



Nazarene Theological Seminary

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HEB510 – Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Fall 2010

Essential Information

Please refer to the following resources for information essential for the successful completion of courses and degree programs at Nazarene Theological Seminary. Links to these resources are available at http://support.nts.edu/index.php/Essential_Information. Additional technical support information can be found at <http://support.nts.edu>.

- NTS Mission Statement & Purpose and Master of Divinity Objectives
- Tips for online learning success
- NTS library services
- NTS bookstore procedures
- Online technical requirements and Moodle support information
- NTS Student Handbook including statements on quality of work, plagiarism, and academic probation
- *A Handbook for Inclusive Language*

Instructor Information

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Catalog Description

Beginning study of the grammar and vocabulary of Biblical Hebrew (NTS 2010-2011 *Academic Catalog*, 70).

Course Narrative & Rationale

The English-speaking world has been blessed with an enormity of tools and resources for the study of the Scriptures, and these resources are the fruit of the toil, diligence, and scholarship of generations of biblical scholars. This tradition has provided English speakers with numerous translations of the Bible as well as a plethora of research tools which allow even the least educated of us minimal access to the original languages—e.g., Bible dictionaries, Bible encyclopedias, commentaries, concordances, computer programs, etc..

What then is the purpose of learning to read, translate, and exegete biblical Hebrew? In the words of D. A. Carson:

We are dealing with God's thoughts: we are obligated to take the greatest pains to understand them truly and to explain them clearly. It is all the more shocking, therefore, to find in the evangelical pulpit, where the Scriptures are officially revered, frequent and inexcusable sloppiness in handling them. . . . But tragic is the situation when the preacher or teacher is perpetually unaware of the blatant nonsense he [or she]

utters, and of the consequent damage he [or she] inflicts on the church of God. (Carson 1996, 15-16)

Perhaps Dr. Carson's words are more aggressive than many of us would like. Nonetheless, by any definition, carefulness with the Scriptures presupposes a diligence with observing what is there, and this task always has been accomplished most successfully by those who have access to the original language texts of the Bible. Close attention, close reading, and appropriate analogous embodiment of our Christian narrative requires, at a minimum, a working knowledge of Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.

In an essay entitled, "Teaching the Bible Confessionally in the Church," Ellen Davis has said: But perhaps the best reason [for studying Hebrew and Greek] is the most obvious: reading in the original languages slows us down, and reading the text more slowly is essential for learning to love the Bible. . . . We love best those for whom we are obligated to give regular, often demanding, care: a child, an animal, a sick or elderly person, a plot of land or an old house. Inching patiently through the Greek or Hebrew text is best seen as "an act of charity"—ultimately, charity toward God. (Davis 2003, 15)

Our goal as a class is to engage together in the performance of such *חֶסֶד* (*hesed*) toward our LORD.

Course Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

- 1) Recite and write from memory the Hebrew alphabet and vowel chart, as well as the transliteration of the Hebrew consonants and vowels.
 - This outcome will be accomplished through course reading, class lectures, written homework assignments, and evaluated through weekly quizzes and two larger exams.
- 2) Read aloud any verse in the Old Testament.
 - This outcome relates to the rules of Hebrew pronunciation and syllabification which will be introduced in the course reading, discussed in class lectures, practiced in written homework assignments, and evaluated through weekly quizzes and two larger exams.
- 3) Recite and write from memory three verses from the Hebrew Torah.
 - This outcome will be solidified through three verse memorization quizzes.
- 4) Recognize and understand the functions of the Hebrew noun, adjective, pronouns, the Qal stem of the verb, and the diagnostic points for the Niphal, Piel, and Hiphil verbal stems.
 - This outcome will be accomplished through course reading, class lectures, written homework assignments, and evaluated through weekly quizzes and two larger exams.
- 5) Comprehend the meaning and usages of the various Hebrew verbal stems.
 - This outcome will be accomplished through course reading, class lectures, written homework assignments, and evaluated through weekly quizzes and two larger exams.
- 6) Translate about 300 of the most common words in biblical Hebrew.
 - Each weekly quiz will have a vocabulary component, and there will be two cumulative vocabulary quizzes.
- 7) Translate, with helps, most Hebrew prose texts and some poetic texts.
 - This outcome will be accomplished through course reading, class lectures, written homework assignments, and evaluated through weekly quizzes and two larger exams.

Required Texts & Course Materials

Pratico, Gary D. & Miles V. Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew: Grammar*. 2nd Edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007. (ISBN: 0310270200)

_____. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew: Workbook*. 2nd Edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007. (ISBN: 0310270227)

Van Pelt, Miles V. & Gary D. Pratico. *The Vocabulary Guide to Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003. (ISBN: 0310250722)

Recommended Texts & Course Materials

(The following texts are not required for HEB510, but students may find some or all of them to be helpful aids in the learning process.)

Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia, 5th Edition. New York, NY: American Bible Society, 1997. (ISBN: 3438052229) - This is the paperback edition and is less expensive than the hardcover. For those who are interested in the hardcover version, the ISBN is 3438052199.*

Brown, A. Philip II & Bryan W. Smith, eds. *A Reader's Hebrew Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008. (ISBN: 0310269741)

Brown, Francis, S. R. Driver, & Charles A. Briggs. *The Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2005. (ISBN: 1565632060)*

Davidson, Benjamin. *Analytical Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1981. (ISBN: 0913573035)

Hebrew-English Tanakh Student Edition. Philadelphia, PA: Jewish Publication Society of America, 2000. (ISBN: 978-0827606975)

Course Assignments & Requirements

Learning any foreign language requires discipline, diligence, and consistency. Consequently, this class has been designed with a structure of accountability.

A. Reading:

Students are expected to do *all* the assigned reading by the date indicated on the syllabus.

B. Class Participation:

Students are expected both to attend and to come prepared for—i.e., with the assigned homework completed—all class sessions. Unexcused absences and/or chronic tardiness will adversely affect a student's attendance and/or homework grade.

C. Workbook Exercises

In addition to the weekly reading assignments, students will be assigned several workbook exercises to be completed each week. Once a topic is covered in class, any workbook exercises associated with that topic will be due on the next class period. Thus, workbook exercises for material covered on Monday will be due on Tuesday. If students are unable to complete all of the workbook assignments by the due date, they should turn in what they have. They may complete the remainder of the exercises before the Monday following the due date of the exercises. If the exercises are turned in by said Monday, no point penalty will be assessed. A late penalty will be assessed after the Monday following the due date. Workbook exercises which are due on Monday will not receive this grace period. In other words, if an assignment is due on Monday but is turned in on Tuesday, there will be a point penalty. The day a workbook exercise appears in the course calendar below is its due date.

D. Weekly Quizzes

A weekly quiz will be given during the first 15 minutes of class on almost every Monday (exceptions are indicated in the course schedule). The quiz will cover all material discussed in class and/or in the reading assignments during the prior week, including all

* This text is a required text for HEB610: Intermediate Hebrew.

assigned vocabulary memorization. At the end of the semester, the professor will drop the lowest regular quiz grade.

E. Cumulative Vocabulary Quizzes

Students will complete two cumulative vocabulary quizzes. The first will be given on the Monday after Reading & Research Week, and the second on the last Monday of the semester. Cumulative vocabulary quizzes cannot be dropped or supplemented by extra credit work.

F. Verse Memorization Quizzes

Students will memorize three Old Testament verses in Hebrew over the course of the semester (Deut. 6:4; Exod. 3:14a; Genesis 45:7a). Each student's memorization will be tested with three quizzes which will be given on three separate Thursdays (see course schedule for specific dates). Verse memorization quizzes cannot be dropped or supplemented by extra credit work.

G. Mid-term Exam

On the Thursday before Reading and Research Week there will be an in-class mid-term exam, which will cover chapters 1-12 of the Pratico Hebrew Grammar. Details of the exact content of the exam will be provided a week prior to the mid-term.

H. Final Exam

There will be a final exam given during the scheduled final exam period, which will cover Pratico chapters 12-27 and 30-31, as well as the translation of Psalm 121. Further details will be provided during the week prior to the final.

Method for Submitting Assignments

All written assignments, including both workbook assignments and translation assignments, will be submitted at the beginning of class on day they appear in the *Course Calendar*.

At the beginning of each applicable class session (see *Course Calendar*), students will initial a sheet indicating when they completed each reading assignment.

Inclusive Language

NTS is committed to the equality of women and men. Recognizing that people have often used the English language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, NTS urges students, faculty, and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions, and in their writings. All written work presented to meet course requirements must use gender inclusive language.

Policy Regarding Late Work & Missed Exams

Any reading assignment not completed by the due date but completed before class time on the Monday after it was assigned will receive 85 out of the 100 possible points. Any reading assignment completed after the beginning of class on said Monday but by the last Thursday of the regular semester, will receive 65 out of the 100 possible points. Any reading assignment completed after the last Thursday of the regular semester, will receive a 0.

Quizzes and exams must be taken during the scheduled quiz and exam times as indicated on the syllabus. With sufficient cause, students may reschedule up to two quizzes per semester. *Sufficient Cause* includes situations such as illness, family emergencies, and other such unscheduled, unforeseen, and serious circumstances. The timing of the rescheduling will be at

the discretion of the professor and may require students to take makeup quizzes earlier than the scheduled class time.

Exams cannot, as a rule, be rescheduled. In the case that a student has more than two exams scheduled on the same day, an alternate exam time may be discussed with the professor.

Students who have diagnosed learning disabilities or for whom English is a second language may talk with the professor about scheduling an alternate quiz time which will allow for more time to take the quiz and/or opportunity for oral feedback regarding quiz expectations.

Course Grading

- 1% Daily Attendance
- 9% Daily Reading
- 10% Weekly Workbook Exercises
- 50% Quizzes
- 15% Mid-term Exam
- 15% Final Exam

In accordance with the provisions of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, NTS is committed to providing students with disabilities the opportunity to participate and benefit from its programs and activities. Accordingly NTS will make reasonable modifications to its programs and activities to accommodate otherwise qualified students with disabilities, unless such modifications would impose an undue burden on the operation of the particular program or activity or would fundamentally alter the nature or purpose of the program or activity. Students needing accommodations should contact the Office of the Registrar. They also should contact the instructor no later than the end of the first class session to discuss learning needs and adaptive strategies which have been beneficial for the student in the past.

Course Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic & Assignments</u>	<u>Quiz/Exam Contents</u>
Thurs., Sept. 9, 2010	<u>Introduction & the Hebrew Alphabet</u> Wrkbk: none Reading: none	
Mon., Sept. 13, 2010	<u>Hebrew Alphabet & Vowel Pointing</u> Reading: Pratico, chapters 1 & 2 Vocab: none	<i>no quiz</i>
Tues., Sept. 14, 2010	<u>Syllabification & Pronunciation</u> Reading: Pratico, chapter 3 Wrkbk: pp1-3; p7 #2-17; p8 (section 1) #1-7	
Thurs., Sept., 16, 2010	<u>Introduction to Hebrew Verbs</u> Reading: Pratico, chapter 12 Wrkbk: p11 #6-10; p13 #6-10	

Mon., Sept. 20, 2010	<u>Hebrew Nouns</u> Reading: Pratico, chapter 4 Vocab: none	Quiz #1: Pratico: 1-3, 12 Vocab: none
Tues., Sept. 21, 2010	<u>Definite Article & Conjunction Vav</u> Reading: Pratico, chapter 5 Wrkbk: p15 #2-15;	
Thurs., Sept 23, 2010	<u>Hebrew Prepositions</u> Reading: Pratico, chapter 6 Wrkbk: p21 #2-6; p22 #2-6; p23# 1-5;	
Mon., Sept. 27, 2010	<u>Hebrew Adjectives</u> Reading: Pratico, chapter 7 Wrkbk: p26 #16-20; p27 #1-5 Vocab: Van Pelt #1-30	Quiz #2: Pratico: 4-6 Van Pelt: #1-30
Tues., Sept. 28, 2010	<u>Hebrew Pronouns</u> Reading: Pratico, chapter 8 Wrkbk: p30 #6-10; p32 #1-5	
Thurs., Sept. 30, 2010	<u>Hebrew Pronominal Suffixes</u> Reading: Pratico, chapter 9 Wrkbk: p35 # 1-3; p36 #1-3; P37 (top) #3-5;	
Mon., Oct. 4, 2010	<u>Hebrew Construct Chain</u> Reading: Pratico, chapter 10 Wrkbk: p43 #6-10; p45 #6-10; p47 #1-5 Vocab: Van Pelt #31-60	Quiz #3: Pratico: 7-9 Van Pelt #31-60
Tues., Oct. 5, 2010	<u>Hebrew Numbers</u> Reading: Pratico, chapter 11 Wrkbk: p50 #21-25; p52 #11-15;	
Thurs., Oct. 7, 2010	<u>Review of Hebrew Verbs</u> Reading: Pratico, chapter 12 Wrkbk: p57 #1-5;	
Mon., Oct. 11, 2010	<u>Qal Perfect - Strong Verbs</u> Reading: Pratico, chapter 13 Wrkbk: p59 #2-6; p60 #2 Vocab: Van Pelt #61-90	Quiz #4: Pratico: 10-12 Van Pelt #61-90
Tues., Oct. 12, 2010	<u>Review for Midterm Exam</u> Reading: none	
Thurs., Oct. 14, 2010	<u>Midterm Exam</u>	Midterm Exam: Pratico: 1-12
Oct. 18-21, 2010	<u>Reading & Research Week</u> (no classes)	
Mon., Oct. 25, 2010	<u>Qal Perfect - Weak Verbs</u> Reading: Pratico, chapter 14 Vocab: Van Pelt #1-120	Quiz #5: (Cumulative Vocab) Van Pelt #1-120

Tues., Oct. 26, 2010	<u>Qal Imperfect - Strong Verbs</u> Reading: Pratico, chapter 15 Wrkbk: p67 #2-10; p69 #1-5; p74 #15-20; p81 #10-15; p84 #1-3;	
Thurs., Oct. 28, 2010	<u>Review Chapters 13-15</u> Reading: none Wrkbk: p89 #10-15; p92 #5-7	Quiz #6: Deuteronomy 6:4
Mon., Nov. 1, 2010	<u>Qal Imperfect - Weak Verbs</u> Reading: Pratico, chapter 16 Vocab: Van Pelt #121-150	Quiz #7: Pratico: 13-15 Van Pelt #121-150
Tues., Nov. 2, 2010	<u>Vav Consecutive</u> Reading: Pratico, chapter 17 Wrkbk: p95 #1-5; p101 #1-5; p107 #6-10; p111 #1-5; p115 #6-10; p119 #5-9;	
Thurs., Nov. 4, 2010	<u>Review Chapters 16-17</u> Reading: none Wrkbk: p125 #2-6; p130 #2-6; p131 #1-3	
Mon., Nov. 8, 2010	<u>Qal Imperative, Cohortative, & Jussive</u> Reading: Pratico, chapter 18 Vocab: Van Pelt #151-180	Quiz #8: Pratico: 16-17 Van Pelt #151-180
Tues., Nov. 9, 2010	<u>Pronominal Suffixes on Verbs</u> Reading: Pratico, chapter 19 Wrkbk: p135 #3-8; p141 #6-10; p149 #9-14; p154 #14-15	
Thurs., Nov. 11, 2010	<u>Qal Infinitive Construct</u> Reading: Pratico, chapter 20 Wrkbk: p157 #2-15; p158 #2-15	Quiz #9: Exodus 3:14a
Mon., Nov. 15, 2010	<u>Qal Infinitive Absolute</u> Reading: Pratico, chapter 21 Wrkbk: p163 #5-10; p164 #20-25; p165 #5-10; p171 #22 Vocab: Van Pelt #181-210	Quiz #10: Pratico: 18-20 Van Pelt #181-210
Tues., Nov. 16, 2010	<u>Qal Participle</u> Reading: Pratico, chapter 22 Wrkbk: p173 #7-11; p174 #19-23; p177 #12-14	
Thurs., Nov. 17, 2010	<u>Issues of Sentence Syntax</u> Reading: Pratico, chapter 23 Wrkbk: p179 #2-6; p180 #20-25; p182 #8-10	
Mon., Nov. 22, 2010	<u>Review of Hebrew Stems</u> Reading: review Pratico, 12.5, 12.10 Wrkbk: p187 #1-4 Vocab: Van Pelt #211-240	Quiz #11: Pratico: 21-23; Van Pelt #211-240
Tues., Nov. 23, 2010	<u>The Niphal Stem</u> Reading: Pratico, chapters 24-25	

Thurs., Nov. 25, 2010	<u>Thanksgiving Holiday</u> (no classes)	
Mon., Nov. 29, 2010	<u>The Piel Stem</u> Reading: Pratico, chapters 26-27 Wrkbk: p191 (whole page); p197 #1-5; p206 #10-15; p209 #6-8 Vocab: Van Pelt #241-270	Quiz #12: Pratico: 12, 24-25 Van Pelt #241-270
Tues., Nov. 30, 2010	<u>The Hiphil Stem</u> Reading: Pratico, chapters 30-31 Wrkbk: p211 (all); p217 diagnostics & parsing #1-5; p221 diagnostics & parsing #5-9; p223 #1-3;	
Thurs., Dec. 2, 2010	<u>Review Niphal, Piel, & Hiphil</u> Reading: none Wrkbk: p239 (all); p247 (all); p249 #21-30	
Mon., Dec. 6, 2010	<u>Translation of Psalm 121</u> Reading: none Translation: Psalm 121:1-4 Vocab: Van Pelt #121-300	Quiz #13: (Cumulative Vocab & Parsing) Van Pelt #121-300
Tues., Dec. 7, 2010	<u>Translation of Psalm 121</u> Reading: none Translation: Psalm 121:5-8	
Thurs., Dec. 9, 2010	<u>Finish Translation & Review for Final</u>	Quiz #14: Genesis 45:7a
December 13-16, 2010	<u>Final Exam Week</u>	