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Dallas Theological Seminary

OT101 Elements of Hebrew I (3 hrs)

Fall 2018
Tuesday 18:00–20:50

OT101 Elements of Hebrew I

Course Syllabus

Modified 22 Feb 2018

§1. Course Description

An introduction to the basic principles of Hebrew phonology and morphology.

§2. Course Objectives

§2.1. *Cognitive Objectives*

The distinctive goal of this course is to teach you the basic principles of Hebrew grammar, which you will continue to study in the second semester (OT102). An understanding of the elements of Hebrew is essential if you are to make proper use of Hebrew study tools and do competent exegesis and biblical theology. Such competence is essential if you intend to teach God's Word to others. In other words, knowledge of Hebrew grammar is foundational to biblical exegesis and theology, which in turn are foundational to credible exposition.

The student who dilligently completes the assignments of this course will:

- learn how to pronounce the consonants and vowels that form syllables and words,
- gain a working knowledge of how Hebrew words are formed, especially verbs, so that they can be parsed and translated,
- recognize and translate many Hebrew words that occur frequently in the Hebrew Bible (Lack of a working vocabulary makes translation and use of commentaries and reference works needlessly complicated and time consuming.),
- acquire knowledge of Hebrew grammar for the interpretation of simple sentences by deductive mastery of material in the textbook and by inductive analysis of sentences in the homework assignments.

§2.2. *Affective Objectives*

Beyond the cognitive goals outlined above, the student's attitude to the subject matter will grow so that the student will

- gain confidence in the ability to grasp the principles of Hebrew grammar, and

- grow in devotion to the Lord and in spiritual and emotional maturity through exposure to the Hebrew Scriptures in the company of other individuals engaged in the same efforts.

§3. Course Textbooks

Abbreviations used elsewhere in the syllabus (esp. the course schedule) appear in parentheses after bibliography entries.

§3.1. Required

Ross, Allen P. *Introducing Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001. (=Ross)

This is the main textbook for the course, and can be purchased in print form or in electronic form for the Accordance (<http://bit.ly/RossAccord>) and Logos (<http://bit.ly/RossLogos>) platforms.

§3.2. Suggested

A dagger (†) at the end of a bibliographic entry below indicates it will be a required text in OT102.

Armstrong, Terry A., Douglas L. Busby, and Cyril F. Carr. *A Reader's Hebrew-English Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1989.

Brown, A. Philip, and Bryan W. Smith. *A Reader's Hebrew Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008.

Brown, Francis, S. R. Driver, and Charles A. Briggs. *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Reprint, Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1996. (=BDB)

Elliger, Karl, and Walter Rudolph, eds. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1984 and later. (=BHS) †

Holladay, William L., ed. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1971.

Jouïon, Paul. *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew*. Revised ed, translated by Takamitsu Muraoka. Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 2006.

Excellent and authoritative technical reference grammar available in Logos (<https://goo.gl/VMtjwm>) and Accordance (<https://goo.gl/qPk8Pr>), the successor to a French work that appeared first in 1923 (2d ed. 1947 <https://goo.gl/iV4Bg8>) and revised by Muraoka in English translation, often called simply “Jouïon-Muraoka” by those in the know.

Koehler, Ludwig, Walter Baumgartner, and Johann Jakob Stamm. *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Translated by M. E. J. Richardson. 2 vol. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2002. (=HALOT) †

Long, Gary A. *Grammatical Concepts 101 for Biblical Hebrew: Learning Biblical Hebrew Grammatical Concepts through English Grammar*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2002.

The Logos platform bundles Long's book with Ross (<https://goo.gl/XP8XqY>).

Owens, John Joseph. *Analytical Key to the Old Testament*, 4 vols. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1989.

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

Available in electronic format for Logos (<https://goo.gl/Bp5TTs>), BibleWorks (<https://goo.gl/ymcWhc>), and Accordance (<https://goo.gl/TGMQCU>).

§3.3. *Supplementary: Other Introductory Hebrew Grammars*

Garrett, Duane A. *A Modern Grammar for Classical Hebrew*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2002.

Greenberg, Moshe. *Introduction to Hebrew*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1965.

Kelley, Page H. *Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992. Lambdin, Thomas O. *Introduction to Biblical Hebrew*. New York: Scribners, 1971.

LaSor, William S. *Handbook of Biblical Hebrew*. 2 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978–79.

Pratico, Gary D., and Miles V. Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007.

Pratico, Gary D., and Miles V. Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Workbook*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007.

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

Vasholz, Robert I. *Hebrew Exercises: A Programmed Approach*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1981.

Webster, Brian L. *The Cambridge Introduction to Biblical Hebrew*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009.

Weingreen, Jacob. *A Practical Grammar for Classical Hebrew*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1959.

§4. Course Requirements

All formal *written* assignments (for this course, quizzes) will be returned electronically through the Seminary's online education portal. You will receive additional information about login credentials via email.

§4.1. *Reading Assignments*

You are required to read the assigned sections of the Ross textbook for the course periods as listed below in the course schedule. Complete the exercises for the chapter as you work through the material. Written completion of the exercises for submission is not required, but you should take and use notes for reference in class.

§4.2. *Vocabulary and Forms of Regular Verbs*

Vocabulary will be included on the written quizzes and exams. It will always be cumulative and will be given in list form apart from a literary context. You are required to be able to reproduce the various paradigms of regular verbs and nouns.

§4.3. *Quizzes*

There will be a quiz for most class meetings of the course. Some will be in class quizzes, others will be take-home. In such cases, each student is responsible to complete the quiz under “classroom conditions”

(unless specified by the professor) according to the instructions and the time limit given on each quiz and to hand in the completed quiz.

The three lowest or missing quiz grades will be dropped from the grade computation. There will be no make-up quizzes except for extended illness or an emergency situation as approved by the professor after the student has already used the available “drops.”

§4.4. Exams

Exams will be completed in class according to the assignment schedule. Instructions on how to complete the final exam for the course will be available later in the semester. The final exam will be take-home, “classroom conditions.”

§5. Course Policies and Procedures

§5.1. Weight of Course Requirements for Grading

The grading scale given in the *DTS Student Handbook* (letter grades with numerical equivalents) will be used for this course. In computing the final grade, the professor will weigh the work of the course in the following proportions:

○ Quizzes	30%
○ Exam 1	20%
○ Exam 2	20%
○ Exam 3	30%

§5.2. Class Participation

The class period will be devoted to recitation and interaction on the assignment due that hour as well as the introduction of new material. Attend class even if you have not prepared the assignment for that day.

§5.3. Late Assignments

No late assignments will be accepted unless: (1) the assignment was completed before class time; (2) there is an extended period of illness; or, (3) an emergency situation judged to be valid by the professor.

§5.4. Attendance

Regular attendance is very important for the learning process in a language course. You are allowed to miss up to four class periods (75 minute periods) without a reduction in your course grade. Any exceptions must be approved by the professor. Keep a record of your attendance and report it on the exams.

§6. Course Supplemental Information

§6.1. Disability Notice

DTS does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the operation of any of its programs and activities. To avoid discrimination the student is responsible for informing the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities and the course instructor of any disabling condition that will require modifications.

§6.2. Receive Alerts by Text Message

DTS also wants you to be aware of our emergency texting service. We strongly urge to sign up to receive emergency texts at <https://www.dts.edu/account/alerts/> regarding emergency or weather-related closings.

§7. Course Lectures and Assignment Schedule

Putting time and effort into Hebrew language study is like putting money in the bank. As your capital increases, so does the interest.

The date listed is the day on which the assignments given below are due. You are responsible to read and follow the assignment schedule. Numbers in the right hand column refer to *chapter* numbers. Complete the exercises for each lesson in the textbook.

Date	Cls	Topics	Reading and Exercise Assignments
28 Aug	1	Alphabet and Six Vowels	Ross 1–2
	2	More Vowels; <i>matres lectionis</i>	Ross 2–3
4 Sep	3	Shewas, Dageshes, Definite Article	Ross 4–5
	4	The Article; Prepositions; Conjunctions; Nouns	Ross 6–7
11 Sep	5	Nouns	Ross 7–8
	6	Adjectives, etc.	Ross 9
18 Sep	7	Perfect tense (part 1)	Ross 10
	8	Perfect tense (part 2)	Ross 10
25 Sep	9	Exam 1	Ross 1–10
	10	Pronouns and demonstratives	Ross 11
2 Oct	11	Construct (part 1)	Ross 12

	12	Construct (part 2); Pronominal Suffixes (part 1)	Ross 13
9 Oct	13	Pronominal suffixes on nouns (part 1)	Ross 14–15
	14	Pronominal suffixes (part 2); Qal Active Participle (part 1)	Ross 16
16 Oct	15	Qal Active Participle (part 2); Qal imperfect	Ross 17
	16	Narrative sequence; stative verbs	Ross 18–19
23 Oct	17	Review for Exam 2	Ross 11–19
	18	Exam 2	Ross 11–19
30 Oct	19	Volitives Part 1	Ross 20
	20	Volitives Part 2; Disjunctive Word Order; Passive Participle	Ross 21
6 Nov	21	Infinitives	Ross 22–23
	22	Infinitives part 2; Pronominal Suffixes on Finite Verbs	Ross 22–24
27 Nov*	23	Numbers and Niphal (part 1)	Ross 25–26
	24	Niphal (part 2); Piel and Pual (part 1)	Ross 27–28
4 Dec	25	Piel and Pual (part 2); Hithpael (part 1)	Ross 29
	26	Hithpael (part 2)	Ross 29
11 Dec	27	Hiphil and Hophal (part 1)	Ross 30–31
	28	Hiphil and Hophal (part 2)	Ross 30–31
		Exam 3 (Final Exam Week)	Ross 20–31

*Class does not meet on 13, 20 Nov because of Reading Week and Thanksgiving Break.