

**OT 101-3 The Elements of Biblical Hebrew**  
Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary  
Fall Term 2017 // Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 – 11:20AM

Instructor: Tyler Mayfield (he, him, his)  
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Office: Schlegel 315  
Office Hours: email for appointment

Tutors & Tutoring Sessions: (in Schlegel 220 Conference Room)

John Kubar (he, him, his): [john.kubar@my.lpts.edu](mailto:john.kubar@my.lpts.edu), Friday 1-2PM, Monday 6-7:30PM

Avery Smith (they, them, theirs): [avery.smith@my.lpts.edu](mailto:avery.smith@my.lpts.edu), Wed. 11:30-12:30, Monday 6-7:30PM

### ***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*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Revised with New Explanatory Notes. Oakland, CA: EKS Publishing Company, 2005. ISBN: 0-939144-15-8
- CAMS site includes helpful additional materials: vocabulary list and paradigms with sound files; summaries of the textbook's chapters; homework assignments.

### ***Optional Course Materials***

*The First Hebrew Primer 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition Answer Book*

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

*Biblical Hebrew Flashcards Phone App* by EKS Publishing Company. \$9.99. <https://appsto.re/us/kna3t.i>

## ***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. It is also cumulative: 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 (5% 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 and quiz grades(!); please make every effort to be ready to start class on time.

### 2) Homework (20% 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. Homework is graded based on completion, not correctness.

### 3) Quizzes (30% of final grade)

Over the course of the semester, students will take 9 short quizzes (mostly on Tuesdays) at the beginning of class. These quizzes will test vocabulary, grammar, and translation abilities.

### 4) Take-Home Exams (25% of final grade)

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

### 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:*

99-100	A+	83-86	B	70-72	C-
95-98	A	80-82	B-	67-69	D+
90-94	A-	77-79	C+	60-66	D
87-89	B+	73-76	C	0-59	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>

### 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 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 except on Bibleworks days. 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 7

Introductions & syllabus

Learn Alphabet Chapters 1 & 2

### Tuesday, Sept 12

Quiz #1: Alphabet

Review alphabet

Learn Vowels Chapters 1 & 2

### Thursday, Sept 14

Review

Introduce Chapter 3

### Tuesday, Sept 19

Quiz # 2: Vowels

Review Chapter 3

Introduce Chapters 4-5

### Thursday, Sept 21

Review Chapter 4&5 Homework

Introduce Chapter 6

### Tuesday, Sept 26

Quiz #3 on 1-5

Review Chapter 6 HW

Introduce “Bibleworks & Nouns”

Thursday, Sept 28

Review Bibleworks and Nouns HW

Introduce Chapter 7

Tuesday, Oct 3

Quiz #4 on 4-6 (Nouns)

Review Chapter 7

Introduce Chapter 8

Thursday, Oct 5

Review Chapter 8 HW

Introduce “Bibleworks & Qal Perfect/Subject Pronouns”

Tuesday, Oct 10

Quiz #5 on mostly 7-8

Review “Bibleworks & Qal Perfect/Subject Pronouns” HW

Introduce Chapters 9-10

Thursday, Oct 12

Review Chapter 9-10 HW

Introduce Chapter 11

Take-Home Exam #1 (Chapters 1-10) Distributed

**Research and Study Week**

Tuesday, Oct 24

Take-Home Exam #1 Due in class

Review Chapter 11 HW

Introduce Chapter 12

Thursday, Oct 26

Review Chapter 12 HW

Introduce “Bibleworks & Qal Imperfect/Absolute-Construct Nouns”

Tuesday, October 31

Quiz #6 on mostly 11-12

Review “Bibleworks & Qal Imperfect/Absolute-Construct Nouns” HW

Introduce Chapter 13

Thursday, Nov 2

Review 13 HW

Introduce 14

Tuesday, Nov 7

Quiz #7 on mostly 13

Review Chapter 14 HW

Introduce “Bibleworks & Adjectives”

Thursday, Nov 9

Review “Bibleworks & Adjectives” HW

Introduce 15

Tuesday, Nov 14

Quiz #8 on mostly 14

Review 15 HW

Introduce 16

Thursday, Nov 16

Review 16 HW

Introduce 17

Tuesday, Nov 21: Tutor-led session

Quiz # 9 on mostly 15-16

Review 17 HW

Take-Home Exam #2 (Chapters 11-17) Distributed

Tuesday, Nov 28

Take-Home Exam #2 Due in class

Introduce Participles and Imperatives using Bibleworks

Thursday, Nov 30

Review Participles and Imperatives HW

Introduce Infinitives using Bibleworks

Tuesday, Dec 5

Review Infinitives HW

Introduce other verbal stems using Bibleworks

Thursday, Dec 7

Review other verbal stems HW

Final Exam: December 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup>. TBD.