OT 4001 Reading in Biblical Hebrew
Fall 2017
Thursday 8:45 am to 9:35 am
Nelson 119 or Library Computer Lab

Instructor
Steve Cook
Email: scook@lpts.edu   .

Course Learning Objectives
This course in designed to help students increase their ability to read and translate the Hebrew
Bible. The major learning outcomes of the course are:

- To be able to properly vocalize the Hebrew text presented in BHS as demonstrated by use
  of SBL-style transliteration and class participation.
- To be able to use a multitude of resources -- print and electronic -- for translating the text
  presented in BHS as demonstrated through regular participation in class and a final
  translation project.

Required Texts
The primary texts for the class are BHS, a lexicon (or several; all in reference), numerous
resources on Hebrew grammar and syntax (all on reserve or in reference), and BibleWorks (on
the library computers). Students should bring at least their BHS to class every meeting.

Books on Reserve/Resources in CAMS
There will be numerous resources for working with Biblical Hebrew placed on reserve. See the
reserve list at the end of the syllabus. There will be additional resources posted in CAMS.

Grading/Assignments
Preparation for class/class participation   60%
Near-weekly transliteration assignments   10%
Final project & presentation (instructions included after schedule of classes)   30%

Class Structure/Schedule of Classes

Each class will cover a text from BHS – a translation of which each student will prepare using
BHS, BibleWorks, a lexicon (or several), and a variety of print resources. Each student will be
required to work with one or more of the additional print resources each week. By the end of the
course, each student should have worked with each of the additional print resources at least once
(if not more). Some of these resources may be grouped together for the sake of comparison. We
will discuss this learning strategy the first day of class.

We will also review and practice pronunciation at each class session, and students will prepare
and turn in brief (half verse) weekly transliteration exercises to help with vocalization.

We will begin the semester reading from Exodus. After we get through Exodus 3, we will skip to the 10 Commandments. We many conclude with select poems or Psalms in the Hebrew Bible.

Class 1: September 7 (meet in Nelson Hall 119)
Class 2: September 14
Class 3: September 21
Class 4: September 28
Class 5: October 5
Class 6: October 12
No Class: October 19 (Research and Study Week)
Class 7: October 26
Class 8: November 2
Class 9: November 9
Class 10: November 16
No Class: November 23 (Thanksgiving)
Class 11: November 30
Class 12: December 7 (Presentation on Translation Projects)

Final Project & Presentation

For the final project, you are asked to complete a translation in which you demonstrate your proficiency with tools for translating Biblical Hebrew. The written project has three parts. Students also must make a presentation on their written project to the class. Auditors are not expected to complete final projects/make presentations.

I.   Translation (50 percent of grade)

Select a text of 10-12 verses and prepare a translation using BibleWorks, your lexicon (or several), and the print resources used throughout the course.

The text should have "nice" starting and stopping points and should be one that we have not treated in class. Additionally, you need to pick a text that will contribute productively to your study of Hebrew (nothing too hard; nothing too easy). If you need assistance in picking a text, let me know.

II.   Translation Notes (30 percent of grade)

Use footnotes in your written, prepared translation to indicate where your translation reflects use of the print resources. To cite the reference grammars and other print resources, the abbreviated author name of the resource and the best way to locate the information in the resource you are citing is acceptable for this project (section number, if appropriate; page number, if appropriate).

III.   Transliteration (10 percent of grade)

After you select a text to translate, I will select a portion of the text for you to transliterate. You may hand write your transliteration.

IV.   Presentation (10 percent of grade)

Your presentation to the class should be 10-12 minutes long. For your presentation:

1. Describe why you chose your passage.
2. Read through your translation, allowing people to follow along in BHS.
3. Describe three (3) places where the resources you used were particularly useful to your translation.
4. Describe what you would like to learn next for preparing a translation from the BHS.

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. 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. More discussion about inclusive language can be accessed from the Academic Support Center and from the section of the LPTS web site with information for current students.

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.

Attendance Policy

According to the Seminary catalog, students are expected to attend class meetings regularly. In case of illness or emergency, students are asked to notify the instructor of their planned absence from class, either prior to the session or within 24 hours of the class session. Because this course meets so few times, a student taking the course for a grade cannot miss more than 3 meetings and pass the course.

Resources for the Study of Biblical Hebrew on Reserve

Hebrew Grammars

Arnold, Bill T., and John H. Choi. *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Gesenius, Wilhelm, E. Kautzsch, and A. E. Cowley, eds. *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar.* 2nd English ed. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1985.

Joüon, Paul. *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew*. Translated by T. Muraoka. Rev. ed. Subsidia Biblica 27. Rome: Gregorian and Biblical Press, 2009.

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

Van der Merwe, Christo H. J., Jackie A. Naudé, and Jan H. Kroeze. *A Biblical Hebrew Reference Grammar*. Biblical Language: Hebrew 3. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic, 2000. (http://www.bookreviews.org/pdf/3962_3829.pdf)

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

Williams, Ronald J. *Hebrew Syntax: An Outline*. 2nd ed. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1976.

----------. *Williams' Hebrew Syntax*. Revised and expanded by John C. Beckman. 3rd ed. Toronto: Toronto University Press, 2007.

Resource for Using Reference Grammars

Putnam, Frederick C. *A Cumulative Index to the Grammar and Syntax of Biblical Hebrew*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1996.

GKC	=	Gesenius
J-M	=	Joüon-Muraoka
IBHS	=	Waltke/O'Connor
Wms	=	Williams (2nd ed.)

Other Resources

Alexander, Patrick H., John F. Kutsko, James D. Ernest, Shirley A. Decker-Lucke, and David L.
    Petersen, eds. *The SBL Handbook of Style: For Ancient Near Eastern, Biblical, and Early
    Christian Studies.* Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1999.

Murphy, Todd J. *A Pocket Dictionary for the Study of Biblical Hebrew*. Downers Grove, IL:
    InterVarsity Press, 2003.

Williams, Michael. *The Biblical Hebrew Companion for Bible Software Users*. Grand Rapids,
    MI: Zondervan, 2015.