

OT 5125
Intermediate Hebrew
RTS Atlanta
Summer 2026

Dates/Times; See course calendar

Instructor Information

Rev. Dr. William M. Wood

BA; MDiv; PhD

Associate Professor of Old Testament

Email: wwood@rts.edu

Office Hours: by appointment. I am happy to meet with students, simply email me and we will establish a time.

I. Course Description

This course is designed to help students gain a working facility with beginning Hebrew Grammar and syntax with a view toward translation and sermon preparation so that students may be equipped to rightly handle God's word that they are called to proclaim to God's people.

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.” (2 Tim 2.15)

Hebrew Texts Covered:

- Judges 1; other translations as assigned in the workbook

II. Course Objectives

1. Gain a working knowledge of Hebrew grammar and translation of prose sections of the Old Testament.
2. Become more acquainted with the BHS text and apparatus
3. Develop increasing familiarity with Hebrew syntax
4. Expand Hebrew vocabulary
5. Strengthen knowledge of Hebrew verb forms, especially weak verbs.

III. Course Guidelines

1. Languages are learned slowly, with much practice, and constant attention. As such, attendance is mandatory. **Only excused** absences will be allowed and *must* be approved by the instructor via email prior to the beginning of class (except in the case of an emergency). Unexcused absences may result in the reduction of your grade.
2. Students must come to class prepared to discuss the assigned translations and course material for that day. A lack of preparation will result in the reduction of your participation grade.
3. Computers are not to be used during class. You may only use a hardcopy of BHS or a photocopy of the Hebrew text, pen, and paper.
4. **No Bible software (e.g. Bibleworks, Logos, Accordance, etc.) may be used for the duration of this course.** While this software is a terrific tool and aid in study, it drastically hinders language acquisition. As such, it is strictly forbidden. The use of such software will be considered cheating and punishable under the seminary's code of conduct. There are only two exceptions for this rule:
 - a. You may use lexicons that you own on bible software. This use must be done *without* using your textual tools. Thus, the lexicon may be accessed but the text you are translating may not.
 - b. You may copy and paste the text to be translated to a word document for you to translate and turn in for your translation assignment. Note: you **may not** use any of the parsing tools of the bible software for your assignment.
 - i. Note: the main goal for this restriction is for you to be able to do the work of reading Hebrew yourself without the aids of Bible software.
5. Recommendations for learning Hebrew
 - a. Review your Hebrew *every day!* As the saying goes, "if you don't use it, you lose it." Merely reviewing your notes and practicing with Hebrew every day will drastically increase your language acquisition.
 - b. Vocab, Vocab, Vocab!!!! One of the first things lost in Hebrew studies is the vocabulary. Therefore, constant vocabulary review is a must.
 - c. Review paradigm charts regularly. It is easy to forget paradigms and verb forms; therefore a regular effort to reproduce these charts will be helpful for you.
 - d. Have fun! Looking at the Hebrew text of the OT can be one of the most fruitful acts for your ministry and personal sanctification. The text is more rich than immediately apparent and therefore a close read of the Hebrew will produce great fruit in your life.
 - e. Let your Hebrew studies lead to worship. In this class we are working to study the holy and inspired word of God in its original language. Do not lose sight of that when you are trudging through paradigms and vocabulary. Your hard work in these months will produce a lifetime of ministry from the OT to the praise of our Triune God! So...let your studies be grounded in worshipful dedication to the Lord and praise Him that you are in a place to study this great language!
 - i. Side note: the purpose of this course is not so you can say, "look, I know Hebrew!" Rather, it is so that your future ministry will be properly grounded in the word of God. Pride has no place in this course, only faithful work in the service of Christ and His church.

IV. Course Procedure

For this iteration of Hebrew 2 we will be following a *flipped classroom*. Content lectures will be provided for you via recordings that you are to watch *prior to* coming to class. Also *prior to* class, you will complete the weak-verb workbook, translations in Judges, and your quiz. When we are *in class*, we will go over your workbook assignments and translations, along with answering any questions you may have about the material. So, here is the breakdown:

Prior to class you will:

1. Watch the recorded lectures
2. Complete your weak-verb workbook
3. Complete your Judges translations
4. Take your assigned quiz for that meeting

In Class we will:

1. Work through your weak-verb workbook
2. Translate portions of Judges together

V. Course Assignments

Assignment א (5%)

On the first day of class there will be a one-hour review exam over the material from the previous semester. The exam will cover vocabulary, paradigms (nouns and verbs), and have one translation.

Assignment ב (20%)

There will be weekly quizzes that cover the material from previous class and that week's assigned vocab.

Assignment ג (20%)

There will be a midterm exam covering all weak verb material.

Assignment ד (15%)

Weak verb workbook packet. A weak verb workbook packet will be assigned to you to aid in working your way through weak verbs. You must complete these assignments on a weekly basis and turn in your workbook at the time of the **midterm** exam.

Assignment ה (15%)

After the midterm, we will be translating our way through Judges 1. You must submit your translation **with all verbs parsed**. See appendix for an example.

Assignment ו (20%)

In lieu of a final exam, students will conduct a ~10-minute "mini-course" on translating an assigned set of verses. Details will be given in class.

Participation (5%)

Because language acquisition is a very active endeavor, you are expected to come to class ready to discuss the material for that day, especially the assigned translation portions. A failure to come to class prepared will result in a reduction of your participation grade.

Summary

- Review Exam: 5%
- Weekly Quizzes: 20%
- Mid-term exam: 20%
- Weak Verb workbook packet: 15%
- Translation Assignment: 15%
- Final Project: 20%
- Participation: 5%

V. Grade Scale

97-100	A	86-87	B-	75-77	D+
94-96	A-	83-85	C+	72-74	D
91-93	B+	80-82	C	70-71	D-
88-90	B	78-79	C-	0-70	F

VI. Texts: Required and Recommended

Required Texts

William Fullilove, *Introduction to Hebrew: A Guide for Learning and Using Hebrew*. Phillipsburg: P&R Publishing, 2017.

Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia (BHS)

Bill T. Arnold and John H. Choi, *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

William A Holladay, *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.

Recommended Texts for further or supplemental study

Biblia Hebraica Quinta

This text will provide the most up-to-date text critical work for Old Testament studies. However, since the project is ongoing and the resources are expensive it is not a required text. Students should, however, become familiar with it by means of the library.

Christo H.J. van der Merwe, Jacobus A. Naudé, and Jan H. Kroeze, *A Biblical Hebrew Reference Grammar*, 2nd edition (Bloomsbury: T&T Clark, 2017).

This is the top reference grammar currently available. If you have any intention of doing advanced Hebrew work then this resource is a must-have.

Douglas Stuart. *Old Testament Exegesis: A Primer for Students and Pastors*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009. 4th edition. (Pay attention to chapter 2!)

Randall Buth, “Word Order in the Verbless Clause.” **Pages 79-108** in *Verbless Clause in Biblical Hebrew*. Edited by Cynthia Miller. Winona Lake: Eisenbraun, 1999.

_____. “The Hebrew Verb: A Short Syntax.” **Pages 137-64** in *Living Biblical Hebrew: Selected Readings*. Biblical Language Center, 2006.

_____. “Introduction to Accents.” **Pages 115-22** in *Living Biblical Hebrew: Selected Readings*. Biblical Language Center, 2006.

Ronald J. Williams, *Williams’ Hebrew Syntax*, 3rd edition (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2007).

This is a little more basic than Arnold & Choi from the required reading, but it is still a helpful resource if you choose to use it.

Russell T. Fuller and Kyoungwon Choi, *Invitation to Biblical Hebrew Syntax: An Intermediate Grammar* (Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic, 2017).

This is a more advanced and updated syntax than Arnold & Choi from the required reading.

Wilfred G.E. Watson, *Classical Hebrew Poetry: A Guide to its Techniques*, JSOT Supp 26 (Bloomsbury: T&T Clark, 1986).

This is a major work on Hebrew poetry that will be a great resource for any advanced study.

David J.A. Clines. *Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*. 8 Vols.

VII. Course Calendar

Date	Prior to Class Lectures	Prior to class Assignments	Prior to Class Quiz
5/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Course (syllabus overview) • Introduction to Weak Verbs • Guttural Weak Verbs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guttural Weak verb workbook • Judges 1:1–7 	Review Exam
5/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I and III א verbs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I and III א workbook • Judges 1:8–10 	Guttural quiz
6/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • III-ה verbs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • III-ה workbook • Judges 1:11–15 	I and III aleph quiz
6/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I-נ verbs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I-נ workbook • Judges 1:16–21 	III he quiz
6/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I-י verbs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I-י workbook • Judges 1:22–26 	I nun quiz
6/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middle Weak Verbs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middle Weak Workbook • Judges 1:27–30 	I yod quiz
7/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geminate weak verbs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geminate workbook • Judges 1:31–36 	Middle weak quiz
Final Class Date TBD Final class will be comprised of your project presentations!			

All Classes will be held from 5–8 PM on the particular dates!

All course assignments are due by July 31st, 2026!!!!

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: OT 5125
 Professor: Rev. Dr. William Wood
 Campus: Atlanta
 Date: Su 2026

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
<p><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></p> <p><i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None 	
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. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Moderate	The “ability to teach the meaning of scripture” is the purpose of language courses.
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	The use of original languages in interpretation is key.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Minimal	
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.	Minimal	Learning a language is a sanctifying experience.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	None	
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other 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.)	None	Language course
Pastoral Ministry	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both church and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading, and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Xns.	Strong	It is all about how to handle God’s word properly.

Zoom Policy

Your professor may allow you to Zoom into class or watch Zoom recordings for excused absences based on the professor's discretion and subject to the availability of equipment. Students should contact their professor well in advance of the class meeting. For a third absence the Registrar should be consulted. Your professor may require additional interactive assignments to offset the absence of classroom interaction. Sync or Remote Live courses have priority for the limited Zoom equipment.

Extension Policy

All assignments and exams are to be completed by the deadlines announced in this syllabus or in class.

Extensions for assignments and exams due within the normal duration of the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. Extensions of two weeks or less beyond the date of the last deadline for the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. A grade penalty may be assessed.

Extensions of greater than two weeks but not more than six weeks beyond the last deadline for the course may be granted in extenuating circumstances (i.e. illness, family emergency). For an extension of more than two weeks the student must request an Extension Request Form from the Registrar's Office. The request must be approved by the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed. (RTS Catalog p. 46 and RTS Atlanta Student Handbook p. 18)

Any incompletes not cleared six weeks after the last published due date for course work will be converted to a failing grade. Professors may have the failing grade changed to a passing grade by request. (RTS Catalog p. 49)

Appendix: Translation Assignment

The key aspect of this assignment is that all of your translations for this semester will be turned in. Your translation of every verse and parsing of every verb (including infinitives and participles) must be included.

It is preferred that this assignment be typed. The only exception for the use of Bible software is for you to copy and paste the text into a document for the purpose of this assignment.

The primary factor for grading this assignment is *completion*. However, if it is clear that the material has not been completed with sufficient thoughtfulness, the grade will be reduced.

Example from Judges 1.1:

H:

וַיְהִי אַחֲרַי מוֹת יְהוֹשֻׁעַ וַיִּשְׁאַלוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
בִּיהוָה לֵאמֹר מִי יַעֲלֶה-לָנוּ אֶל-הַכְּנַעֲנִי בַתְּחִלָּה
לְהִלָּחֵם בּוֹ:

T: After the death of Joshua, the people of Israel asked the Lord saying: “Who will go up first for us against the Canaanites to fight against them?”

P:

Verb	Root	Stem	Aspect	P/G/N	Misc
וַיְהִי	היה	Qal	Impf	3ms	wcs
וַיִּשְׁאַלוּ	שאל	Qal	Impf	3mp	Wcs
לֵאמֹר	אמר	Qal	Inf C	n/a	Lamed prep
יַעֲלֶה	עלה	Qal	Impf	3ms	n/a
לְהִלָּחֵם	לחם	Nifal	Inf C	n/a	Lamed prep