

Beginning Biblical Hebrew



Dr. Mark D. Futato
Reformed Theological Seminary
02OT5100
Winter 2026

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Dates: January 6–27
Office Hours: By Appointment via [Calendly](#)

PURPOSE, GOAL, AND OBJECTIVES

PURPOSE

- To encourage you to live an abundant life to the glory God!

GOAL

- To facilitate your success in acquiring
 - A thorough knowledge of Hebrew grammar and
 - Essential skills in the use of Hebrew,
 - So that you can study and teach the Hebrew Bible with greater depth and accuracy and enjoy a richer life.

OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of Hebrew 1 you will have:

- Overcome the foreignness of Hebrew.
- Mastered the first 23 lessons in *Beginning Biblical Hebrew*.
 - Grammar
 - Vocabulary
 - Drills
- Grown in your enjoyment of the Hebrew language and in your commitment to use your Hebrew knowledge and skills in a life-long study of the Hebrew Bible.

FLIPPED CLASSROOM OR FLIP TEACHING

WHAT IS IT?

- In a flipped classroom, also known as flip teaching, we flip what is done in class and at home.
- You study the grammar on your own before coming to class by watching video clips that I have produced, and then we use class time to do your “homework.”
- The video clips are available on Canvas at Modules.

HOW WILL WE APPLY IT?

- *Before each class:*
 - *You will watch the videos.* Watching the videos is essential to your learning experience, as I will not spend time explaining the grammar lesson in class, as is traditionally done. Not watching the videos ahead of time is like skipping class.
 - *You will memorize the new Vocabulary.*

- Check out an app called Super Biblical Hebrew.
- *You will study Practice.* Work through the Practice section of the grammar.
- *You will write down questions.* Write down any questions that you have after watching the videos and working through Practice.
- *In class:*
 - *You will raise questions* that you have from watching the videos and working through Practice in the grammar.
 - *I will drill you* on the grammar to make sure that you have assimilated the grammar.
 - *We will work through Practice* together.

HOW CAN I PREPARE?

- *Get started on the vocabulary.*
 - *Learn at least the vocabulary for Lessons 1-3 and preferably Lessons 4-5 before the first day of class.*
- *Get started on the grammar.*
 - *Watch the videos for Lessons 1-3 before the first day of class.*

REQUIREMENTS

TEXTS

- Futato, Mark D. *Beginning Biblical Hebrew*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2003. [ISBN-13: 978-1575060224]
- Reeves, Ryan M., and Charles Hill. *Know How We Got Our Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018.
- Silzer, Peter James, and Thomas John Finley. *How Biblical Languages Work: A Student's Guide to Learning Hebrew and Greek*. Kregel Academic & Professional, 2004.

VOCABULARY

- Van Pelt, Miles V. *Old Testament Hebrew Vocabulary Cards*. 2nd. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2019.
 - ***Make sure you get the 2nd edition.***
 - ISBN: 978-0-310-53418-1.
- Note #1: The vocabulary in *Beginning Biblical Hebrew* is keyed to the Dillard vocabulary cards, which are out of print. On Canvas > Course Resources you will find a key that will enable you to go from the vocabulary in *Beginning Biblical Hebrew* to the Van Pelt cards.
- Note #2: For each lesson, you will have four additional vocabulary words taken from the Van Pelt cards. On Canvas > Course Resources you will find a list of which words you are responsible for each lesson.

REFLECTIONS

- There will be a reading reflection paper for each unit, covering the assigned reading in *How Biblical Languages Work*.
- The reading reflections are worth 4 points each or 48 total points, constituting about 8% of your grade.
- Submission:
 - The reflections will be uploaded on Canvas as PDF files.
 - Name your file with the following format:
LastName_FirstName_Reflection_01, e.g., Futato_Mark_Lesson_01.

TESTS

- There are 15 tests.
 - Eleven tests that cover Vocabulary and Practice (minus Reading Your Hebrew Bible) are worth 40 points each and constitute about 70% of your grade. These tests are cumulative, though most of each will be on the new chapters.
 - Three tests that cover Reading Your Hebrew Bible are worth 15 points each and constitute about 7% of your grade. These tests are not cumulative.
 - The final exam is worth 100 points and constitutes about 16% of your grade. The final is cumulative.
- The tests will be taken on Canvas.
 - The first 13 tests are due by 12p on the date assigned on Canvas.
 - The last test on Reading Your Hebrew Bible is due by 11:59p on Tuesday after the last day of class.
 - The final test is due by 11:59p on Tuesday after the last day of class.
 - For each exam, you are required to know the books of the Bible according to their order in the English canon, listed in this syllabus.

READING REPORT QUIZ

- There is 1 reading report quiz on *Know How We Got Our Bible*.
 - The quiz is worth 10 points, 1 point for each 10% read.
 - The quiz is due by 12p on the Tuesday after the last day of class.

GRADING

- Grading scale: I use the Seminary's published grading scale.
- Late tests (without excuse): There is an automatic penalty of one letter grade for a late exam.

SCHEDULE

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEEK ONE	Introduction to the Class	Lessons 1 – 3	Exam 1 Lessons 4 – 5 Reflection 1	Exam 2 Lessons 6-7 Reflection 2	Exam 3 Review RYHB* Reflection 3
WEEK TWO	Exam 4 Lessons 8 – 9 Reflection 4	Exam 5 Lessons 10 – 11 Reflection 5	Exam 6 Lessons 12 – 13 Reflection 6	Exam 7 Lessons 14 – 15 Reflection 7	Exam 8 Review RYHB Reflection 8
WEEK THREE	No Class**	Exam 9 Lessons 16 – 17 Reflection 9	Exam 10 Lessons 18 – 19 Reflection 10	Exam 11 Lessons 20 – 21 Reflection 11	Exam 12 Lessons 22 – 23 Reflection 12
WEEK FOUR	Exam 13 Review RYHB	Reading Report Quiz Exam 14 Exam 15			

*Reading Your Hebrew Bible in Practice

** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

THE ENGLISH CANON

Law:

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

History:

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
Samuel
Kings
Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

Poetry:

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Songs

Prophecy:

Major:

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel

Minor:

Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

HEBREW SCRIPTURE SONGS

#1 Hezekiah 1:1

הָבִינוּ שְׁלוֹם עֲלֵיכֶם

We have brought peace to you.

#2 Deuteronomy 6:4

שִׁמְעֵ יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֶחָד

Here, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD alone.

#3 Psalm 121:4

הִנֵּה לֹא־יָנוּם וְלֹא יִישָׁן שׁוֹמֵר יִשְׂרָאֵל:

Look, he does not sleep
And he does not slumber—
The guardian of Israel.

#4 Psalm 133:1

הִנֵּה מַה־טוֹב וּמַה־נָּעִים שָׁבֶת אֲחִים גַּם־יַחַד

Look, how good and how pleasant—
The dwelling of brothers together.

#5 Isaiah 35:10 //51:11

וּבָאוּ צִיּוֹן בְּרִנָּה וְשִׂמְחַת עוֹלָם עַל־רֹאשָׁם שִׁשׁוֹן וְשִׂמְחָה יִשְׂיִגּוּ

They will come to Zion with a shout,
and eternal gladness will be on their heads;
happiness and gladness will overtake them.

#6 Isaiah 61:10

שׁוֹשׁ אֲשִׁישׁ בִּיהוָה תִּגַּל נַפְשִׁי בַּאֱלֹהִי

I will be exceedingly happy in the LORD;
Let my soul rejoice in my God.

#7 Psalm 118:24

זֶה-הַיּוֹם עָשָׂה יְהוָה נִגִּילָה וְנִשְׂמְחָה בּוֹ

This is the day the LORD has made.
Let us be rejoice and be glad in it.

#8 Psalm 95:1-2

לְכוּ נִרְנְנָה לַיהוָה
נְרִיעָה לְצוּר יִשְׁעֵנוּ
נִקְדָּמָה פָּנָיו בְּתוֹדָה
בְּזִמְרוֹת נְרִיעַ לוֹ:

Come let us shout! Come let us shout! Come, come, let us shout to the LORD!
Let us shout—let us shout to the Rock of our salvation!
Let us approach him with thanksgiving!
Let us shout, let us shout to the Rock of our salvation!
With psalms let us shout to him!

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: 02OT5100 Hebrew 1

Professor: Futato

Campus: Orlando

Date: January 2024

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u> <i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i> <i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i>		<u>Rubric</u> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Minimal	Uses key texts from the Old Testament in the practice exercises.
Scripture	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Strong	Teaches the skills to research further into the original meaning of Scripture, including Hebrew grammar and computer technology.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	None	
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	Uses key texts from the Old Testament in the practice exercises.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Minimal	Uses key texts from the Old Testament in the practice exercises.
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other	Minimal	Discussion forums are moderated to ensure that students

	Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)		communicate winsomely.
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	None	
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	None	
Shepherd	Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.	None	
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	None	