

Birmingham Theological Seminary
Beginning Hebrew II
Spring 2012
Syllabus

Instructor
Bruce Horsley
Phone 205 926 5437
Email brucehorsley@gmail.com

BTS
2200 Briarwood Way
Birmingham, Alabama 35243
205 776 5200

Design of the Course:

Beginning Hebrew is designed to enable the student to become familiar with the language of the Old Testament, so that he may begin to read from the Hebrew text, and be able to avail himself to numerous Hebrew helps, both for his private study, as well as preparation for teaching. Therefore vocabulary is an important element that must be emphasized every week, and hopefully, every day. Pronunciation will be emphasized, so that the student will be able to confidently read from his Hebrew text. Also, some contemporary idioms will be utilized in helping the language come more to life.

Elements of the Course:

- Assignments from Mansoor and Ross
- Memorizing basic vocabulary words
- Reading, Reading, writing Hebrew, and more Reading
- Speaking Hebrew with a degree of proficiency

Textbooks for the Course:

- A. Ross Introducing Biblical Hebrew
- M. Mansoor, Biblical Hebrew Step by Step Vol. I
- Silzer & Finley, How Biblical Languages Work

Grading of the Course:

- Ten weekly quizzes (lowest score will not count) 200 points
- Two review tests 200 points
- One final exam 100 points
- Weekly assignments and class preparation 100 points
- Class participation will influence borderline grades

Schedule of Assignments and Exams: *

January

- 23 Mansoor Lesson 26 and Ross Lesson 15 (We will cover these in class).
Declension of nouns/ Pronominal suffixes with nouns.

- 30 Vocabulary Quiz Ross 15 and Mansoor 12. Lesson 12 Mansoor, Exercise B; Lesson 16 in Ross Exercise B (1-10).

February

- 6 Mansoor, Lesson 23, Exercises C, D, and E; Ross Lesson 17, exercise B, 1-6. Vocabulary Quiz on Mansoor 23 and Ross 17.

- 13 Mansoor Lesson 27 Imperative Exercise D; Ross Lesson 20 Exercise B, odd only. Vocabulary quiz on Mansoor lesson 27 and Ross 20.

20 Exam One

- 27 Ross Lesson 24, Exercise A (1-12) .Vocabulary Ross 24.

March

- 5 Mansoor Lesson 17; Ross 17.5: Vocabulary Quiz on Mansoor 17.

- 12 Spring Break

- 19 Mansoor Lesson 28 and vocabulary, Ross Lesson 22.

- 26 Ross Lesson 26 and vocabulary. Mansoor Lesson 34.

April

- 2 Mansoor Lesson 33; Ross Lesson 27. Vocabulary Quiz.

- 9 Ross, Lesson 28. Vocabulary Quiz.

- 16 Mansoor Lesson 35; Ross, Lesson 29. Vocabulary Quiz.

- 23 Final Exam

Hebrew bibliography and suggested readings

Hebrew Bible: Critical Edition

Biblica Hebraica Stuttgartensia (BHS), 4th edition. It now comes in three formats: (1) small format, hardbound; (2) small format, paperback; (3) large format, hardbound. Check prices/availability online.

(Biblical) Hebrew-English Lexicon

The first one below is older, but more affordable. It is sometimes packaged with BHS for special savings. Check online.

(1) *Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon* (BDB)

(2) *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (HAL) (Unabridged 2-Volume Study Edition) by Ludwig Koehler (Editor), Walter Baumgartner (Editor), M. E. J. Richardson (Translator)

1. General Works

*Danker, Frederick W. *Multipurpose Tools for Bible Study*. Revised and expanded ed. Philadelphia, PA: Fortress, 1993. BS 511.2 .D355 1993 TRIF/WYC.

This volume included insightful comments on many of the standard tools in Biblical studies. A good source to get an overview on what is of value in the field.

*Waldman, Nahum. *The Recent Study of Hebrew: A Survey of the Literature with Selected Bibliography*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1989. Z 7070 .W34 1989 TRIF/WYC; copies also in SMC, ROBA.

An excellent jumping-off point for studying most things related to Hebrew. Includes a bibliography of almost 200 pages.

2. Texts

*Green, J. (ed and trans.). *The Interlinear Bible: Hebrew, Greek, English: With Strong Concordance Numbers Above Each Word*. 2nd ed. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1986. BS 3.5 1986 TRIN/WYC.

*Kohlenberger III, J.R. (ed.). *The NIV Interlinear Hebrew-English Old Testament*. 4 vols. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1979-85. BS 715 1987; copies also at KNOX, SMC.

Now available in a single volume.

3. Guides to Texts

*Scott, W. R. *A Simplified Guide to BHS: Critical Apparatus, Masora, Accents, Unusual Letters and Other Markings*. Berkeley, CA: Bibal Press, 1987. BS 715 1987 TRIN/WYC. Second edition at SMC, VUEM.

A concise and affordable guide to the abbreviations and apparatus in BHS.

*Wonneberger, R. *Understanding BHS: A Manual for the Users of Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia. Subsidia Biblica*. Vol. 8. 2nd ed. Translated by D.R. Daniels. Rome: Editrice Pontificio Istituto Biblico, 1990. BS 715 1990 TRIF/WYC; copies also at SMC.

More detailed than Scott. Included indices and a helpful section evaluating strengths and weaknesses of BHS.

4. Text-critical Reference Works

*Brotzman, E.R. *Old Testament Textual Criticism: A Practical Introduction*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1994. BS 1136 .B765 1994 TRIN/WYC.

Brief and affordable. Includes section on the transmission of the Hebrew text and the versions.

*McCarter Jr., P.K. *Textual Criticism: Recovering the Text of the Hebrew Bible. Guides to Biblical Scholarship. Old Testament Guides*. Philadelphia: Fortress,

1986. BS 1136 .M23 1986 TRIN; copies also VUEM.
Brief. Includes helpful glossary. Tends to emphasize the importance of the LXX.

*Tov, E. *Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2nd ed., 2001. BS 1136 .T6813 2001 TRIN/WYC; copies also at VUEM, REGC.

The most important comprehensive treatment in English. Emphasizes contribution of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

*Weingreen, J. *Introduction to the Critical Study of the Text of the Hebrew Bible*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1982. BS 1136 W34 1982 TRIN/WYC STOR; copy also at ROBA.

5. Concordances

*Evan-Shoshan, A. (ed.). *A New Concordance of the Torah, Nebi'im and Ketubim: Thesaurus of the Language of the Bible, Hebrew and Aramaic Roots Words, Proper Names, Phrases and Synonyms*. Jerusalem: Kiryat Sefer, 1983. BS 1121 .E93 1983 TRIF/WYC; copy also at KNOX.

A valuable tool. Lists every root and form in the Hebrew Bible. Book, chapter and verse references are in Hebrew. An English-language format from Baker is entitled, *A New Concordance of the Old Testament*.

*Wigram, G.V. (ed.). *The New Englishman's Hebrew-Aramaic Concordance. Coded to the Strong's Concordance Numbering System*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1984. BS 1125 .W5 1984 TRIF/WYC; copy also at STAS.

Lisowski, G. *Konkordanz zum hebraischen Alten Testament, nach dem von Paul Kahle in der Biblia Hebraica edidit Rudolf Kittel besorgten Masoretischen Text*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1993. BS 1121 .L55 1993X ROBA.

6. Lexicons

Brown, F., S.R. Driver & C.A. Briggs (ed.), *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament with an Appendix Containing the Biblical Aramaic*. Corrected ed. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1952. (Graham has the 1860 and 1907 eds. PJ 4833 .G4 TRINSTOR; there are many editions at other TST libraries).

Known by the abbreviation BDB. For years the standard lexicon in English. Features the text of the 1907 edition with an appendix of corrections. Arranged according to root. Includes etymological information from Arabic, Syraic, Aramaic, etc. Published before the Ugaritic material became available.

*Brown, F., S.R. Driver & C.A. Briggs (ed.), *The New Brown-Driver-Briggs-Gesenius Hebrew and English Lexicon, with an Appendix Containing the Biblical Aramaic*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1979. PJ 4833 .B67 1979 TRIF/WYC. Based on the 1907 edition with the addition of an index containing the Strong's numbering system. An affordable alternative to the Oxford University Press edition.

*Clines, D.J.A., P.R. Davies & J.W. Rogerson (ed.), *The Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*, 5 vols., Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1993-2001. PJ 4833 .D53 1993 TRIF/WYC 1-5; also at KNOX.

This most recent and thorough lexicon in English covers classical Hebrew down to 200 AD. It includes much non-Biblical material, but does not, unfortunately, list etymologies. Volumes 2 and 3 are less ambitious in scope than volume 1.

*Davidson, B. *The Analytical Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon*. London: Samuel Bagster and Sons, 1956. PJ 4833 .D3 1956 TRIN/WYC; PJ 4833 .D3 1972 TRIF. Many other copies at TST Libraries.

Contains parsing information for each word in the Old Testament. Originally published in 1848, this volume has been superseded by Owens.

*Holladay, W.L. (ed.), *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament, based on the Lexical Work of Ludvig Koehler and Walter Baumgartner*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1971. BS 440 .H6 1971 TRIF/WYC; 1986 ed at VUER.

An easy-to-use lexicon suitable for use by beginning and intermediate students.

* 7. Theological Dictionaries

*Botterweck, G.J. & H. Ringgren (ed.), *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament*. Translated by J.T. Willis. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1974-2001. 11 vols. BS 440 .B5713 TRIF v.1-11. Copies also at KNOX, SMC, REG, STAS, VUER.

Originally published in German. To date 11 volumes have appeared in English.

*Harris, R. L., G.L. Archer & B.K. Waltke. *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, 2 vols., Chicago, IL; Moody, 1980. BS 440 .T49 1980 TRIF/WYC. Copies also at STAS, VUER. Similar in format to Botterweck, but much shorter and more conservative.

*VanGemeren, W.A. (ed.), *New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis*. 5 vols. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1997. BS 440 .N438 1997 TRIF/WYC v.1-5. Another copy at VUER.

Volumes 1-3 contain lexical articles, volume 4 topical articles and volume 5, indices.

8. Reading Helps

Armstrong, T.A., D.L. Busby & C.F. Carr. *A reader's Hebrew-English Lexicon of the Old Testament*. 4 vols. In 3. Grand Rapids, MI: Regency Reference Library, 1982-88. PJ 4833 .A69 1982 TRIF/WYC 1-3; copy also at STAS.

All Hebrew words used 50 times or less arranged by chapter and verse. Now available in a single volume.

Einspahr, B., *Index to the Brown, Driver, Briggs Lexicon*. Revised ed. Chicago, IL: Moody, 1977. PJ 4833 .G4E35 1977 TRIN & TRIN/WYC; copies also at

Owens, J.J. *Analytical key to the Old Testament*. 4 vols. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1989-92. PJ 4731 .B53O94 1989 TRIF/WYC; copies also at VUEM, ROBA.

Gives parsing information for each word and form in the Hebrew Bible.

9. Grammars

Blau, Joshua. *Grammar of Biblical Hebrew*. 2nd, amended edition. Wiesbaden: Harrasowitz, 1993. PJ 4567 .B625 1993 ROBA.

Blau offers some introductory insights into the historical development of the language without the clutter of jargon seen in more advanced tools. He is also particularly strong in the area of phonology and morphology.

Gesenius, W., E.Kautzsch & A.E. Cowley (ed.), *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1910. PJ 4564 .G5 1910 TRIN/WYC & TRIF; copies also at KNOX, VUEM.

For years the most detailed reference grammar available in English.

Horsnell, Malcolm J.A. *A Review and Reference Grammar for Biblical Hebrew*. Rev. ed. Hamilton: McMaster University Press, 1999. PJ 4567.3 .H678 1999 TRIN; copies also at ROBA, VUEM.

This is a transitional tool for those who have completed a year of study in Biblical Hebrew, but are still uncomfortable with the use of a reference grammar. It offers some historical detail beyond the scope of an introductory grammar.

Kittel, B.P., V.Hoffer & R.A. Wright (ed.), *Biblical Hebrew: A Text and Workbook*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1989. PJ 4567.3 K5 1989; copy also at VUEM.

Lamdin, T.O. *Introduction to Biblical Hebrew*. New York: Scribner, 1971. PJ 4567 .L3 1971 TRIN/WYC; copies also at SMC, STAS.

Long the standard introductory grammar.

Merwe, C.H.J. van der. *A Biblical Hebrew Reference Grammar*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1999. PJ 4567 .M45 1999 TRIF/WYC; copy also at VUER.

A recent reference grammar incorporating recent advances in Biblical Hebrew syntactical structures lending coherence to textual units beyond the sentence.

Harris, R. L., G.L. Archer & B.K. Waltke. *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, 2 vols., Chicago, IL; Moody, 1980. BS 440 .T49 1980 TRIF/WYC. Copies also at STAS, VUER. Similar in format to Botterweck, but much shorter and more conservative.

Mitchel, L.A., *A Student's Vocabulary for Biblical Hebrew and Aramaic*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1984. PJ 4845 .M5 1984 TRIF/WYC; copy also at STAS. Lists vocabulary by frequency for efficient memorization.

Gesenius, W., E.Kautzsch & A.E. Cowley (ed.), *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1910. PJ 4564 .G5 1910 TRIN/WYC & TRIF; copies also at KNOX, VUEM.

For years the most detailed reference grammar available in English.

10. Syntax

*Waltke, B. & M. O'Connor. *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1990. PJ 4707 W35 1990 TRIN/WYC;TRIN/WYC STOR; ROBA.

Much-needed update to Gesenius. Supersedes Williams' syntax (below).

Williams, R. *Hebrew Syntax: An Outline*. 2nd ed. Toronto, ON: University of Toronto Press, 1976. PJ 4701 .W55 1986 TRIN; copies also at STAS, ROBA. Brief treatment with helpful examples.