

Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary

OT-510: Elementary Hebrew 1

OT-511: Elementary Hebrew 2

(3 units each)

MBBS: Fresno Campus

Monday 6-9 p.m.

Fall 2005 Aug. 29 – Dec. 12

Spring 2006 Jan. 9 – Apr. 24

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This series of courses in basic Biblical Hebrew is designed to give the students an introduction to the vocabulary and fundamental principles of the Hebrew language they will need to move toward mastery in the translation and interpretation of passages of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament).

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

Completion of weekly homework assignments, quizzes, exams, and vocabulary study will help each student develop excellence in each of the following areas:

- 1) The mastery of the identification and pronunciation of Hebrew letters and words.
- 2) The ability to define these words as they appear in the Hebrew Bible.
- 3) The knowledge to determine the form (morphology) of nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, articles, and other various parts of speech as found in the Hebrew language.
- 4) The development of the basic skills needed to determine the appropriate grammatical function (syntax) of various words as they appear in a given context.
- 5) The opportunity to begin to use the above skills in the exegetical analysis of a complete book of the Hebrew Bible.

III. RELATED DEGREE OBJECTIVES

- 1) To gain a deeper knowledge and greater appreciation for the Hebrew Bible as an inseparable part of the Christian Bible we use today.
- 2) To discover and discuss issues of faith and community which have relevance in our particular faith community settings.
- 3) To provide healthy discussion and debate in a group setting that will allow each person to develop his or her own ideas and form a solid character foundation.
- 4) To polish the skills necessary to be the mediator between the academic world and the everyday world where people will ask, "What does this really mean?"

IV. TEXTS FOR THE COURSE

Required:

Practico, Gary D. and Miles V. Van Pelt. Basics of Biblical Hebrew, with CD-ROM. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001. (ISBN 0-310-23760-2)

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

Optional:

Van Pelt, Miles. Old Testament Hebrew Vocabulary Cards. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004. (ISBN 0-310-25986-X)

V. COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Weekly reading assignments (including vocabulary review) will be given from the text and homework assignments from the workbook. In order to verify that each student is not only doing the assignments but also comprehending them, 5 homework checks, 10 quizzes, and 1 final exam will be given.

Homework Checks: Throughout the semester, I will collect homework from one or more of the assignments that should have been completed prior to that class session. These checks can be ***unannounced!*** Therefore, it is a good idea to stay up-to-date on all reading and homework assignments. Each check will be worth 5% of the overall semester grade. Therefore, homework checks comprise 15% of the final grade.

Quizzes: Quizzes will always contain vocabulary and may contain sections on parsing, syntax, and practice in basic translation. Each quiz is given in accordance with the Course Outline below and is worth 5% of the overall semester grade. However, the lowest two quiz scores will be dropped when calculating the semester grade. Therefore, quizzes comprise 40% of the final grade.

Final Exam: In form, the final exam will be like a huge quiz. It will contain a substantial vocabulary section, and may contain sections on parsing, identification of syntax, and practice translating. This exam comprises 45% of the overall grade.

*In keeping with other introductory language courses at this institution, the practice of overriding earlier course grades will be used in this course. This practice is used when the final exam grade of a particular student is higher than the average quiz score of the best eight quizzes. In this case, the higher final exam score will comprise ***85% of the overall grade*** taking the place of the lower quiz average.

VI. GRADING SCHEME

The following grading scheme will be used in this class to calculate the grade of each student. Once calculated, the letter grade for each student will be based on the letter grade conversion guidelines provided by MBBS (A = 100-94%, A- = 93-90%, B+ = 89-87%, B = 86-83%, B- = 82-80%, C+ = 79-77%, C = 76-73% C- = 72-70%, and F = 69-0%).

Homework Checks	3	X	5%	=	15%
Quizzes (Top 8)	8	X	5%	=	40%
Final Exam	1	X	45%	=	<u>45%</u>
			Total	=	100%

VII. COURSE OUTLINE

<u>Fall</u>		<u>Spring</u>	
1. Aug. 29	Chapters 1-3	1. Jan. 9	First Term Review
2. Sept. 5	No Class: Labor Day	2. Jan. 16	No Class: MLK
3. Sept. 12	Chapters 4 & 5*	3. Jan. 23	Chapters 24 & 25*
4. Sept. 19	Chapters 6 & 7*	4. Jan. 30	Chapters 26 & 27*
5. Sept. 26	Chapters 8 & 9*	5. Feb. 6	Chapters 28 & 29*
6. Oct. 3	Chapters 10 & 11*	6. Feb. 13	Chapters 30 & 31*
7. Oct. 10	No Class: Module Week	7. Feb. 20	No Class: Pres. Day
8. Oct. 17	Chapter 12	8. Feb. 27	Chapters 32 & 33*
9. Oct. 24	Chapters 13 & 14*	9. Mar. 6	No Class: Module Week
10. Oct. 31	Chapters 15 & 16*	10. Mar. 13	Chapters 34 & 35*
11. Nov. 7	Chapter 17*	11. Mar. 20	Chapter 36*
12. Nov. 14	Chapter 18*	12. Mar. 27	Jonah: Section 1*
13. Nov. 21	Chapter 19*	13. Apr. 3	Jonah: Section 2*
14. Nov. 28	Chapters 20 & 21*	14. Apr. 10	Jonah: Section 3*
15. Dec. 5	Chapters 22 & 23	15. Apr. 17	Jonah: Section 4
16. Dec. 12	<u>Final Exam</u>	16. Apr. 24	<u>Final Exam</u>

* These dates are those designated for quizzes.

VIII. ACADEMIC POLICIES

It is expected that all students are informed of and will follow all academic policies pertaining to academic integrity, plagiarism, extensions and incomplete grades, the use of inclusive language, etc. A hard copy of these policies can be found in the *Academic Handbook* and an electronic version can be found online at www.mbseminary.edu/fresno/policies.