

REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



DALLAS

Hebrew I
11OT5100

Fall 2023
Wednesday, 9:00am-12:00pm

Dr. Kevin R. Warstler

PROFESSOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Email: kwarstler@criswell.edu
Phone: 214-818-1331
Appointments: Please feel free to email me to set up an appointment. I
Have an office at Criswell College at Haskell and Gaston
near Baylor Hospital but I am willing to meet in other
locations as well.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces basic elements of the Hebrew language. Lectures and small group sessions cover the Hebrew alphabet, pronunciation, and elementary grammatical structures.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

1. Pratico, Gary D., and Miles V. Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar*, 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2019. (ISBN: 978-0310533498)
2. Pratico, Gary D., and Miles V. Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Workbook*, 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2019. (ISBN: 978-0310533559)
3. Holladay, William L. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1972 (ISBN: 978-0802834133) **OR** Koehler, Ludwig, and Walter Baumgartner. *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament, Study Edition*. 2 vols. Translated by M. E. J. Richardson. Leiden: Brill, 2001 (ISBN: 978-9004124455) [a more expensive but more detailed lexicon than Holladay].

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the course you should be able to:

1. Pronounce all Hebrew words that you encounter.
2. Identify the roots of most nouns and adjectives.
3. Identify and translate a vocabulary of approximately 250 words.
4. Parse nouns, pronouns, pronominal suffixes, adjectives, and qal verbs.
5. Translate sentences that include the required vocabulary and qal perfect and imperfect forms.

COURSE POLICIES

1. **Attendance:** Regular attendance is strongly encouraged although attendance will not be formally recorded. Except for the first class session, there will be a quiz or exam every class period which will constitute the only official record of attendance.
2. **Late Work:** Late quizzes or exams may be arranged in the event of excused absences. Please contact the professor in the event of a known upcoming absence in order to receive approval for making up a quiz or exam. In the case of unplanned emergencies, please contact the professor as soon as possible following the situation in order to receive approval to make up a quiz or exam.
3. **Technology:** Technological resources (such as laptops and mobile devices) are encouraged to be used for the course. There will in fact be times when

we will refer to online resources that can be accessed during some class periods. However, the use of such devices for other purposes (e.g., surfing the net, texting, playing computer games, phone calls other than emergencies) in class is prohibited.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Homework

There is no homework grade for the course so it is up to each student to determine how much work is needed to understand a concept and to be prepared for quizzes and exams; however, there will be weekly assignments given over sections of the *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Workbook* as well as supplemental material provided throughout the course. The study guides will include a daily (5-day week) schedule of what is considered an optimal amount of work in order to understand the particular concept we are studying. In most cases, I would encourage you to complete all of the work on the study guides so that you will be prepared for the quizzes and exams. An answer key for most of the homework in the workbook will be provided; however, Bible translations are not included so you will need to check those using a fairly literal Bible translation (NASB, ESV, NKJV, etc.).

2. Quizzes (40%)

There will be a quiz given each week except for weeks when there is an exam. The quizzes will include vocabulary, morphological and grammatical issues, as well as translation. There will also be a bonus section on each of the quizzes. Points earned on this section will not be cumulative over the semester but only available as points added to that specific quiz. The maximum allowable score for each quiz is 100 points. The three (3) lowest or missing quiz scores will not be included in the final grade. The content of the quizzes will be included on study guides distributed in class.

3. Exams (60%)

Three equally weighted exams will be given over the course of the semester. Based on the fact that language learning involves an accumulation of one concept based upon another, all of the exams will be cumulative in the strictest sense. However, each exam will emphasize the concepts from a specific set of chapters. A study guide for each exam will be provided one week before the exam. If you make less than 70% on any of the first two exams, you may take another similar exam to receive a higher grade. The

higher of the two grades will be used but only to the maximum of 70%, which is passing. You must take the additional exam before the date of the next exam in the course. There will be three exams over the course of the semester, including the final exam. Only the first two qualify for a retake since the final exam will be at the end of the course. Each of these exams will be worth 20% of the student's final grade and will be administered in class according to the dates listed on the outline. As with the quizzes, there will be a bonus section on each of the exams to allow you to make up points that you miss on that exam only. The maximum allowable score for each exam is 100.

GRADING SCALE

A	(97-100)	4.00
A-	(94-96)	3.66
B+	(91-93)	3.33
B	(88-90)	3.00
B-	(86-87)	2.66
C+	(83-85)	2.33
C	(80-82)	2.00
C-	(78-79)	1.66
D+	(75-77)	1.33
D	(72-74)	1.00
D-	(70-71)	0.66
F	(below 70)	0.00

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Date	In-Class Topic	Text Chapter(s) Covered	Assignment Due
1	August 30	Introduction to Course, Syllabus, Alphabet	1	
2	September 6	Vowels, Syllables, Pronunciation	2-3	Quiz 1
3	September 13	Nouns, Definite Article	4-5	Quiz 2
4	September 20	Prepositions	6	Quiz 3
5	September 27	Adjectives, Review for Exam	7	Quiz 4
6	October 4	READING WEEK – NO CLASS		
7	October 11	EXAM DAY		EXAM #1
8	October 18	Pronouns	8	Quiz 5
9	October 25	Pronominal Suffixes	9	Quiz 6
10	November 1	Construct Chains	10	Quiz 7
11	November 8	Numbers, Review for Exam	11	Quiz 8
12	November 15	EXAM DAY		EXAM #2

13	November 22	Hebrew Verbs, <i>Qal</i> Perfect Strong Verbs	12–13	Quiz 9
14	November 29	<i>Qal</i> Imperfect Strong Verbs, Review for Exam	15	Quiz 10
15	December 6	EXAM DAY		EXAM #3

RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Arnold, Bill T. and John H. Choi. *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.
- Bornemann, Robert. *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1998.
- Cohn-Sherbok, Dan. *Biblical Hebrew for Beginners*. London: SPCK, 1996.
- Davidson, A. B., and John Mauchline. *Introductory Hebrew Grammar: with progressive exercises in reading, writing, and pointing*. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1966.
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- Dobson, John H. *Learn Biblical Hebrew*. Second edition. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005.
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- Futato, Mark David. *Beginning Biblical Hebrew*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2003.
- Garrett, Duane A. *A Modern Grammar for Classical Hebrew*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2002.
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- Kittel, Bonnie Pedrotti, Vicki Hoffer, and Rebecca Abts Wright. *Biblical Hebrew: A Text and Workbook*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1989.
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- Kutz, Karl, and Rebekah Josberger. *Learning Biblical Hebrew: Reading for Comprehension: An*

- Introductory Grammar*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2018.
- Lambdin, Thomas O. *Introduction to Biblical Hebrew*. New York: Scribner, 1971.
- Long, Gary A. *Grammatical Concepts 101 for Biblical Hebrew: Learning Biblical Hebrew Grammatical Concepts through English Grammar*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2002.
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- Silzer, Peter J., and Thomas John Finley. *How Biblical Languages Work: A Student's Guide to Learning Hebrew and Greek*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2004.
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- Wegner, Paul D. *Using Old Testament Hebrew in Preaching: A Guide for Students and Pastors*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2009.
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