

Elementary Biblical Hebrew II

DIV/REL 2501.01

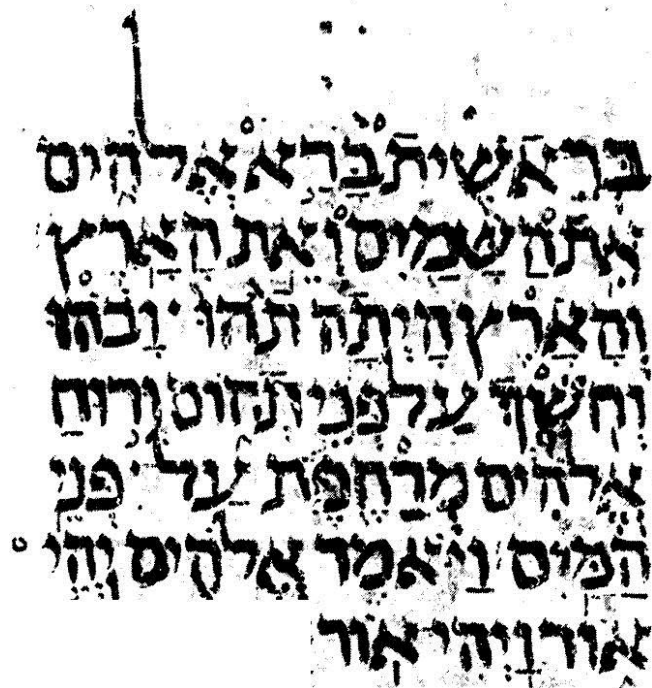
MWF 8:10-9 a.m.

Divinity G-27A

Instructor: Caryn Tamber-Rosenau

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Office hours: By appointment, Monday and Wednesday afternoons



Genesis 1:1-3 from the Leningrad Codex, the oldest complete Hebrew manuscript of the Hebrew Bible (11th century)

Course Description: In the fall semester, you learned some of the fundamentals of Biblical Hebrew: reading and writing, vocabulary, basic grammar, translation skills, and all but one inflection of the strong verb. This semester, you will continue building your Biblical Hebrew vocabulary, cover the participle inflection of the strong verb, learn the weak verbs, explore more advanced grammatical structures, and increase your ability to translate biblical texts. You will also learn additional skills for studying the Bible, such as transliterating Hebrew into English characters and navigating the BibleWorks software program. There will be a strong focus on biblical exegesis this semester.

Course Goals:

- To make further progress toward being able to read and interpret the Hebrew Bible independently.
- To learn more of the basics of Biblical Hebrew grammar and syntax, particularly the various types of weak verbs.
- To improve parsing skills with the goal of producing more effective translations.
- To increase your Biblical Hebrew vocabulary so you can read the Bible more quickly and fluently.
- To explore the use of supplementary tools, such as lexicons, commentaries, and software, to read and interpret the Bible.

Grading:

Attendance and Participation: 10%

Quizzes (lowest quiz grade dropped): 15%

Assignments to be handed in: 10%

Exam 1: 20%

Exam 2: 20%

Exegesis Paper: 25%

The grading scale is the same as for other courses in the Divinity School (97-100%=A+, 94-96%=A, etc.)

Course Requirements and Policies:

1. In a language class, attendance and punctuality are especially crucial. New concepts will be introduced almost every class session, so students are strongly encouraged to make attendance and punctuality a priority. Excessive absences or lateness will affect a student's grade. If you must miss class, please *let me know in advance* if at all possible; it will be your responsibility to make up work that you have missed.
2. Class participation is important! Please come to each class prepared to read aloud, go over the homework, and contribute to class discussions.
3. It is impossible to pay attention and participate if you are checking your e-mail or on Facebook, so I ask that you refrain from using your computer, tablet, or phone for any non-class-related purposes during class time.
4. Quizzes will be given every week, usually on Fridays, until we have finished the textbook. The quizzes will cover mainly vocabulary, but there will also be basic questions about grammatical concepts we have covered that week. Quizzes may not be made up after the fact but may be taken in advance if a student will be absent on quiz day. The vocabulary portion of each quiz will cover predominantly vocabulary from the week's assigned chapters, but I will always include at least one vocabulary word from a previous chapter. Students are encouraged to make (or purchase) flashcards and review all vocabulary regularly.
5. Students will be asked to hand in the occasional set of completed homework exercises from the textbook. These will be graded predominantly on completeness. There will also

be periodic exegesis or word study exercises to hand in, which will be graded on completeness and merit.

6. I highly recommend forming study groups. Getting together to read aloud and discuss class material will be beneficial to you and may help to keep you on task. (Copying classmates' homework, however, is a no-no—and extremely short-sighted.)
7. Students will take two exams. The first will be taken on **February 13** and will cover primarily material addressed in chapter 20-26 of the textbook. However, because learning a language is a cumulative process, students will be expected to be familiar with all vocabulary and grammatical concepts discussed in the fall semester. The second exam will be taken on **April 1**. It will be cumulative but will focus more on content covered in chapters 27-31 of the textbook; again, vocabulary and grammar from the fall will necessarily be included. Students will be able to use a lexicon for certain parts of both exams but should be advised that looking up too many words will quickly sap the available time. There will be no exam during the University's official finals period.
8. Students will hand in a final paper, about 10-15 pages in length, on or before **April 27**. This will consist of an original translation and exegesis of a biblical passage, with a wider audience (of your choosing) in mind. No later than **March 9**, each student will select a biblical passage from a list provided by the instructor. In translating and interpreting, students may and should consult existing translations and commentaries, as well as lexicons and/or BibleWorks. Students are encouraged to begin translating and researching their passage well in advance of the paper's due date.

Required Books:

Textbook: Kelley, Page H. *Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992.

Bible: Elliger, Karl and Wilhelm Rudolph, eds. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* (BHS). Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1990.

Lexicon: Holladay, William Lee. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988

Resources for Further Study:

Landes, George M. *Building Your Biblical Hebrew Vocabulary: Learning Words by Frequency and Cognate*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2001.

Seow, C.L. *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew, Revised Edition*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1995.

Waltke, Bruce K. and Michael Patrick O'Connor. *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbrauns, 1990.

Honor Code:

The Vanderbilt University Honor Code governs all aspects of this class. Cheating will not be tolerated and will result in a failing grade on the assignment and possibly a referral to the Honor Council. Please see me if you are unsure how the Honor Code applies to a given assignment.

Special Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

To receive reasonable accommodations for a disability at Vanderbilt University, students are to apply for services through the Disability Services Program. If you have a letter from the DSP granting you such accommodations, please make an appointment to discuss the matter with me.

Prolonged Illness or Other Emergency:

If you experience a prolonged illness, family emergency, or other situation that will cause you to miss class sessions and/or assignments, please notify Dean Townes' office. The dean will then contact all of your professors and instructors to notify them of the situation.

Course schedule (subject to adjustments):

Week 1:

Monday, January 5

In class: Introduction and review

Wednesday, January 7

In class: Participles

Homework: Chapter 20 exercises 1 and 3

Friday, January 9

In class: Review of participles

Quiz: Vocabulary of chapter 20

Homework: Chapter 20 exercises 2 and 4-**Hand in**

Week 2:

Monday, January 12

In class: The pointing of the *vav* with verbs

Verb sequences

Introduction to weak verbs

Homework: Chapter 21 exercises 1, 2, and 3

Wednesday, January 14

In class: I-Guttural Verbs

Homework: Chapter 22 odds only of 3, 4, 5, and 6

Friday, January 16

In class: *Transliteration workshop*

Quiz: Vocabulary of 21 and 22, participles

Homework: Exegesis exercise 1-**Hand in**

Week 3:

Monday, January 19: **NO CLASS: MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY**

Wednesday, January 21

In class: I-Alef Verbs

Homework: Chapter 23 exercises 1 and 2

Friday, January 23

In class: Weak verbs review

Quiz: Vocabulary of 23, I-Guttural Verbs

Homework: Chapter 23 exercises 3 and 4

Week 4:

Monday, January 26

In class: II-Guttural Verbs

Homework: Chapter 24 exercises 1 and 2-**Hand in**

Wednesday, January 28

In class: II-Guttural Verbs

Homework: Chapter 24 exercises 3 and 4

Friday, January 30

In class: III-Guttural Verbs

Quiz: Vocabulary of 24, I-Alef Verbs, II-Guttural Verbs

Homework: Chapter 25 exercises 1, 2, and 3

Week 5:

Monday, February 2

In class: III-Guttural Verbs

Homework: Chapter 25 exercises 4, 5, and 6

Wednesday, February 4

In class: III-Alef Verbs

Homework: Chapter 26 exercises 1 and 2

Friday, February 6

In class: III-Alef Verbs

Quiz: Vocabulary of 25 and 26, III-Guttural Verbs

Homework: Chapter 26 exercises 3 and 4

Week 6:

Monday, February 9

In class: Review

Homework: Study!

Wednesday, February 11

In class: Review

Homework: Study!

Friday, February 13: **Exam 1**

Week 7:

Monday, February 16

In class: III-Hay Verbs

Homework: Chapter 27 exercises 1 and 2

Wednesday, February 18

In class: III-Hay Verbs

Homework: Chapter 27 exercises 3 and 4-**Hand in**

Friday, February 20

In class: *Biblical commentary workshop*

Quiz: Vocabulary of 27, III-Hay Verbs

Homework: Chapter 27 exercise 5 odds only—practice translating and circle all III-Hay verbs

Week 8:

Monday, February 23

In class: I-Nun Verbs

Homework: Chapter 28 exercises 1 and 2

Wednesday, February 25

In class: I-Nun Verbs

Homework: Chapter 28 exercises 3 and 4

Friday, February 27

In class: Review

Quiz: Vocabulary of 28, I-Nun Verbs

Homework: Exegesis assignment 2-**Hand in**

SPRING BREAK

Week 9:

Monday, March 9

In class: Middle-Weak Verbs

Homework: Chapter 29 exercises 1, 2, and 3

Wednesday, March 11

In class: Middle-Weak Verbs

Homework: Chapter 29 exercises 4 and 5

Friday, March 13

In class: *Textual criticism workshop, Part I*

Quiz: Vocabulary of 29, Middle-Weak Verbs

Homework: Chapter 29 exercise 6 odds only—practice translating and circle all Middle-Weak verbs

Week 10:

Monday, March 16

In class: I-Yod/Vav Verbs

Homework: Chapter 30 exercises 1 and 3

Wednesday, March 18

In class: I-Yod/Vav Verbs

Homework: Chapter 30 exercises 2 and 4

Friday, March 20

In class: *Textual criticism workshop, Part II*

Quiz: Vocabulary of 30, I-Yod/Vav Verbs

Homework: Chapter 30 exercise 5

Week 11:

Monday, March 23

In class: Geminate Verbs

Homework: Chapter 31 exercises 1-3

Wednesday, March 25

In class: Geminate Verbs

Homework: Chapter 31 exercises 4-6

Friday, March 27

In class: Review

Quiz: Vocabulary of 31, Geminate Verbs

Homework: Study!

Week 12:

Monday, March 30

In class: Review

Homework: Study!

Wednesday, April 1: **Exam 2**

Friday, April 3: **NO CLASS: GOOD FRIDAY**

Week 13:

Monday, April 6

In class: *BibleWorks workshop*

Wednesday, April 8

In class: *BHS critical apparatus workshop*

Friday, April 10: **NO CLASS: YOM TOV PASSOVER**

Week 14:

Monday, April 13

In class: *BDB workshop*

Wednesday, April 15

In class: Fun with translations

Friday, April 17

In class: Fun with translations

Week 15:

Monday, April 20:

In class: Informal discussion of exegesis findings/opportunity for feedback from instructor and classmates

Party!