



OTHB 5300 Introductory Hebrew Grammar New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Biblical Studies Division Fall 2017

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Mission Statement

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Core Value Focus

The seminary has five core values.

- 1. Doctrinal Integrity:** Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically by preparing students to grow in understanding and interpreting of the Bible.
- 2. Spiritual Vitality:** We are a worshiping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word. Spiritual Vitality is addressed by reminding students that a dynamic relationship with God is vital for effective ministry.
- 3. Mission Focus:** We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries. This course addresses Mission Focus by helping students understand the biblical foundations for fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments.
- 4. Characteristic Excellence:** What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Characteristic Excellence is addressed by preparing students to excel in their ability to interpret Scripture, which is foundational to effective ministry.
- 5. Servant Leadership:** We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us. Servant Leadership is modeled by classroom deportment.

The core value focus for this academic year is Servant Leadership.

Curriculum Competencies

NOBTS faculty members realize that all ministers need to develop specific competencies if they are going to have an effective ministry. To increase the likelihood of NOBTS graduates having an effective ministry, the faculty developed a competency-based curriculum after identifying seven essential competencies necessary for effective ministry. All graduates are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in all of the following areas:

- 1. Biblical Exposition:** to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.
- 2. Christian Theological Heritage:** To understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.
- 3. Disciple Making:** To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.
- 4. Interpersonal Skills:** To perform pastoral care effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.
- 5. Servant Leadership:** To serve churches effectively through team ministry.
- 6. Spiritual and Character Formation:** To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.
- 7. Worship Leadership:** To facilitate worship effectively.

The curriculum competency addressed in this course is biblical exposition.

Course Description

Students explore the foundation of Hebrew Grammar and basic vocabulary so that they will be able to do basic translation and exegesis of the Hebrew text of the Old Testament. The course emphasizes basic grammatical constructions and rules of grammar as well as tools necessary for the student to work with the original language. The course includes basic readings from the Hebrew text.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete the course will have:

Knowledge

- A. Learned basic grammatical forms and functions of biblical Hebrew
- B. Come to understand the basic syntax of Hebrew narrative texts
- C. Mastered a basic vocabulary of biblical Hebrew
- D. Acquired an adequate foundation for further study of biblical Hebrew

Attitudes

- A. Begun to see the value of reading from the "original" Hebrew for interpreting the Old Testament
- B. Achieved a growing appreciation for the richness of the Old Testament language
- C. Become motivated to embrace the discipline of Hebrew language study as a part of an ongoing commitment to excellence in ministry.

Skills

- A. Read biblical Hebrew properly (use proper pronunciation)
- B. Translated from representative Hebrew narrative texts
- C. Implemented basic grammatical and syntactical elements of basic Hebrew narrative texts
- D. Utilized a basic lexicon, an introductory grammar, and other selected resources as effective tools for translating and interpreting biblical Hebrew texts.

Course Requirements

1. Complete and submit all daily assignments. Though all homework will be collected on a daily basis and checked (and recorded), not every assignment will receive a grade. Daily work is due at the beginning of each class. The work of another (whether current student or a published work), if submitted as the student's own, will automatically receive a grade of 0.
NOTE: Due to the importance of learning this biblical language, expect lengthy, and sometimes repetitive, assignments. These are not given to make seminary life hard or the learning of Hebrew difficult. No, these assignments are given *to make the learning process happen productively*, so that you will have the opportunity to develop lasting study habits for gleaning insight from God's Holy Word.
2. Prepare for:
 - a. Weekly vocabulary quizzes (every Tuesday)
 - b. Translation and parsing of verbs, nouns, and adjectives
 - c. Weekly grammar quizzes (every Thursday)
 - d. Comprehensive vocabulary exams
 - e. Weekly vocalization and reading of the Hebrew text, along with a rotation of "Tall Tale" readings

Course Texts

Required:

Simon, Ethelyn, Irene Resnikoff and Linda Motzkin. *The First Hebrew Primer*. 3d ed., rev. with new explanatory notes. Albany, CA: EKS Publishing, 1992.

Optional:

Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia

Long, Gary A. *Grammatical Concepts 101 for Biblical Hebrew*. Peabody, MA: Hendricksen, 2002.

Choose one (after the class begins)

Brown, Francis, S. R. Driver and Charles A. Briggs, eds. *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1906. (Rev. ed. 1959)

Brown, Francis, S. R. Driver and Charles A. Briggs, eds. *Hebrew and English Lexicon*. Rev ed. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson. (AKA "New BDB")

Holladay, William L., ed. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Leiden: Brill, 1971.

Koehler, Ludwig and Walter Baumgartner, eds. *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. 2 vols. Leiden: Brill, 1994.

Course Grading System

Daily Assignments	30%
Participation/Oral Reading	15%
Weekly Grammar Quizzes	20%
Weekly Vocabulary Quizzes	15%
Cumulative Vocabulary Exams	<u>20%</u>
	100%

Extra Credit option: Oral Reading from Ruth 4 (up to 4 pts on final average)

Course Policies

Make-up work:

- ▶ Make-up work for a missed quiz/exam is not allowed unless the student has made provision with the professor prior to or immediately after the absence (in cases such as hospitalization, death in the family, etc.).
- ▶ *The student* is responsible for lecture, work assignment changes, or quiz/exam announcements that occur during any missed class.
- ▶ Late assignments may be submitted until the last week of the semester **but may only be submitted for half credit after the due date.**

Class Participation:

- ▶ Class participation (or lack thereof) directly affects the final grade for this course.
- ▶ Students should exercise care when bringing food or drink to class. Making a mess, distracting the class, or being distracted in class will result in food and drink being banned from the classroom altogether.
- ▶ All cell phones should be switched off or placed in silent mode. Students should refrain from exiting class to answer the phone except in cases of emergency or unless the professor has been notified beforehand of a potential important phone call. Failure to comply with this request may result in dismissal from the class.
- ▶ Inappropriate behavior or disrespect shown either to the professor or to other classmates may result in dismissal for the remainder of the class. Repeated offenses could result in permanent dismissal from the class (and a WF).

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hebrew Lexicons

- Brown, F., S. R. Driver, and C. A. Briggs, *Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Hendrickson, 1979.
- Clines, David J. A. (ed.). *The Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*. 8 vols. Sheffield Academic, 1993.
- Holladay, William L. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Eerdmans, 1971.
- Koehler, L. and W. Baumgartner, et. al. (eds.). *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. 3d ed. 5 vols. Brill, 1994-2001; Study edition, 2 vols. Brill, 2001.

Biblical-Theological Dictionaries

- Botterweck, G. J., H. Ringgren, H.-J. Fabry, eds. *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament*. Eerdmans, 1977-.
- Harris, R. L., G. L. Archer, Jr., and B. K. Waltke, eds. *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. 2 vols. Moody, 1980.
- Jenni, E. and C. Westermann, eds. *Theological Lexicon of the Old Testament*. 3 vols. Hendrickson, 1997.
- VanGemeren, Willem A., ed. *New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis*. 5 vols. Zondervan, 1997.

Concordances

- Accordance* at accordancebible.com. Gramcord.
- Even-Shoshan, E. *A New Concordance of the Old Testament Using the Hebrew and Aramaic Text*. 2d ed. Baker, 1989.
- Goodrick, E. W., and J. R. Kohlenberger, III. *The NIV Exhaustive Concordance*. Zondervan, 1990.

Hebrew Grammars

Introductory

- Dobson, John H. *Learn Biblical Hebrew*. Baker, 2005.
- Kelley, Page. *Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar*. Eerdmans, 1992.
- Pratico, G. D. and M. V. Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew*. Zondervan, 2001.
- _____. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew – Workbook*. Zondervan, 2001.
- _____. *The Vocabulary Guide to Biblical Hebrew*. Zondervan, 2003.
- Ross, Allen P. *Introducing Biblical Hebrew*. Baker, 2001.

Seow, C. L. *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew*. Rev. ed. Abingdon, 1995.

Intermediate

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

Beall, Todd D., William A. Banks, and Colin Smith. *Old Testament Parsing Guide*. 2 vols. Chicago: Moody Press, 1986-1990.

Bergstrasser, Gotthelf. *Introduction to the Semitic Languages*. Translated by Peter T. Daniels. Winona Lake IN: Eisenbrauns, 1983.

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Brotzman, Ellis R. *Old Testament Textual Criticism*. Grand Rapids: Baker 1993.

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