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OT 501 Survey of Biblical Hebrew

Christina Bosserman

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OT501 X1 – SURVEY OF BIBLICAL HEBREW

Christina Bosserman

Fall 2008

Please note that this syllabus is a work in progress and subject to revision by the professor.

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1. Contact Information

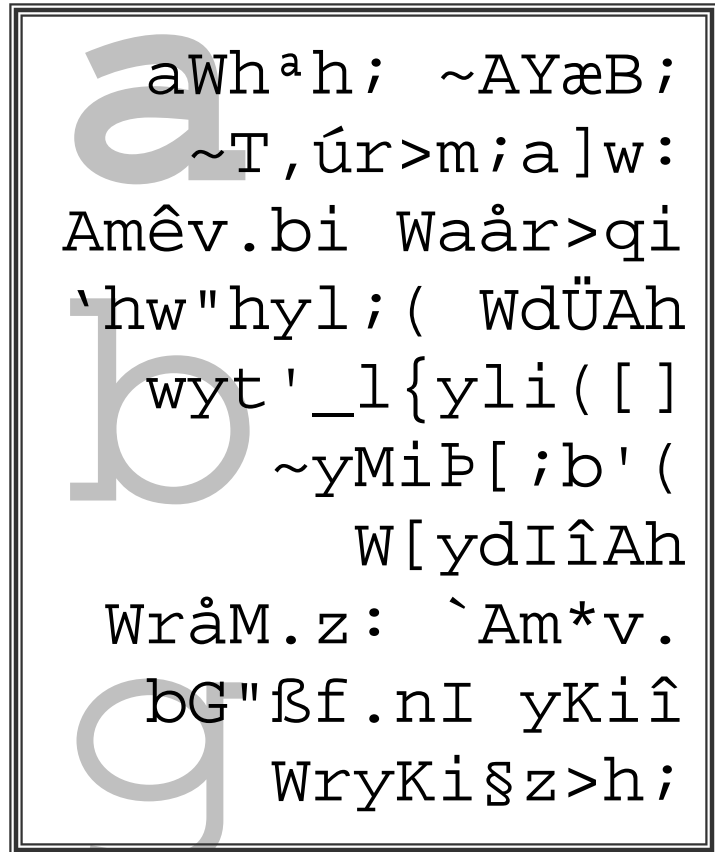
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Office Hours: Tuesdays 8-11 am EST; Wednesdays & Thursdays at home 6-8 pm EST

I am currently serving as the Hebrew teaching fellow on the Wilmore campus. You may contact me online, by phone, or even in person if you live in the Wilmore area. When communicating with me online, please use the "To Professor" link on the online course page. If you have a question before our class starts, feel free to e-mail me directly, but as soon as the semester begins on September 2, I ask that all online communication with me be through the "to professor" link. If you would like to talk to me directly, feel free to call my office at 859-858-2153 during my office hours on Tuesdays 8-11 am, or during my home "office hours" on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 6-8 pm EST. If you are unable to call during those times please contact me through the "To Professor" link on our online course page to set up a time to meet on the phone.



2. The online Environment.

3. Course Description

This course introduces students to Biblical Hebrew for purposes of exegetical work in pastoral ministry. Particular emphasis is given to the fundamentals of Biblical Hebrew and basic exegetical tools, including types of parsing aids especially suited for pastoral use.

4. Course Objectives

Having successfully completed this course, students will be able to:

- 4.1. Analyze Biblical Hebrew words through the use of elementary phonology,
- 4.2. Determine the range of grammatical functions and choose the most appropriate one(s) by observing word formation (morphology),
- 4.3. Interpret the interrelations of Hebrew words (syntax),
- 4.4. Identify the use and significance of basic grammatical constructions.
- 4.5. Benefit from the use of standard lexical and reference grammars.

5. Course Requirements & Comments

5.1. Attendance. A critical element of language study is time given to study. Faithful attendance in the online classroom is expected.

5.2. Weekly Assignments. Students will weekly receive assignments - exercises from the textbook, worksheets, and quizzes - to complete by the end of each module. Each module will run from Monday to Sunday, and all weekly assignments (with the exception of assignments in the category of "homework" as explained below) are due by midnight EST on the Monday following the module in which they were assigned (for example, if a quiz is assigned during module 1, it is due by midnight EST on the Monday of module 2). Full completion of assignments is essential in order to obtain the learning goals of this course. Students should be prepared to discuss the certain content and assigned exercises by the beginning of the following module (more details below). Feel free to collaborate with others on assignments, but be sure that all work submitted is your own. See below for assignment expectations in detail:

5.2.1 Homework. Weekly homework from the textbook & additional practice as assigned are indicated on the course schedule and will be posted weekly in the virtual classroom. These are graded on a credit/no credit basis and answer keys will be provided for immediate feedback on the student's progress. Unlike all other assignments, there will be only two due dates for homework – Oct. 13 & Dec. 1.

5.2.2 Quizzes. Quizzes are intended to test the student's growing ability to translate simple Hebrew phrases and sentences into English. There will be 13 quizzes during the term. Quizzes will be conducted online and will include vocabulary from vocabulary lists, as well as certain grammatical issues covered during the module. Quizzes are due by midnight EST on the Monday following the module in which they were assigned. The lowest quiz score will be dropped for the semester grade.

5.2.3 Worksheets. Worksheets are intended to broadly introduce students to concepts of Hebrew syntax that cannot be covered in detail due to the limited length of the course. Worksheets will rely heavily on English translations of the Old Testament

and a Bible software program. Students must have access to acceptable Bible Software (see 7.3 below) in order to complete these assignments.

- 5.2.4 **Discussion.** Students are expected to be prepared to discuss each module's content and assignments on an as-needed basis. The final semester grade will not include a discussion participation grade, but extra credit is available for those who participate. Links to discussion forums with specific topics related to the week's material will be provided weekly.
- 5.2.5 **Final Exam.** The Final Exam will be given online and is due by 5 pm on Friday, December 12.. Students with an average of 95% or higher on quizzes prior to the final exam may elect not to take the exam. This grade will be calculated on the basis of points earned divided by points possible of all but the lowest quiz. No extra credit will be included in this calculation.
- 5.2.6 **Final Project.** The Final Project will be due by 5 pm Friday December 12. More details regarding the content of this project will be given during Module 7.
- 5.2.7 **Extra Credit.** Extra credit will be available throughout the course. Extra credit can be earned by participating in discussions and completing extra assignments which will be posted on the virtual campus. The extra credit available is a maximum of 1/2 letter grade.

5.3 **Late Policy.** Falling behind will significantly hinder the student's learning of the Hebrew language. Therefore, it is imperative that students complete all assignments and quizzes on time. Unexcused late assignments will be deducted 5% for each day late (maximum 50% deduction per assignment).

5.4 **In the event of an emergency,** it is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor as soon as possible. Work submitted late will be considered unexcused if no notice is given.

5.5 **Hebrew Honor Society.** Asbury Seminary has a chapter of Eta Beta Rho (HBR or **rb** []) a national Hebrew honor society. Students who earn a grade of "B" or higher in OT 501 and one subsequent ATS course requiring Hebrew will be eligible and encouraged to seek membership in the society.

6. Student Evaluation (for calculation of final semester grade)

6.1. Homework	10%
6.2. Quizzes	25%
6.3. Worksheets	25%
6.4. Final Exam	10%
6.5. Final Project (Due: 5pm 12/12/2008)	30%
Grammatical Analysis (20%)	
Word Study (10%)	

A	95-100%	C	73-76.9%
A-	90-94.9%	C-	70-72.9%
B+	87-89.9%	D+	67-69.9%
B	83-86.9%	D	63-66.9%
B-	80-82.9%	D-	60-62.9%
C+	77-79.9 %	F	Below 60

7. Texts & Software

7.1 Required texts [abbreviations in brackets, cf. **Course Outline** below]

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

Elliger, K., and W. Rudolph. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1967-77. **[BHS]**

Holladay, William L. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1971. **[HALOT]**

Scott, William R. *A Simplified Guide to BHS*. Berkeley, Calif.: BIBAL, 1987. **[SG]**

Seow, C. L. *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew*. Rev. ed. Nashville: Abingdon, 1995. **[Seow]**

7.2 Optional texts

Brown, Francis, S. R. Driver, and Charles A. Briggs. *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Oxford: Oxford, 1907; reprint, Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1979.

- An acceptable substitute for Holladay above. For those going on to OT502, this lexicon might be preferable.
- The lexicon of choice for nearly 100 years. Still useful, though out-dated in some respects.
- Arranges words on by their root, instead of in strict alphabetical order (thus making it more difficult for the beginning student to use).

Chisholm, Robert. *From Exegesis to Exposition: A Practical Guide to Using Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998. **[FEE]**

- Helps to make the move from reading Biblical Hebrew to preaching, teaching, etc.

Long, Gary A. *Grammatical Concepts 101 for Biblical Hebrew*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 2002.

- Introduces Hebrew concepts by first introducing the concept in English.

7.3 Recommended software

BibleWorks 7.0. Hermenueitika, Big Fork, Mont. (PC users only) *or*

Logos (available for both PC and Mac operating systems) *or*

Accordance (Mac users only)

- Powerful and flexible biblical language software programs.
- Equipped with parsing tools, lexicons and other resources.

Hebrew Tutor. Parsons Technology.

- A first year course in Biblical Hebrew Course with interactive features.
- Provides practice drills and exercises and pronounces Hebrew words.

8. Course Schedule: Assignments are listed in the module in which they are due. All assignments are due by Monday at midnight EST in the module they are listed.

Date		Topics	Quizzes	Homework & Worksheets	Reading
Module 1	Sept. 1-7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Introduction ➤ The Alphabet ➤ The writing system ➤ Dagesh and begadkepat letters ➤ Hand out <i>Concept Sheet</i>. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seow, Lesson 1
Module 2	Sept. 8-14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Simple vowels, stress, and accents ➤ Vowel markers and the Sheva ➤ More vowels ➤ Syllabification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #1 Due: Alphabet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 1 (turn in 10/13) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seow, Lesson 2
Module 3	Sept. 15-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Nouns ➤ Word patterns (geminate, segolate, prefixed, etc.) ➤ Hebrew roots and patterns Tetragrammaton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #2 Due: Lesson 2 • Quiz #3: Vocab Quiz [1][2]* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2 (turn in 10/13) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seow, Lessons 3, 4, &5 • <i>Guide</i>, 1.0 (Intro.), 2.0; 2.1; 2.1.1-2
Module 4	Sept. 22-28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Definite article ➤ Introduction to Holladay lexicon ➤ Prepositions and simple conjunctions ➤ Verbless Clauses ➤ Intro. to BHS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #4 Due: Lessons 3-5 [3] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 3 (turn in 10/13) • Holladay worksheet (nouns) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seow, Lesson 6 • <i>Guide</i>, 2.6.1-7; 4.1.0, 5, 9-10; 4.3.0, 3; 5.1.0-1 • Seow, Excursus F
Module 5	Sept. 29-Oct. 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Introduction to all the verbal derived stems in general ➤ Nomenclature for the Stems ➤ Uses of the Qal and Niphal ➤ Intro. to BibleWorks 7.0 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #5: Vocab Quiz [4][5] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 4 (turn in 10/13) • Prepositions worksheet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seow, Lesson 8.1; Excursus C. • <i>Guide</i>, 3.0; 3.1.0-2.
Module 6	Oct. 6-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Introduction to “aspect” in the Hebrew verb ➤ The Qal Perfect (forms & uses) ➤ Word Order, tae ➤ Negation ➤ hNEhi , Directive h ➤ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #6 Due: Binyamin [6] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Niphal Worksheet • Perfect Worksheet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seow, Lesson 13.1-6; 9.3 • <i>Guide</i>, 3.2.0-1; 2.3.1

Module 7	Oct. 13-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Qal perfect of weak roots ➤ Stative verbs ➤ Introduction to Holladay Lexicon (verbs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #7 Due: Perfect Aspect • Quiz #8: Vocab Quiz [1-7] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homework sections 1-5 due 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seow, Lesson 14 	
Module 8	Oct. 20-26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Adjective ➤ The Qal Participle ➤ Introduction to BHS accents ➤ Final Project Preview 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 6 (turn in 12/1) • Holladay Worksheet (verbs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seow, Lesson 7-8 • <i>Guide</i>, 2.5.0-4; 3.4.3; 4.1.13, • Scott, p. 5-6; 25-27; chapters 1 & 3. • Seow, Excursus B 	
Module 9	Oct. 27-Nov. 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pronouns ➤ Demonstratives, Relative Clauses, Particles of existence ➤ Interrogative clauses, exclamations and emphatic questions ➤ Uses of the Piel, Pual, Hithpael 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #9 Due: Adjective & Participle [8] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections 7 & 8 (turn in 12/1) • Adjective Worksheet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seow, Lesson 9-10 • <i>Guide</i>, 3.1.3-5 	
Module 10	Nov. 3-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Construct Chain ➤ The Superlative ➤ Nouns with pronominal suffixes ➤ Uses of the Hiphil, Hophal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz #10 Due: Pronoun & Demonstrative [9][10] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 9 (turn in 12/1) • Factitive-Causative (Piel/Pual/Hithpael) Worksheet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seow, Lesson 11 & 12; 13.7 • <i>Guide</i>, 2.2.0-13; 3.1.6-7; 4.3.4; (cf. 2.5.4 above). 	
Module 11	Nov. 10-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Imperfect aspect – forms and uses. ➤ Volitionals ➤ Imperfect + Waw-consecutive forms and uses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #11 Due: Construct Chain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 10 (turn in 12/1) • Genitive Worksheet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seow, Lesson 18, 19 (skim 19); 21.3, 5-7 • <i>Guide</i>, 3.2.2; 3.5.0-1; 3.3.0-3 	
12	Nov. 17-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Imperfect + Waw-consecutive continued ➤ Infinitive Absolute & Infinitive Construct ➤ Perfect + Waw-consecutive ➤ Narrative discourse patterns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #12 Due: Imperfect • Quiz #13: Vocab Quiz [11][12] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imperfect Worksheet • Causative (Hiphil/Hophal) Worksheet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seow, Lesson 20; 21.8; 22.2-3; 23.1,3-4. • <i>Guide</i>, 3.4.0-2; 3.5.2-4 	
		FALL READING WEEK November 23 - 30				

Module 13	Dec. 1-7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Secondary Resources ➤ Poetic Hebrew ➤ Text Criticism 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imperfect & waw-consecutive Worksheet • Homework sections 6-11 due in class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seow, Excursus E • Scott, ch. 4
Final Project Due: 5 pm EST Friday, December 12					
Final Exam Due: 5 pm EST Friday, December 12					
All Extra Credit due: 5 pm EST Friday, December 12					

* The numbers in brackets represent the vocabulary lists from which vocabulary will be taken for the quiz.

I have studied Biblical Hebrew for about 3 years. One of the bigger problems is finding the correct spelling with Nikkud on the Internet. Most Hebrew language websites transliterate the Hebrew instead of using the Hebrew Alpha-bet. I had four years of training in reading biblical Hebrew, but it was 20 years ago. This book is a terrific resource for reminding me of more complex forms of the roots of verbs I recognize. It is less helpful for the members of my study group with less grammatical experience.

ABSTRACT The study of historical-critical method of biblical interpretation has been on-going for centuries. During its history, it has made major achievements and lasting contributions to the general field of Biblical studies. Today, historical-critical studies have reached a climax whereby new development is being advocated by scholars from different theological persuasions.¹ Scholars are making frantic effort to make historical-critical studies relevant in other fields of humanity. Attempts are being made to relate historical-critical investigations to new researches in linguistics, literar

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