

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

OTHB 6300 Intermediate Hebrew Grammar

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“At a time when 90% of Southern Baptist churches are plateaued or declining, NOBTS is a school focusing on training God-called men and women to grow healthy churches.”

—Dr. Chuck Kelley—

NOBTS Mission	To equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.
Core Value	Our seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity as the Bible is believed to be the Word of God, inspired and inerrant. The specific core value celebrated this academic year is Spiritual Vitality.
Course Description	Readings from all the different genres of the Hebrew OT will provide the basis for solidifying and expanding students’ grammatical knowledge and for introducing them to all the basic components required for advanced work in the Hebrew text. Foundational elements of the study will be limited grammar review, and introductions to the standard critical edition of the Hebrew Bible, textual criticism, translation theory and method, and syntactical analysis. Guided practice in reading, textual criticism, grammatical and syntactical analysis, and translation will prepare students to achieve maximum benefit from subsequent advanced Hebrew exegesis courses.
Curriculum Competencies	The Seminary has seven key competencies in its academic program. They are: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Discipleship Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. The key competency addressed in this course is Biblical Exposition.
Course Objectives	By the end of this course, the student should be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Describe the basics of biblical Hebrew syntax.2. Read and translate texts from the Hebrew Bible.3. Demonstrate knowledge of 300 vocabulary words.4. Parse strong and weak verbs.5. Demonstrate understanding of Hebrew language tools for use in biblical exegesis.
Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The student will be able to understand how to improve biblical exegesis by the means of Hebrew grammar and syntax.2. The student will demonstrate how to apply the benefits of Hebrew

Embedded Assignment — Exegetical Project

word studies, syntax, literary analysis, genre nuances, or text critical issues in the proclamation of the Bible (Hebrew Bible).
 3. The student will be able to communicate clearly the meaning of the original Hebrew text, especially as influenced by genre, lexicography, context, and literary structure.

Teaching Methodology

The course methodologies include video lectures, oral readings, article and textbook readings, weekly quizzes, and exams.

Required Textbooks

Ellis R. Brotzman, *Old Testament Textual Criticism: A Practical Introduction*. Baker, 1994. [TC]
 Robert B. Chisholm, Jr. *From Exegesis to Exposition: A Practical Guide to using Biblical Hebrew*. Baker, 1999. [EE]
 Jeff Griffin. *Mastering Biblical Hebrew Vocabulary*. E-Book. (Provided to the student at no cost.)
The student should have the following texts from Introductory Hebrew:
Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia.
Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon. Hendrickson, 1996. (Other lexicons are permissible)

Course Requirements & Assessment:

The student will:
 1. Complete weekly quizzes on the lectures, reading assignments, and vocabulary assignments.
 2. Translated assigned passages from the *BHS*.
 3. Prepare an exegetical paper on an assigned passage.
 4. Complete a mid-term and final examination.
 5. Exegetical Project (Embedded Assignment for Student Learning Outcomes assessment)

Exegetical Project Description

This assignment is an embedded assignment that will be completed by all students for all sections of this course. The rubric for grading this assignment is attached to the syllabus. Please complete the assignment according to the syllabus and this rubric.

1. Prepare an exegetical paper on an approved passage. Each text must interact with at least 10 verses in order to address textual meaning, textual criticism, syntax, grammar, context, and the literary structure of the passage. This paper should be 12-15 pages, double-spaced, using 12 pt Times New Roman font, and employ no less than 12 critical and/or technical sources. This paper should be 12–15 pages of text, double-spaced, with no less than 12 critical or technical sources. Text pages do not include title page, table of contents, or the bibliography.
2. Document and interact with key contributors in the field of study and demonstrate how the use of appropriate tools and resources can assist in the exegetical research process of investigating a selected passage for exegesis.
3. Communicate how exegesis of biblical texts impacts the faith and life

of contemporary believers.

Rubric for the

Three domains are assessed:

**Exegetical Project
- Assessment
Description**

1. **UNDERSTANDING:** The student understands how to improve biblical exegesis by the means of Hebrew grammar and syntax.
2. **APPLICATION:** The student applies the benefits of Hebrew word studies, syntax, literary analysis, genre nuances, or text critical issues in the proclamation of the Hebrew Bible.
3. **COMMUNICATION:** The student communicates clearly the meaning of the original Hebrew-especially as influenced by genre, lexicography, context, and literary structure-for the life of contemporary believers.

Assignment Evaluation (0 = Inadequate, 1 = Basic, 2 = Competent, 3 = Good, 4 = Excellent).

Grading Scale

A: 93-100% B: 85-92% C: 77-84% D: 70-76% F: below 70%

**Course
Evaluation**

1. Weekly Reading Questions – 20%
 2. Weekly Vocabulary Quizzes – 20%
 3. Mid-Term Exam – 20%
 4. Exegetical Project – 40%
- Total – 100%

**Classroom
Etiquette**

- ✓ Cell Phones – Please turn phone off or to silent.
- ✓ Laptop Computers – Surfing the Web, checking e-mail or playing video games are not appropriate use of classroom time.
- ✓ Dress Code (*NOBTS Student Handbook*)
 - A. Personal appearance and dress are a vital part of each individual's exemplary Christian witness. Modesty, neatness, cleanliness, and propriety in dress are expected.
 - B. Caps, casual shorts, and ragged shirts are considered to be inappropriate attire in the classroom. Individuals who are dressed in such attire may be asked to leave the premises at the discretion of a representative of the seminary.

OTHB 6300 – Intermediate Hebrew Grammar			
<i>READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS SCHEDULE</i>			
Week	Dates	Lectures	Assignments
1	Jan. 20/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What we're doing and why it matters! • Getting Started • A Reviewing the Seven Basic Stems • Vocabulary – On the Making of New Words – Pt 1 	
2	Jan. 27/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocabulary – On the Making of New Words – Pt 2 • Vocabulary - 1 • Parsing Verbs Made Easy • Parsing Verbs Made Easy - Updated • Parsing Verbs Made Easy – Applied 1 • Handout: Parsing Verbs – Affirmative Sheet • Handout: Parsing Verbs – Practice Sheet 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exegesis to Exposition – Ch. 1 • Textual Criticism – Introduction
3	Feb. 3/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parsing Verbs Made Easy – Applied 2 • Parsing Verbs Made Easy – Applied 3 • Parsing Verbs Made Easy – Applied 4 • Reading Hebrew – 1 • Vocabulary - 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exegesis to Exposition – Ch. 5, pgs. 57-64 • Textual Criticism – Ch. 1
4	Feb. 10/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tools of the Trade – Hebrew Lexicon • Tools of the Trade – Lexicon Drills Worksheet • Reading Hebrew – 2 • Parsing Weak Verbs 1 – A • Masorah Minute - 1 • Vocabulary - 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encyclopedia Judaica – pgs. 606-08 • Exegesis to Exposition – Ch. 5, pgs. 64-78 • Textual Criticism – Ch. 2, pgs. 37-55
5	Feb. 19	<p>Tuesday, February 17, Mardi Gras – Class Cancelled</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translation – 1 – Zechariah 14 • Tools of the Trade – Bible Projects • Reading Hebrew – 3 – Deut .18 • Parsing Weak Verbs 1 – B • Masorah Minute – 2 • Vocabulary – 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encyclopedia Judaica – pgs. 609-12A • Exegesis to Exposition – Ch. 5, pgs. 78-89 • Textual Criticism – Ch. 2, pgs. 55-62 • Encyclopedia Judaica – pgs. 612-614 • Exegesis to Exposition – Ch. 5, pgs. 89-94 • Textual Criticism – Ch. 3
6	Feb. 24/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translation – 2 – Numbers 24 • Masorah Minute – 3 – Masorah Parva • Masorah – Accents - 1 • Parsing Weak Verbs 1 – C • Reading Hebrew - 4 • Vocabulary - 5 	
7	March 3/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translation – 3 – 1 Samuel 2 • Masorah Minute – 4 – Masorah Gadolah • Masorah – Accents – 2 – Kings • Reading Hebrew – 5 – 1 Samuel 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encyclopedia Judaica – 614-618 • Exegesis to Exposition – Ch. 5, pgs. 94-112 • Textual Criticism – Ch. 4

8	March 10/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translation – 4 – Deuteronomy 18 • Reading Hebrew – 4 – Deuteronomy 18 • Masorah Minute – 5 - Sederim • Parsing Weak Verbs 2 – A • Syntax – 1 – Idioms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encyclopedia Judaica – 618-21 • Exegesis to Exposition – Ch. 3 • Textual Criticism – Ch. 5
9	March 17/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tools of the Trade – 3 – Englishman’s Concordance • Reading Hebrew – 6 – Zechariah 14 • Vocabulary – 6 – Verbs • Translation – 5 – Jeremiah 33 • Syntax – 2 – The Basics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exegesis to Exposition – Ch. 4, pgs. 31-49 • Textual Criticism – Ch. 6
10	March 23-27	Spring Break	
11	March 31 April 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translation – 6 – Isaiah 3 & 4 • Vocabulary – 7 – Nouns • Reading Hebrew – 7 – Jeremiah 33 • Masorah – Accents – 3 Servants • Syntax – 3 – More on Clauses • Masorah – Accents – 4 - Using the Accents – Part 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exegesis to Exposition – Ch. 6 • Textual Criticism – Ch. 5 and 7
12	April. 7/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masorah – Accents – 5 – Using the Accents – Part 2 • Using the Accents – Handout • Using the Accents – Worksheet • Masorah Minute – 5 – Textual Variants • Reading Hebrew – 8 – Isaiah 3 & 4 • Translation – 7 – Ezekiel 34 • Reading Hebrew – 9 – Ezekiel 34 	
13	April 14/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masorah Minute – 7 – Masorah Gadolah • Masorah – Accents – 6 – Using the Accents – Part 3 • Masorah – Accents – 7 – Using the Accents – Part 4 • Mastering the Masorah – Quiz/Worksheet 1 • Translation – 8 – Ezekiel 36 • Reading Hebrew – 10 – Ezekiel 36 	
14	April 21/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mastering the Masorah – Review – Genesis 12B • Mastering the Masorah – Quiz/Worksheet 2 • Masorah – Accents – 8 – Using the Accents – Part 5 • Translation – 9 – Jeremiah 23 • Reading Hebrew – 10 – Jeremiah 23 • Mastering the Masorah – Review – Genesis 50 	
15	April 28/30	Student Presentations	Student Presentations
16	May 5/7	Student Presentations	Student Presentations
17	May 8-14	Final Exam Week	

Selected Bibliography

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- Cynthia L. Miller-Naudé and Ziony Zevit. *Diachrony in Biblical Hebrew* (Eisenbrauns).
2010. Andrew E. Steinmann. *Intermediate Biblical Hebrew* (Chicago: Concordia).
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2006. Robert B. Chisholm, *A Workbook for Intermediate Hebrew: Grammar, Exegesis, and Commentary on Jonah and Ruth* (Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications).
2006. Paul Jouon and T. Muraoka, *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew* (Roma : Editrice Pontificio Istituto Biblio).
2006. Miles V. Van Pelt and Gary D. Pratico, *Graded Reader of Biblical Hebrew: A Guide to Reading the Hebrew Bible* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan).
2005. Nava Bergman, *The Cambridge Biblical Hebrew Workbook: Introductory Level* (Cambridge University Press).
2004. Peter James Silzer and Thomas John Finley, *How Biblical Languages Work: A Student's Guide to Learning Hebrew & Greek* (Grand Rapids: Kregel).
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1995. Leong Choon Seow, *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew* (Nashville: Abingdon).
1993. Ehud Ben Zvi, et al., *Readings in Biblical Hebrew: An Intermediate Textbook* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1993).
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1984. Larry Mitchel, *A Student's Vocabulary for Biblical Hebrew and Aramaic* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan).
1959. Jacob Weingreen, *A Practical Grammar for Classical Hebrew* (New York: Oxford University Press).
1910. William Gesenius, *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar* (Oxford University Press).