

OT 101-3 The Elements of Biblical Hebrew
Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary
Fall Term 2013 // Tuesdays and Thursdays
Section 1: 8:30 – 9:50 am // Section 2: 1:30 – 2:50 pm

Instructor: Tyler Mayfield
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Office: Schlegel 315
Office Hours: email for appointment

Tutors & Tutoring Sessions:

Erin Gill (erin.gill@my.lpts.edu): in class on Tuesday afternoon and Thursday morning.

Tutoring session: Wednesdays 2-5pm in Winn Center

Elana Levy (elana.levy@my.lpts.edu): in class on Tuesday morning and Thursday afternoon.

Tutoring sessions: Mondays, 5-6pm, Thurs. 4:30-6:30pm in Winn Center

Course Description

This course prepares students to use Hebrew as a tool in the exegesis of biblical texts. Therefore, the course introduces basic grammar and vocabulary of Biblical Hebrew.

Course Objectives

Students completing this course will be able to:

1. Analyze and explain the major features of Hebrew grammar and syntax.
2. Recognize and translate common Hebrew words.
3. Read biblical Hebrew silently and out loud with basic facility.
4. Translate basic Hebrew prose.

Required Course Materials

Simon, Ethelyn, Irene Resnikoff, and Linda Motzkin. *The First Hebrew Primer*. 3rd edition. Oakland, CA: EKS Publishing Company, 2005.

CAMS site includes vocabulary list and paradigms with sound files as well as summaries of chapters.

Optional Course Materials

The First Hebrew Primer 3rd Edition Answer Book (on Library Reserve)

Master Set of Bible Flash Cards. Oakland, CA: EKS Publishing Company. Keyed to *The First Hebrew Primer*.

Assignments & Evaluation

One of the most important components of this course is your study time. Throughout the course we will introduce new concepts and review old ones in class. Language acquisition takes time because it is a skill learned by sheer memorization, practice, and review. If you have not learned Tuesday's lesson, Thursday's lesson will hardly make sense. So it is essential to plan to study several hours outside of class every week. We will give you all the assistance we can, but it is important to keep in mind that the class and tutoring sessions will not help you without disciplined individual study habits!

1) Attendance and Class Participation (10% of final grade)

It is imperative that students attend class so as to receive necessary explanations and to review homework. While the textbook is a great resource, it does not provide a full, rich (social) context within which to learn. Class time also provides opportunities to ask questions and to learn from other students.

According to the Seminary catalog, students are expected to attend "all scheduled meetings of the courses" excepting illness or "other valid reasons." In case of illness or emergency, students are asked to notify me preferably prior to the session. Six or more absences (1/4 of the course) may result in a low or failing grade in the course. Tardiness also affects classroom dynamics; please make every effort to be ready to start class on time.

2) Homework (15% of final grade)

Students will not learn a new language by simply attending class. One needs to review and apply daily the new language information. Completing the assigned exercises (see CAMS for Homework assignments) allows one to revisit the grammatical concepts we discuss in class. Students are expected to complete assigned exercises on time and will be asked to turn in these exercises regularly.

3) Quizzes (25% of final grade)

Over the course of the semester, students will take 10 short quizzes (mostly on Tuesdays). These quizzes will test vocabulary, grammar, and translation.

4) Take-Home Exams (30% of final grade)

At two points during the semester, students will complete an open-book, take-home exam. You will have an extended weekend to complete this exercise; however, you will NOT be allowed to work on the exercise in groups or pairs. You may use notes and your textbook but not your friends or tutors.

5) Final Exam (20% of final grade)

At the end of the semester, students will take a cumulative, closed-book final exam. A review session will be scheduled in order to help students study for this exam.

Grading Scale:

94-100	A	77-79	C+
90-93	A-	73-76	C
87-89	B+	70-72	C-

83-86
80-82

B
B-

60-69
0-59

D
F

Course Policies

Use of Inclusive Language

In accordance with seminary policy, students are to use inclusive language in class discussions and in written and oral communication by using language representative of the whole human community in respect to gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, age, and physical and intellectual capacities. Direct quotations from theological texts and translations of the Bible do not have to be altered to conform to this policy. For more information, see:

<http://www.lpts.edu/academics/academic-resources/academic-support-center/online-writing-lab/avoiding-gender-bias>

In your own writing, however, when referring to God, you are encouraged to use a variety of images and metaphors, reflecting the richness of the Bible's images for God. The God of the Hebrew Bible is envisioned in both personal and non-personal ways, as well as masculine and feminine terms. Naming God exclusively as "He" does not capture this splendid diversity.

Academic Honesty

All work turned in to the instructors is expected to be the work of the student whose name appears on the assignment. Any borrowing of the ideas or the words of others must be acknowledged by quotation marks (where appropriate) and by citation of author and source. Use of another's language or ideas from online resources is included in this policy, and must be attributed to author and source of the work being cited. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism, and may result in failure of the course. Two occurrences of plagiarism may result in dismissal from the Seminary. Students unfamiliar with issues related to academic honesty can find help from the staff in the Academic Support Center. For more information, see the Policy for Academic Honesty in the Student Handbook.

Special Accommodations

Students requiring accommodations for a documented physical or learning disability should be in contact with the Director of the Academic Support Center (kmapes@lpts.edu) during the first two weeks of a semester (or before the semester begins) and should speak with the instructor as soon as possible to arrange appropriate adjustments. Students with environmental or other sensitivities that may affect their learning are also encouraged to speak with the instructor.

Policy on late work:

All written assignments such as homework and take-home exams are due on the date given in the syllabus or stated in class. Assignments submitted late will be penalized in the grading by one letter grade increment for every day (a B+ assignment becomes a B if one day late, a B- if two days, a C+ if three days, etc.). Assignments submitted more than ten days after the due date will not be accepted.

Use of electronic devices in class: I ask that we create a time and space in the classroom to set aside such distractions as email, Facebook, and texting in order to engage our minds and hearts. Do not send or read text messages during class. In the event that you have a legitimate need to be accessible during class, you may ask me for an exception to this rule. Laptops should not be used in Hebrew class. Any

misuse of electronic devices during class time will be grounds for dismissal from the session and will negatively affect the course grade.

Course Schedule

Thursday, Sept 5

Introductions & syllabus
Learn Alphabet Chapters 1 & 2

Tuesday, Sept 10

Alphabet Quiz #1
Learn Vowels Chapters 1 & 2

Thursday, Sept 12

Chapter 3

Tuesday, Sept 17

Vowels Quiz #2
Chapters 4-5

Thursday, Sept 19

Chapter 6

Tuesday, Sept 24

Quiz #3 on 1-5
Chapter 7

Thursday, Sept 26

Chapter 8

Tuesday, Oct 1

Quiz #4 on 1-7, mostly 6-7
Chapters 9-10

Thursday, Oct 3

Chapter 11

Tuesday, Oct 8

Quiz #5 on 1-10, mostly 8-10
Chapter 12

Thursday, Oct 10

Chapter 13
Take-Home Exam #1 (Chapters 1-13) Distributed

Research and Study Week

Tuesday, Oct 22

Take-Home Exam #1 Due in class
Review 1-13
Chapter 14

Thursday, Oct 24

Chapter 15

Tuesday, Oct 29

Quiz #6 on 1-14
Chapter 16

Thursday, Oct 31

Chapter 17

Tuesday, Nov 5

Quiz #7 on 1-16, mostly 15-16
Chapter 18

Thursday, Nov 7

Chapter 19

Tuesday, Nov 12

Quiz #8 on 1-18, mostly 17-18
Chapter 20

Thursday, Nov 14

Chapter 21

Tuesday, Nov 19

Quiz #9 on 1-20, mostly 19-20

Chapter 22

Thursday, Nov 21

Chapter 23

Take-Home Exam #2 (Chapters 1-23) Distributed

Tuesday, Nov 26

Take-Home Exam #2 Due in class

Review 1-23

Tuesday, Dec 3

Quiz #10 on 1-23, mostly 21-23

Chapter 24

Thursday, Dec 5

Review 1 -24

Final Exam: December 11 or 12th. TBD.