



**Course Syllabus  
FALL 2011**

**HEBREW GRAMMAR I  
OLDT 0611**

**SEPTEMBER 13 TO DECEMBER 13, 2011  
TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS, 8:30-9:50 AM**

**INSTRUCTOR: DR. REBECCA G. S. IDESTROM**

Telephone/voice mail: (416) 226-6620 Ext. 6771

Email: [ridestrom@tyndale.ca](mailto:ridestrom@tyndale.ca)

Office Hours: Mondays 2:00-3:00 PM,  
Tuesdays, 4:15-5:30 PM, by appointment

To access your course materials at the start of the course, please go to  
<https://www.mytyndale.ca>

## **I. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An introduction to the basic principles of Biblical Hebrew with emphasis on morphology, phonology and syntax.

## **II. LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Through this course, the student will learn the following:

### **A. Knowledge and Understanding**

1. to demonstrate a basic knowledge of the grammar and syntax of Biblical Hebrew.
2. to be able to translate basic Hebrew sentences.
3. to be able to recognize the vocabulary introduced through the course.
4. to be familiar with some of the history of the Hebrew language.
5. to recognize the importance of knowing Biblical Hebrew for interpreting the Old Testament.

### **B. Discipline-specific Skills**

1. to be able to parse and translate verbal forms in the categories studied in class.

2. to be able to use Hebrew dictionaries and grammars for doing Bible study, word study, exegesis, and sermon preparation.
3. to learn how to read biblical texts in Hebrew with perception and insight.

#### C. Transferable Skills

1. to be able to use the available resources for studying Biblical Hebrew.
2. to foster the ability to read biblical texts carefully, paying close attention to detail.
3. to foster a desire for life-long learning of the Hebrew language.
4. to learn self-disciplined study habits and the ability to meet fixed deadlines as set out by the course outline.

### III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

#### A. REQUIRED TEXTS

Pratico, Gary D. and Miles V. Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001. ISBN: 0-310-23760-2

Pratico, Gary D. and Miles V. Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Workbook*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001. ISBN: 0-310-23701-7

#### B. RECOMMENDED TEXTS

*Old Testament Hebrew Vocabulary Cards*, by Miles V. Van Pelt and Gary D. Pratico (The Zondervan Vocabulary Builder Series; Zondervan).

*Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia (BHS)*. K. Elliger and W. Rudolph, eds. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1967.

Brown, F., S. Driver, and C. Briggs. *The Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1996.

Clines, David J. A., ed., *The Concise Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2009.

Holladay, W. L. [\*A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament\*](#). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.

## C. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

### 1. Class Attendance, Study Group Participation and Completed Homework (10 %):

Regular and faithful attendance is required. The student is expected to participate in class, do the written assignments and exercises, participate in a study group, and become well acquainted with the grammar.

### 2. Quizzes (50 %):

There will be regular quizzes given in class during the course of the semester based on the vocabulary and grammar studied up to that point. Quizzes are given at the beginning of the class period. Missed quizzes count as zero. The lowest quiz mark will not be counted.

### 3. Final Exam (40 %):

There will be a final exam held Tuesday, December 13, 2011 (worth 40 %). In the event that the exam is missed, the student must (1) produce a note from their doctor indicating the reason for their absence, and (2) contact the professor and schedule a re-write date and (3) rewrite the exam no later than 10 days after the scheduled date. The responsibility for these steps lies entirely with the student and must be fully completed within ten calendar days of the original exam date.

Students taking this course are required to form study groups comprised of between three to five members. Homework may be done as a group, however, the “divide and copy” method (i.e. you do questions 1–5 and I will do 6–10, and then copy each other’s answers) is expressly prohibited. The groups must meet once per week to assist one another in learning the language. Students are expected to be in contact with members of their study group frequently and regularly for the purpose of review, reading practice, vocabulary testing, problem solving, and mutual support. Your group is one of your most important assets in this course. If you and your study group is not a good match and it is not working out, please tell the professor immediately.

Learning Hebrew requires adequate time. Therefore the student should refrain from overloading his or her schedule while studying Hebrew. The student must work on their Hebrew daily or at least every other day. Cramming last minute does not work when learning a language. Learn to use small chunks of time for vocabulary and paradigm review. As a suggested guideline, study three hours outside of class for every hour spent in class (the number of hours needed will vary with each student). Plan regular study time into your schedule. Attendance in class is also required. Do not miss class, even if your homework is not completed. Always ask questions if you do not understand. Do not allow yourself to fall behind by not resolving any problems you may have. Bring your questions to class and to your study group. Learning a biblical language can be challenging but it is also very rewarding. Anyone can learn if they really want to and are willing to work hard. You will not regret it when you begin to use your knowledge of Hebrew to read and study God’s Word. You will discover innumerable treasures therein. You are about to begin a rich journey of discovery with God’s grace!

## D. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Class Attendance, Participation and Completed Homework	10 %
Quizzes	50 %
Final Exam	40 %
Total Grade	100%

## VI. IMPORTANT DATES

Please note: There will be no class on Tuesday, November 22, 2011.  
The Final Exam will be on Tuesday, December 13, 2011.

## V. REQUIRED HOMEWORK EXERCISES IN THE WORKBOOK:

Chapter 1: Do all exercises, pp. 1–5.

Chapter 2: Do all exercises, pp. 7–9.

Chapter 3: Do all exercises, pp. 11–13.

Chapter 4: Do all exercises, pp. 15–19.

Chapter 5: Do all exercises, pp. 21–23.

Chapter 6: Do all exercises, pp. 25–28.

Chapter 7: Do all exercises, pp. 29–33.

Chapter 8: Do all exercises, except Hebrew Composition, pp. 35–38.

Chapter 9: Do Part 1 (1–15); Part 2 (do odd numbers only); Part 3 (do odd # only); Bible Translation (1–5 only), pp. 39–47.

Chapter 10: Translation (1–20); Bible Translation (1–5); Construct Nouns Part 1 (even # only), pp. 49–54.

Chapter 11: No exercise but you are responsible for learning the vocabulary.

Chapter 12: Exercises in 12a: Identify verbs (1–15); Translation (1–10), pp. 59–61; You must also read 12b, pp. 63–66 carefully.

Chapter 13: Parsing (1–10); Translation (1–10); Bible Translation (1–6 only); Inflecting (1–15), pp. 67–71.

Chapter 14: Exercises in 14a: Parsing (1–10); Translation (odd # only); Bible Translation (1, 3, 4, 7, 12), pp. 73–77; Exercises in 14b: Parsing (1–10); Bible Translation (1, 4, 7), pp. 81, 83–84.

Chapter 15: Parsing (1–15); Translation (10–15); Bible Translation (1–5, 9); Inflecting (1–5), pp. 89–93.

Chapter 16: Exercises in 16a: Parsing (1–10); Translation (1–5); Bible Translation (8–10), pp. 95–99.

Exercises in 16b: Parsing (1–10); Translation (1–5); Bible Translation (7, 9, 10), pp. 101–104.

Exercises in 16c: Parsing (1–10); Translation (1–6); Bible Translation (1, 3–6), pp. 107–110.

Exercises in 16d: Parsing (1–6, 16–18); Parse and Find Verb in Lexicon (1–7), pp. 111–112.

- Exercises in 16e: Bible Translation (1–3), p. 116.
- Exercises in 16f: Parsing (1–14), p. 119.
- Chapter 17: Parsing (1–10, p. 125); Bible Translation (1–4, 7, 8, 9, 10, pp. 126–127); Parsing (1–10, p. 130); Bible Translation (2, 3, 8, p. 131–132).
- Chapter 18: Exercises in 18a: Parsing (1–10); Translation (1–5); Bible Translation (1), pp. 135–137.
- Exercises in 18b: Parsing (10–15, p. 141); Translation (8–10, p. 142); Bible Translation (17, p. 145).
- Exercises in 18c: Parsing (1–10, p. 149); Bible Translation (1–3, p. 152).
- Chapter 19: Parsing 1 (1–7, 13–15, p. 157); Parsing 2 (1–5, p. 158); Parsing 3 (1–5, p. 159); Bible Translation (1, 2, p. 160).
- Chapter 20: Parsing (1–20, pp. 163–164); Parsing (1–10, p. 165); Translation (1, 3, p. 165); Bible Translation (11, 16, p. 168–169).
- Chapter 21: Parsing (1–3, 12–23); Translation (1–6); Bible Translation (1, 5), pp. 173–175.
- Chapter 22: Parsing (1–10); Translation (6–9); Bible Translation (1–3, 9), pp. 179–182.
- Chapter 23: Bible Translation (1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10), pp. 187–188.
- Chapter 24: Parsing (1–10); Translation (1–6, 13–15); Bible Translation (1–4, 9, 12), pp. 189–194.
- Chapter 25: Exercises in 25a: Translation (8–13, p. 197); Bible Translation (1, 3, 4, 10, pp. 198–199).
- Exercises in 25b: Translation (1–3, 9–13, p. 204–105); Bible Translation (1, 3, 11, p. 208).
- Chapter 26: Parsing (1–12); Translation (1–10); Bible Translation (10, 12, 13), pp. 209–214.
- Chapter 27: Exercises in 27a: Parsing (1–14, pp. 215–216); Bible Translation (6, 8, 9, pp. 217–218). Exercises in 27b: Parsing (1–7, 13–16, pp. 219–220); Bible Translation (8, 9, 15, 16, pp. 222–223).
- Chapter 28: Parsing (1–11); Translation (1–9); Bible Translation (1, 4, 5), pp. 225–228.
- Chapter 29: Exercises in 29a: Parsing (1–7, 11–15); Bible Translation (1, 2, 3, 6), pp. 229–232.
- Exercises in 29b: Parsing (1–12); Bible Translation (1), pp. 233–234.
- Chapter 30: Parsing (1–10); Translation (12–18); Bible Translation (3, 4, 8, 10, 12, 15, 16, 22), pp. 237–244.
- Chapter 31: Parsing 1 (1–7, 25–26); Parsing 2 (1–13); Bible Translation (4, 6, 9, 12), pp. 246–251.
- Chapter 32: Parsing (1–15); Bible Translation (1, 2, all of the passages), pp. 253–256.
- Chapter 33: Parsing 1 (1–20, pp. 257–258); Bible Translation (1, 3, 8, 9, 16, 18), pp. 260–263.
- Chapter 34: Parsing (1–25); Bible Translation (2, 3, 6, 10), pp. 265–269.
- Chapter 35: Parsing (1–20); Bible Translation (6, 7, 8, 13), pp. 271–275.
- Final Parsing Exercise (1–100), pp. 277–281.
- Bible Translation 1: Genesis 12:10–15, p. 285.

## VI. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Introductory Grammars:

Dobson, John H. *Learn Biblical Hebrew*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1999, 2005.

Futato, Mark D. [\*Beginning Biblical Hebrew\*](#). Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2003.

Kelley, Page H. [\*Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar\*](#). Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co, 1992.

Kittel, B., V. Hoffer, R. Wright. *Biblical Hebrew: A Text and Workbook*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1989.

Lambdin, Thomas O. *Introduction to Biblical Hebrew*. New York: Scribner, 1971.

Ross, Allen P. *Introducing Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.

Seow, C. L. *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1987.

Weingreen, J. *A Practical Grammar for Classical Hebrew*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1959.

### More Advanced Grammars:

*Davidson's Introductory Hebrew Grammar – Syntax*. Ed. J. C. L. Gibson. 4th ed. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1994.

Gesenius, W. *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar (GKC)*. Ed. E. Kautzsch and A. E. Cowley. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1910.

Joüon, Paul and T. Muraoka, [\*A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew\*](#). 2 Vols. Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1991.

Rocine, B. M. *Learning Biblical Hebrew: A New Approach Using Discourse Analysis*. Macon, GA: Smyth & Helwyn Publishing Inc., 2000.

Van der Merwe, Christo H. J., Jackie A. Naudé and Jan H. Kroeze. [\*A Biblical Hebrew Reference Grammar\*](#). Biblical Languages: Hebrew 3. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1999, 2000.

Waltke, Bruce K. and M. O'Connor. [\*An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax\*](#). Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 1990.

Williams, R. J. [\*Hebrew Syntax: An Outline\*](#). Second edition. Toronto: University of Toronto, 1976.

Zvi, E., M. Hancock, R. Beinert. *Readings in Biblical Hebrew: An Intermediate Textbook*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1993.

#### Dictionaries/Lexicons:

Brown, F., S. R. Driver and C. A. Briggs. *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament (BDB)*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1907; corrected impression 1952.

*The Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*. Ed. D. J. A. Clines; vol 1 a; vol 2 b-w; vol 3 z-f; vol 4 y-l; vol 5 m-n; vol 6 s-p. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1998, 2001, 2007.

Clines, David J. A., ed., *The Concise Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2009.

Holladay, W. L. [\*A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament\*](#). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.

Jenni, Ernst and Claus Westermann. *Theological Lexicon of the Old Testament* (transl. Mark E. Biddle: vol 1-3; Peabody: Hendrickson, 1997.

Koehler, L. and W. Baumgartner (eds). *Hebräisches und aramäisches Lexicon zum Alten Testament (KB)*. 3rd ed. Leiden: Brill, 1967-1990.

Koehler, L. and W. Baumgartner. *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Vol. 1 a-j. Trans. M. E. J. Richardson. Leiden: Brill, 1994-.

*The New Brown-Driver-Briggs-Gesenius Hebrew and English Lexicon*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1979.

#### Concordances:

Even-Shoshan, A. (ed). *A New Concordance of the Old Testament*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1989.

Lisowsky, G. *Konkordanz zum Hebräischen Alten Testament*. 2nd ed. Stuttgart: German Bible Society, 1981.

Mandelkern, Solomon. *Veteris Testamenti concordantiae Hebraicae atque Chaldaicae*. 3rd Rev. ed. New York: Schocken, 1971.

Other Lexical Aids:

Armstrong, T. A., D. L. Busby and C. F. Carr. *A Reader's Hebrew-English Lexicon of the Old Testament. Four Volumes in One.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1989.

Beall, T. D. and W. A. Banks. *The Old Testament Parsing Guide.* 2 Vols. Chicago: Moody, 1986, 1990.

Biblical Hebrew Vocabulary Cards. Visual Education Association, 581 West Leffel Lane, P.O. Box 1666, Springfield, Ohio 45501, USA.

Einspahr, Bruce. *Index to Brown, Driver & Briggs Hebrew Lexicon.* Chicago: Moody Press, 1976.

Mitchel, Larry A. *A Student's Vocabulary for Biblical Hebrew and Aramaic.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1984.

Owens, J. J. *Analytical Key to the Old Testament.* 4 Vols. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1989-92.

Scott, W. R. *A Simplified Guide to BHS: Critical, Apparatus, Masora, Accents, Unusual Letters & Other Markings.* 2nd ed. Berkeley: Bibal Press, 1990.

Van Pelt, Miles V. and Gary D. Pratico, *The Vocabulary Guide to Biblical Hebrew.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.

Wonneberger, R. *Understanding BHS: A Manual for the Users of Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia.* 2nd Rev. ed. Trans. D. R. Daniels. Rome: Pontifical Institute, 1990.

There is a lot of computer software available as well for learning Hebrew and doing lexical and grammatical searches of the Hebrew Bible. A book which lists some of the resources available is Jeffrey Hsu, *Computer Bible Study. Up-to-Date Information on the Best Software and Techniques* (Dallas: Word, 1993). Accordance is recommended for Apple MacIntosh computers and Bibleworks for PCs.

Tyndale Library Research Guides for biblical languages:  
<http://libguides.tyndale.ca/content.php?pid=130812>

Helpful websites for Hebrew:

<http://www.mechon-mamre.org>

Academy of Ancient Languages:

[http://www.aol.org/hebrew\\_audiobible.htm](http://www.aol.org/hebrew_audiobible.htm)

<http://www.animatedhebrew.com/>

<http://torahforme.org>