

Introduction to Biblical Hebrew 1
Austin Graduate School of Theology
HEB 6310—Course Syllabus
Fall 2007

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Class Meeting Time: Tuesday, 9:00-12:00 A.M.

Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Wed 1:00-4:00 P.M., Th, Fri 9:00-11:00 A.M.

Course Goals:

- 1) To identify and engage in informed discussion of major issues in the interpretation of representative passages from the Old Testament.*
- 2) To prepare translations of Old Testament texts that reflect awareness of literary and historical issues.*

Course Objectives:

- 1) To gain facility in reading and translating the Hebrew Scriptures;*
- 2) To gain a basic understanding of the grammar and syntax of Classical Hebrew.*
- 3) To become familiar with the task of exegesis and the tools of exegesis (concordances, dictionaries, grammars, etc.).*

By the end of the semester, the student should be able to translate narrative texts from the Hebrew Bible with the use of a dictionary and be able to make exegetical and textual observations about select passages from the Hebrew Bible.

Means of Assessment:

Regular attendance at all class meetings and timely submission of all class assignments is a requirement.

All students are expected to prepare a notebook, with all your relevant translation homework and other notes that I may provide from time to time. The notebook will include all assigned portions from Futato. This notebook will be due the last day of class. There will be five short quizzes on vocabulary, grammatical points, and concordance/ software use. There will also be two exams on grammar, vocabulary, and translation.

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| <i>Homework and notebooks:</i> | <i>20%</i> |
| <i>Quizzes:</i> | <i>20%</i> |
| <i>Two Exams:</i> | <i>60%</i> |

Textbooks:

Required Texts:

- Brown, F., Driver, S., and Briggs, C. *The New Brown, Driver, and Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1906.
Futato, Mark. *Beginning Biblical Hebrew*. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2003.

Recommended Text:

- Elliger, K. and Rudolph, W., Eds. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1977.

Software, Database, and Internet Resources:

All students are expected to become familiar with at least one Bible search/concordance/text software package. One of the quizzes will test you on your ability to work with one of the search engines listed below:

For the Macintosh:

- Accordance v. 6 (Oak Tree Software; on several of the library computers).
Libronix (Logos) is in process of being rewritten for the Mac.
OnLine Bible (PC or Mac; on two library computers or downloadable for free on the web).

For the PC:

- BibleWorks for Windows (Hermeneutika Software; at APTS and EPSS).
Bible Windows (Silver Mountain Software; on a library computer).
Gramcord (The Gramcord Institute; more or less Accordance for the PC; on a library computer).
Libronix (Logos; on a library computer).
OnLine Bible (PC or Mac; on two library computers or downloadable for free on the web).

In addition, there are a few web-based search engines which do “morphological” searches (based on root form) of the Hebrew Bible. These are:

- www.olivetree.com (free web Bible search engine; only this web site and *Unbound Bible* below actually search the Hebrew Old Testament; you will need to download fonts).
www.unbound.biola.edu.

Schedule of Classes and Assignments:

September 4: Hebrew alphabet.

Futato chap. 1.

September 11: Vowels and syllables.

Futato chaps. 2-3.

Quiz #1.

September 18: No class—ACU Lectures.

September 25: Nouns; Pronouns and definite article.

Futato chaps. 4–5.

Quiz #2.

October 2: The verb: qal perfect.

Futato chaps. 6-7.

October 9: The noun: vowel changes.

Futato chap 8.

Quiz #3.

October 16: Prepositions and the conjunction.

Futato chap. 9.

Mid-Term Exam.

October 23: The adjective.

Futato chap. 10.

October 30: The verb: qal imperfect.

Futato chap. 11.

Quiz #4.

November 6: Construct singular and plural.

Futato chaps. 12-13.

November 13: Qal perfect and imperfect—weak roots.

Futato chaps. 14-15.

Quiz #5.

November 20: Possessive suffixes on singular nouns; demonstrative and relative pronouns.

Futato chaps. 16–17

November 27: No class—SBL, Thanksgiving.

December 4: Qal imperfect I Yod and I Alef; plural possessive suffixes.

Futato chaps. 18-19.

Notebooks due.

December 11:

Final.