are especially demanding. It is expected that you will spend 2-3 hours out of class for every hour that you spend in class. Considering that we are in class for 3 hours a day (four days a week) this means that you will be spending 9-12 a day (four days a week) in Hebrew study (counting in-class time). Please make an honest assessment of whether you can give the class this type of commitment. If you cannot, please reconsider taking this course in an intensive term. Falling behind in an intensive language course is like bungee jumping without attaching the cord to your ankle!

The upside to the intensive courses (yes, there is an upside, believe it or not!) is that you are able to focus your attention on a single subject with great intensity. You will be learning at an accelerated rate, which is an immensely rewarding experience. You will see growth and improvement of your skills in a matter of days, not weeks like a regular session course.

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

2.1 To master the elements and subtleties of Hebrew phonology.
2.2 To determine the range of function based on word formation - morphology.
2.3 To further develop knowledge of the Hebrew verbal system, as well as the forms and uses of the verbal derived stems.
2.4 To gain facility in using a standard Hebrew-English Lexicon (BDB), theological dictionaries and reference grammars.
2.5 To develop basic skills in reading and translating Biblical Hebrew.
2.6 To distinguish the basic differences between Hebrew prose and poetry.
3. Course Requirements & Comments

3.1. Attendance: Faithful attendance is expected.

3.2. Assignments: Students will daily receive assignments (exercises from the textbook and translation 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 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 Late Work: In an intensive course, late work is simply not an option. Late work will receive no credit unless special arrangements are made with the instructor. Late work will receive no comments.

3.4 Emergencies: 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 Evaluations: There will be daily quizzes during the term (see Course Outline below) and one final exam (Aug 29th). Some of the quizzes will be vocab only. Most quizzes will have both vocab and grammar components. The lowest quiz will be dropped. The final exam will be a comprehensive in-class translation exam, which will include parsing.

3.6 Feedback: The faculty of Asbury Theological Seminary is committed to providing “timely and substantive feedback.” According to Seminary policy, the expectation of “timely feedback” is met when students have their work marked, graded, and returned within one week of its submission. This policy is based upon a regular semester, not an intensive term. The equivalent return time for an intensive course would be returning the papers the next day. The professor will try to meet this expectation, though this may not always be possible. The expectation of “substantive” feedback is met when students receive responses that alert them to what they have done well and how they might improve their performance in subsequent work.

3.7 Incompletes: Asbury Theological Seminary’s policy on incomplete work may be found in the 2001-2003 Asbury Theological Seminary Catalog, p. 29. In brief, the only justifiable reason for an incomplete is an “unavoidable emergency, which does not include delinquency or attending to church work or other employment.”

3.8 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. Texts & Software

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


4.2 Optional texts


4.3 Recommended software

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

*Hebrew Tutor.* Parsons Technology.

5. Student Evaluation

5.1. Assignments 30%

5.2. Class Participation/Daily Readings 10%

5.3. Quizzes 30%

5.4. Final Examination (8/29/03) 30%

6. Letter Grade/Percentage Standard (See 2001-2003 Asbury Theological Seminary Catalog, p. 28, for a description of letter grades [e.g., what is a “B”?]):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>95 – 100%</th>
<th>73 – 76.9%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90 – 94.9%</td>
<td>70 – 72.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>87 – 89.9%</td>
<td>67 – 69.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>83 – 86.9%</td>
<td>63 – 66.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>77 – 79.9%</td>
<td>Below 60</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
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</table>
# 7. Course Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Quizzes*</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Aug 5th   | ➢ Review
            ➢ The Piel Perfect
            ➢ Intro to BDB | Q0 Cumulative Vocab Review
[1-14,18,20] – **Due 7/12** | Seow, 15a (odd), c (odd) | Seow, Lessons 15, Excursus A |
| Aug 6th   | ➢ The Hiphil Perfect
            ➢ The Perfect with Object Suffixes | Q1 Due – [15] | Seow, 16a (odd), c (every 3rd); 17a (odd), c (you pick 2), d (you pick 2) | Seow, Lessons 16 & 17 |
| Aug 7th   | ➢ Qal Synopsis Part I | Q2 Due – [16 & 17] | Seow, 19a (every 3rd), c (every 3rd); Seow 20a (every 3rd), c (Gen 22:1-2) | Seow, Lessons 19-23 |
| Aug 8th   | ➢ Qal Synopsis Part II | Q3 Due [19]. | Seow, 21a(odd), 22a(odd), 23d (Gen 3:1-5) | Seow, Lessons 19-23 |
| Aug 12th  | ➢ The Piel Imperfect | Q4 Due – [20 & 21] | Piel Parsing Handout; Seow 24b (Deut 5:4-8) | Seow, Lesson 24 |
| Aug 13th  | ➢ The Hiphil Imperfect | Q5 Due – [22]. | Hiphil Parsing Handout; Seow 25b (Psalm 1) | Seow, Lesson 25, Excursus E |
| Aug 14th  | ➢ The Niphal | Q6 Due – [23] | Niphal Parsing Handout; Seow 26b (Deut 32:verses TBA) | Seow, Lesson 26 |
| Aug 20th  | ➢ The Pual, Qal Passives & Conditional Sentences.
            ➢ The Polel, Polal & Hithpolel
            & Uses of **yk** | Q9 Due – [26] | Seow 30a (Isa 6) | Seow, Lessons 29 & 30 |
| Aug 21st  | ➢ Reading Hebrew | Q10 Due – [27] | Translate Jonah 1 | TBA |
| Aug 22nd  | ➢ Reading Hebrew | Q11 Due – [28] | Translate Jonah 2 | TBA |
| Aug 26th  | ➢ Reading Hebrew | Q12 Due – [29] | Translate Jonah 3 | TBA |
| Aug 28th  | ➢ Reading Hebrew
            ➢ Prep for Final Exam. | | TBA | TBA |
| Aug 29th  | ➢ In-class Final. | | | |

* The numbers in brackets represent the lesson(s) in Seow from which vocabulary will be taken for the quiz.