



OTHB5300: Introductory Hebrew Grammar

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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 Doctrinal Integrity.

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 foundations 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.

Course Texts

Required

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

Elliger, K., and W. Rudolph, eds. Second edition emendations by W. Rudolph and H. P. Ruger. *Biblical Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1984. (**A Hebrew Bible and Lexicon are required by week 8**)

Van Pelt, Miles V. *English Grammar to Ace Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010. (Compared to Gary Long, *Grammatical Concepts 101 for Biblical Hebrew* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2002))

Choose Only One (Not needed at the beginning of the semester)

Brown, Fancis, S. R. Driver, and Charles A. Briggs, eds. *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old testament with an Appendix Containing the Biblical Aramaic Based on the Lexicon of William*

Gesenius as Translated by Edward Robinson. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1906 [1959 with revision].
Not great but okay; somewhat hard for beginners

Brown, Frances, S. T. Driver, and Charles A. Briggs, eds. *Hebrew and English Lexicon.* Revised edition. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, n. D. **Not great but okay; somewhat hard for beginners**

Holladay, William L., ed. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament: Based on the First, Second, and Third Editions of the Koehler-Baumgartner Lexicon in Veteris testamenti Libros.* Leiden, Netherlands: E. J. Brill, 1971. **Outstandingly excellent for ease of use for a beginner but not useful for the long haul**

Koehler, Ludwig, and Walter Baumgartner, eds. *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament.* 2 vols. Subsequently revised by Walter Baumgartner and Johann Jakob Stamm. Translated and edited by M. E. J. Richardson, G. G. Jongeling-Vox, and L. G. De Regt. Leiden, Netherlands: E. J. Brill, 1994. **The Gold Standard, you get what you pay for!!!!**

Student Learning Outcomes

Knowledge

Students who complete this course successfully should:

- Understand the significance of hermeneutics for biblical exposition
- Know the basic methods of biblical interpretation that have been practiced throughout history
- Know basic principles of grammatical-historical interpretation that lead interpreters to discover the meaning intended by the biblical author
- Know the major genres of scripture and the hermeneutical principles that should be applied to each genre
- Know the important tools that may be useful in the study of the biblical text
- Know principles that guide modern preachers and teachers in applying biblical truths to our contemporary context

Attitudes

Students who complete this course successfully should:

- Appreciate the complexities of the exegetical task
- Recognize the importance of sound exegesis
- Be more confident in interpreting biblical texts

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, the student should be able to demonstrate the following skills:

- Show a cumulative mastery of nearly four hundred Hebrew vocabulary words.
- Translate and parse no less than four verses (of average length) per hour.
- Conjugate fully both tenses of the Hebrew verbal system, in all the verb stems.
- Translate and read orally from the Hebrew Bible.
- Understand how to use a Hebrew lexicon and concordance for word studies.
- Understand the basic elements of Hebrew Grammar and syntax.

Course Requirements

1. Complete and submit all daily assignments on the day assigned!
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 work, will automatically receive a grade of "zero."

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 some lasting study habits for gleaning insight from God's Holy Word.

2. Prepare for
 - a. Vocab quizzes on Tues (typically 33 words/week, sometimes, 50);
 - b. Translation and parsing of verbs, nouns, and adjectives;
 - c. Grammar quizzes every Thursday (including "b" above);
 - d. Comprehensive vocabulary exam(s); as well as
 - e. Weekly vocalization and reading of the Hebrew text, sometimes interspersed readings from the *Tall Tale* stories.

Course Policy

Attendance

See the Graduate Catalog

Make-up Work

Make-up for a missed quiz/exam is not allowed unless the student has made provision prior to or immediately after the absence (such as, in the case of hospitalization, death of a family member, etc.) with the professor.

The student IS responsible for lecture, work assignment changes, or quiz/text announcements that occurred during the missed class. Late assignments may be submitted up to the last week of the semester; BUT WILL BE assessed a one-half-off late penalty (50% highest grade possible) IF SUBMITTED AFTER CLASS ON THE DATE DUE.

Citizenship/Conduct

Class participation (or the lack thereof) directly affects the final grade for this course. No gum, food, or drinks are permitted in the classroom. Likewise, all cell phones are to be turned off, along with social media or non-curricular use of technology. Exiting class to answer a cell phone call is not allowed, since your professor views this as a disruption. Failure to comply with this request may result in dismissal (with a WF) from the class. Inappropriate behavior or disrespect shown either to the professor or to other classmates may be result in dismissal for the remainder of the class. Repeated offenses could result in permanent dismissal (with a WF) from the class.

Course Grading System

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|---|-----|
| ● Daily Assignments | 30% |
| ● Participation/Oral Reading of Hebrew in class/Tall-Tale Reading | 15% |
| ● Weekly Grammar Quizzes | 20% |
| ● Weekly Vocabulary Tests | 15% |
| ● Cumulative Vocabulary Exams | 20% |

Extra Credit Option: Scheduled, private oral reading from Ruth

Course Schedule

Date	Assignment	Date	Assignment
Jan 22	Chs 1, 2 Do 1:1, 4-6; 2:1, 3, 4 (One hour minimum) Read Van Pelt Ch. 1	Jan 24	Chapter 3 Do: 3:1-4, 6-8. Read Van Pelt Ch. 2
Jan 29	Chapter 4 Do: 4:1-4, 6, 7 Read Van Pelt Chs. 3 & 7	Jan 31	Chapter 5 Do 5:1, 3-5, 6(1), 7(3) Read Van Pelt Ch. 4
Feb 5	Chapter 6 Do 6:1-3, 5, 6(2), 7(1), 8 Read Van Pelt Ch. 8-9	Feb 7	Grammar Test 1 (w/5:6-8) Chapter 7 Do 7:1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9(1), 10(1) Read Van Pelt Ch. 10-11
Feb 12	Chapter 8 Do 8:1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7(odd), 8(1), 9(2)	Feb 14	Chapter 9 Do 9:2, 3, 5, 7, 8(a, c, e, g)
Feb 19	Chapter 10 Do 10:2, 3, 5, 6(1), TT (1st 3 para), R Read Van Pelt Ch. 5	Feb 21	Grammar Test 2 (cumulative 1-8) Chapter 11 Do 11:2, 3, 4, 5(2), 6, TT (1st 3 para), R
Feb 26	Chapter 12 Do 12:1, 2, 4, 6, 7 TT(1st 3 para), R	Feb 28	Grammar Test 3 (9-12) Chapter 13 Do 13:1, 3, 4, 8(1-2), TT (1st 3 para), R
Mar 5	<i>Mardi Gras - No Class</i>	Mar 7	Chapter 14 Do 14:1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, TT (1st 3 para), R Read Van Pelt Ch. 6
Mar 12	Chapter 15 Do 15:1-6, I, TT (1st 3 para), R	Mar 14	Chapter 16 Do 16:1-6, TT (1st 3 para), R
Mar 19	<i>Spring Break - No Class</i>	Mar 21	<i>Spring Break - No Class</i>
Mar 26	Chapter 17 Do 17:2, 4, 5, 6 (1-2), TT (1st 3 para), R	Mar 28	Grammar Test 4 (13-16) Chapter 18 Do 18:2, 4, 5(O), 6, 7(1-2), 8, TT (1st 3 para), R Read Van Pelt Ch 14 Begin bringing BHS & Lexicon
Apr 2	Chapter 19 Do 19:2, 3, 4-5(O), 6(1), 7, TT (1st 3 para), R Read Van Pelt Ch. 12	Apr 4	Cumulative Vocabulary Exam 1 Chapter 20 Do 20:2,3,4,6(O),7,8(4),9,TT(1st 3 para), R Read Van Pelt Ch. 13

Apr 9	Chapter 21 Do 21:2,3-5(O),6,8(6),9, TT(1st 3 para), R	Apr 11	Grammar Test 5 (17-20) Chapter 22 Do 22:2-3(O),4,5(O),6(5),7,TT(1st 3 par), R
Apr 16	Chapter 23 Do 23:2,3(O),4,5-6(O),7(4),8,R	Apr 18	Grammar Test 6 Chapter 24 Do 24:2,3,4(O),5,6(E),7(5), TT(1st 3 par), R
Apr 23	Chapter 25 Do 25:2,3,4(O),5,6(O),7,8(5),9,R	Apr 26	Chapter 26 Do 26:2,3,4-5(O),6(E),7,8(4), TT(1st 3 para), R
Apr 30	Chapter 27 Do 27:1,3,4(E),5(O),6,8,TT(1st 3 para), R	May 2	Grammar Test 7 Chapter 28 Do 28:2,3,4(E),5,6(O), TT(1st 3 para), R
May 7	Chapter 29 Ruth Readings	May 9	Chapter 30 Ruth Readings
Final Exam Cumulative Vocabulary Exam 2/Grammar Test 8 (Cumulative)			

Legend: **TT** = A Tall Tale; **R** = Ruth Translation in Text; **(O)** = Odd; **(E)** = Even; **BHS** = Hebrew Bible; **para** = paragraphs; **(#)** = selected subsection of designated exercise.

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.

Botterweck, G. Johannes, and Helmer Ringgren. *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974-.

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

Brown, F., S.R. Driver, and C.A. Briggs. *Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Hendrickson, 1979.

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

Davidson, Andrew Bruce. *Introductory Hebrew Grammar: Hebrew Syntax*. 3rd ed. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1981.

Even-Shoshan, Abraham. *A New Concordance of the Old Testament*. (A New Concordance of the Bible). 2nd ed. Jerusalem: Kiryat Sefer Publishing, 1990.

- Girdlestone, Robert Baker. *Synonyms of the Old Testament*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1983.
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- Hunter, A. Vanlier. *Biblical Hebrew Workbook: An Inductive Study for Beginners*. Lanham, Maryland: University Press of America, 1988.
- Jenni, E. and C. Westermann (eds.). *Theological Lexicon of the Old Testament*. 3 vols. Hendrickson, 1997.
- Joüon, Paul. *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew*. Translated and revised by T. Muraoka. 1st ed. With corrections. Roma: Editrice Pontificio Istituto Biblio, 1993.
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- Kelley, Page H., Terry L. Burden, and Timothy G. Crawford. *A Handbook to Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994.
- Lambdin, Thomas O. *Introduction to Biblical Hebrew*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1971.
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- Owens, John Joseph. *Analytical Key to the Old Testament*. 4 vols. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1990-1993.
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- Würthwein, Ernst. *The Text of the Old Testament*. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1979.
- Zvi, Ben-Ehud. *Readings in Biblical Hebrew: An Intermediate Textbook*. Maxine Hancock and Richard Beinert, eds. New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press, 1993.