



## **Intermediate Hebrew (OTHB6300)**

### **New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**

### **Biblical Studies Division**

### **Spring 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 Characteristic Excellence

### **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 competencies addressed in this course is: Biblical Exposition

### **Course Description**

This course consists of a basic study of the fundamentals of biblical Hebrew using an inductive method and focusing on narrative literature. The course serves as a foundation for reading in the Hebrew Old Testament and for advanced study of Hebrew grammar and syntax.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

Students who successfully complete the course will have:

#### *Knowledge*

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

#### *Attitudes*

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

#### *Skills*

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

### **Course Teaching Methodology**

This course consists of a basic study of the fundamentals of biblical Hebrew using an

inductive method and focusing on narrative literature. The course serves as a foundation for reading in the Hebrew Old Testament and for advanced study of Hebrew grammar and syntax.

### **Embedded Assignment**

This course does not have an embedded assignment

### **Required Textbooks**

Ben Zvi, Ehud. *Readings in Biblical Hebrew: An Intermediate Textbook*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1993. ISBN: 978-0-300-05573-3

Wegner, Paul D. *A Student's Guide to Textual Criticism of the Bible: Its History, Method & Results* (SGTC) ISBN: 10;0-8308-2731-5

Arnold and Choi. *Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Cambridge Publishing. ISBN: 978-0-521-53348-5

Scott, William R. *A Simplified Guide to BHS, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition*. N. Richland Hills, TX: Bibal Press, 2007, ISBN: 978-1-930566-68-2

### **Additional Resources**

The course requirements assume that students own copies of Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia (BHS), currently the standard critical edition for study of the Hebrew text, and a standard Hebrew lexicon, preferably Brown, Driver, and Briggs, *Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament* (BDB) or Koehler-Baumgartner, *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (HALOT).

In addition, the basis for the introductions to the "sub-disciplines" (use of a critical text, textual criticism, translation theory and method, and syntax) will include readings from various sources.

**NOTE:** Some of these readings will be provided through links in the lesson material. These materials are copyrighted materials and provided on the same basis as limited copies of selected materials would be provided in a traditional classroom setting, meaning that these materials are to be used in support of specific parts of this particular study and are not to be reproduced and/or redistributed beyond the confines of the study of this course.

**A SECOND NOTE:** Finally, you should consider the required texts and certain other resources in the Selected Bibliography to be basic tools for ongoing work in Hebrew language studies, and you will be tasked to use them regularly. Once we get to the heart of the work (in the various biblical Hebrew texts) access to resources may be a challenge so you need to be thinking early about how you will manage it. At this point, I suggest three possible approaches (and probably a combination of them will be needed): 1.

Plan to buy some for your own library. You will need to do so sooner or later if you are serious about language study. 2. Locate them in a library or libraries in your region and plan day trips to use the resources. 3. Perhaps partner with another/other student(s) to share resources and/or expenses of accessing resources. (See blackboard for selected bibliography)

### **Course Requirements and Schedule of Assignments**

A. Read and submit written reports on all assignments related to the subdisciplines of the study

B. Complete all RBH assignments including reading all the introductory observations and comments on texts, translating the pertinent Hebrew texts, charting/parsing/analyzing specific forms, answering specific questions, and responding to other varied instructions, then submit copies of these materials for grading

- C. Learn and begin to use the basic principles of Textual Criticism and Grammatical and Syntactical Analysis as a part of the normal discipline of work in the Hebrew text
- D. Be prepared to post observations and questions from assignments and interact with the posts of the professor and other students on content and significance of assignments on a weekly basis
- E. Prepare and submit an annotated selected bibliography treating major resources for intermediate and advanced work in biblical Hebrew
- F. Attain a passing average on all required components of the course

### **Course Schedule (Work more than 2 wks late will not be accepted)**

#### **Learning Units (see Blackboard)**

##### **Date Due:**

**Learning Units 1 and 1a due by 2/3**

**Learning Unit 2 due by 2/10**

**Learning Unit 3 due by 2/17**

**Learning Unit 4 and 4a due by 2/24**

**Learning Unit 5a and 5b - RBH 1 Sam 1:1-11 due by 3/3**

**Learning Unit 6 - RBH 1 Sam 1:12-28 due by 3/10**

**Learning Unit 7 - RBH 2 Kings 14:23-29 due by 3/17**

**Learning Unit 8 - RBH Ex 21:28-36 due by 3/24**

**SPRING BREAK (OTHERWISE KNOWN AS CATCH UP WEEK!)**

**Learning Unit 9 - RBH Lev 5:20-26 due by 3/31**

**Learning Unit 10 - RBH Deut 24:14-22 due by 4/7**

**Learning Unit 11 - RBH Ezekiel 37:1-14 due by 4/14**

**Learning Unit 12 - RBH Qohelet 1:1-11 due by 4/21**

**Learning Unit 13 - RBH Psalm 1 due by 4/28**

**Learning Unit 14 - Annotated Bibliography and Poetry structure post due 5/5**

**Learning Unit 15 – Discourse Analysis due by 5/11**

**(all work must be submitted by 5/11 )**

## Course Evaluation

- A. Participation 10%
- B. Reports on Readings 15%
- C. Posts, Discussion, Interaction 15%
- D. RBH Assignment Submissions 50%
- E. Annotated Selected Bibliography 10%

## Selected Bibliography:

- Arnold, Bill & John Choi. *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Cambridge, 2003.
- Bartelt, Andrew. "On the Subtleties of Hebrew Verbs." *Concordia Journal* 34 (2008): 61-62.
- Cook, John. "The Semantics of Verbal Pragmatics: Clarifying the Roles of *Wayyiqtol* and *Weqatal* in Biblical Hebrew Prose." *Journal of Semitic Studies* 49 (2004): 247-73.
- Dawson, David. *Text-Linguistics and Biblical Hebrew*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1994.
- Harris, R. Laird, Gleason Archer Jr., and Bruce Waltke, eds. *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1980.
- Heller, Roy. *Narrative Structure and Discourse Constellations: An Analysis of Clause Function in Biblical Hebrew Prose*. Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbrauns, 2004.
- Hunter, Vanlier. *Biblical Hebrew Workbook: An Inductive Study for Beginners*. University Press of America, 1988.
- Jouon, Paul. *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew*. Translated and revised by T. Muraoka. *Subsidia biblica*. Roma: Editrice Pontificio Instituto Biblico, 2005.
- Kautzsch, E., ed. *Gesenius Hebrew Grammar*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1910.
- Lambdin, T. O. *Introduction to Biblical Hebrew*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1971.
- Niccacci, Alviero. *The Syntax of the Verb in Classical Hebrew Prose*. Translated by W. G. E. Watson. Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1990.

Waltke, Bruce, and M. O'Connor. *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbrauns, 1990.