

## NAZARENE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

HEB510: Introduction to Biblical Hebrew  
Fall 2009  
M-T-R – 8:00-8:55 a.m.

Instructor: Joshua Johnson  
Phone: 816/443-2927  
Email: [yeshua.johnson@gmail.com](mailto:yeshua.johnson@gmail.com)

## I. Course Description

A study of the basic elements of biblical Hebrew and the completion of various exercises, with the reading of selected passages. A terminal course or the basis for continuation in the study of Hebrew.<sup>1</sup>

## II. Course 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.<sup>2</sup>

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

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<sup>1</sup> *Catalog: Nazarene Theological Seminary*, 74 [online], Available at [http://www.nts.edu/pdfs/nts\\_catalog\\_2005\\_07.pdf](http://www.nts.edu/pdfs/nts_catalog_2005_07.pdf); Internet; accessed 12 May 2007.

<sup>2</sup> D. A. Carson, *Exegetical Fallacies 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1996), 15-16.

or an old house. Inching patiently through the Greek or Hebrew text is best seen as “an act of charity”—ultimately, charity toward God.<sup>3</sup>

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

### III. Course Objectives

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.
- 2) Read aloud any verse in the Hebrew Bible.
- 3) Recite and write from memory three verses from the Hebrew Torah.
- 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.
- 5) Comprehend the meaning and usages of the various Hebrew verbal stems.
- 6) Translate about 320 of the most common words in biblical Hebrew.
- 7) Translate, with helps, most Hebrew prose texts and some poetic texts.

### IV. Texts

#### Required

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew: Workbook*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007. (ISBN: 0310270227)

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Vocabulary Guide to Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003. (ISBN: 0310250722)

#### Recommended

*(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*, 5<sup>th</sup> 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)\*

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<sup>3</sup> Ellen F. Davis, “Teaching the Bible Confessionally in the Church,” ed. Ellen F. Davis & Richard B. Hays, *The Art of Reading Scripture* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2003), 15.

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

Pratico, Gary D. & Miles Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Vocabulary Audio*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006. (ISBN: 031027074X)

Van Pelt, Miles V. *Old Testament Hebrew Vocabulary Cards*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2004. (ISBN: 031025986X)

## **V. Course 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. Students will sign a sheet indicating whether or not they have completed each individual reading by the assigned due date. Any reading 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 Thursday before exam week will receive 65 out of the 100 possible points. Any reading assignment completed after the Thursday before exam week will receive a 0.

### **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. Weekly Workbook Exercises**

In addition to the weekly reading assignments, students will be assigned several workbook exercises to be completed each week. Workbook exercises will be collected at the beginning of class on Monday. Apart from instances of excused absence, workbook exercises will not be accepted early or late.

### **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 assigned vocabulary memorization.

### **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.

## F. Verse Memorization Quizzes

Students will memorize three First 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).

## 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.

## VI. Evaluation (grading)

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

## VII. Course Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic &amp; Assignments</u>	<u>Quiz/Exam Contents</u>
Thursday, September 10, 2009	<b><u>Introduction &amp; the Hebrew Alphabet</u></b> Wrkbk: none Reading: none	
Monday, September 14, 2009	<b><u>Hebrew Alphabet &amp; Vowel Pointing</u></b> Reading: Pratico, chapters 1 & 2 Vocab: none	<i>no quiz</i>
Tuesday, September 15, 2009	<b><u>Syllabification &amp; Pronunciation</u></b> Reading: Pratico, chapter 3	
Thursday, September 17, 2009	<b><u>Introduction to Hebrew Verbs</u></b> Reading: Pratico, chapter 12	

Monday, September 21, 2009	<b><u>Hebrew Nouns</u></b> Reading: Pratico, chapter 4 Wrkbk: pp1-3; p7 #2-17; p8 (section 1) #1-7; p11 #6-10; p13 #6-10 Vocab: none	<b>Quiz #1:</b> Pratico: 1-3, 12 Van Pelt: none
Tuesday, September 22, 2009	<b><u>Definite Article &amp; Conjunction Vav</u></b> Reading: Pratico, chapter 5	
Thursday, September 24, 2009	<b><u>Hebrew Prepositions</u></b> Reading: Pratico, chapter 6	
Monday, September 28, 2009	<b><u>Hebrew Adjectives</u></b> Reading: Pratico, chapter 7 Wrkbk: p15 #2-15; p21 #2-6; p22 #2-6; p23 #1-5; p26 #16-20; p27 #1-5 Vocab: Van Pelt #1-40	<b>Quiz #2:</b> Pratico: 4-6 Van Pelt: #1-40
Tuesday, September 29, 2009	<b><u>Hebrew Pronouns</u></b> Reading: Pratico, chapter 8	
Thursday, October 1, 2009	<b><u>Hebrew Pronominal Suffixes</u></b> Reading: Pratico, chapter 9	
Monday, October 5, 2009	<b><u>Hebrew Construct Chain</u></b> Reading: Pratico, chapter 10 Wrkbk: p30 #6-10; p32 #1-5; p35 #1-3; p36 #1-3; p37 (top) #3-5; p43 #6-10; p45 #6-10; p47 #1-5 Vocab: Van Pelt #41-80	<b>Quiz #3:</b> Pratico: 7-9 Van Pelt #41-80
Tuesday, October 6, 2009	<b><u>Hebrew Numbers</u></b> Reading: Pratico, chapter 11	
Thursday, October 8, 2009	<b><u>Review of Hebrew Verbs</u></b> Reading: Pratico, chapter 12	
Monday, October 12, 2009	<b><u>Qal Perfect – Strong Verbs</u></b> Reading: Pratico, chapter 13 Wrkbk: p50 #21-25; p52 #11-15; p57 #1-5; p59 #2-6; p60 #2 Vocab: Van Pelt #81-120	<b>Quiz #4:</b> Pratico: 10-12 Van Pelt #81-120
Tuesday, October 13, 2009	<b><u>Review for Midterm Exam</u></b> Reading: none	
Thursday, October 15, 2009	<b><u>Midterm Exam</u></b>	<b>Midterm Exam:</b> Pratico: 1-12

October 19-23, 2009	<b><u>Reading &amp; Research Week</u></b> (no classes)	
Monday, October 26, 2009	<b><u>Qal Perfect – Weak Verbs</u></b> Reading: Pratico, chapter 14 Vocab: Van Pelt #1-120	<b>Quiz #5:</b> (Cumulative Vocab) Van Pelt #1-120
Tuesday, October 27, 2009	<b><u>Qal Imperfect – Strong Verbs</u></b> Reading: Pratico, chapter 15	
Thursday, October 29, 2009	<b><u>Review Chapters 13-15</u></b> Reading: none	<b>Quiz #6:</b> Deuteronomy 6:4
Monday, November 2, 2009	<b><u>Qal Imperfect – Weak Verbs</u></b> Reading: Pratico, chapter 16 Wrkbk: p67 #2-10; p69 #1-5; p74 #15-20; p81 #10-15; p84 #1-3; p89 #10-15; p92 #5-7 Vocab: Van Pelt #121-160	<b>Quiz #7:</b> Pratico: 13-15 Van Pelt #121-160
Tuesday, November 3, 2009	<b><u>Vav Conversive</u></b> Reading: Pratico, chapter 17	
Thursday, November 5, 2009	<b><u>Review Chapters 16-17</u></b> Reading: none	
Monday, November 9, 2009	<b><u>Qal Imperative, Cohortative, &amp; Jussive</u></b> Reading: Pratico, chapter 18 Wrkbk: p95 #1-5; p101 #1-5; p107 #6-10; p111 #1-5; p115 #6-10; p119 #5-9; p125 #2-6; p130 #2-6; p131 #1-3 Vocab: Van Pelt #161-200	<b>Quiz #8:</b> Pratico: 16-17 Van Pelt #161-200
Tuesday, November 10, 2009	<b><u>Pronominal Suffixes on Verbs</u></b> Reading: Pratico, chapter 19	
Thursday, November 12, 2009	<b><u>Qal Infinitive Construct</u></b> Reading: Pratico, chapter 20	<b>Quiz #9:</b> Exodus 3:14a
Monday, November 16, 2009	<b><u>Qal Infinitive Absolute</u></b> Reading: Pratico, chapter 21 Wrkbk: p135 #3-8; p141 #6-10; p149 #9-14; p154 #14-15; p157 #2-15; p158 #2-15; p163 #5-10; p164 #20-25; p165 #5-10; p171 #22 Vocab: Van Pelt #201-240	<b>Quiz #10:</b> Pratico: 18-20 Van Pelt #201-240

Tuesday, November 17, 2009	<b><u>Qal Participle</u></b> Reading: Pratico, chapter 22	
Thursday, November 19, 2009	<b><u>Issues of Sentence Syntax</u></b> Reading: Pratico, chapter 23	
Monday, November 23, 2009	<b><u>Review of Hebrew Stems</u></b> Reading: review Pratico, 12.5, 12.10 Wrkbk: p173 #7-11; p174 #19-23; p177 #12-14; p179 #2-6; p180 #20-25; p182 #8-10; p187 #1-4 Vocab: Van Pelt #241-280	<b>Quiz #11:</b> Pratico: 21-23; Van Pelt #241-280
Tuesday, November 24, 2009	<b><u>The Niphal Stem</u></b> Reading: Pratico, chapters 24-25	
Thursday, November 26, 2009	<b><u>Thanksgiving Holiday</u></b> (no classes)	
Monday, November 30, 2009	<b><u>The Piel Stem</u></b> Reading: Pratico, chapters 26-27 Wrkbk: p191 (whole page); p197 #1-5; p206 #10-15; p209 #6-8 Vocab: Van Pelt #281-320	<b>Quiz #12:</b> Pratico: 12, 24-25 Van Pelt #281-320
Tuesday, December 1, 2009	<b><u>The Hiphil Stem</u></b> Reading: Pratico, chapters 30-31	
Thursday, December 3, 2009	<b><u>Review Niphal, Piel, &amp; Hiphil</u></b> Reading: none Wrkbk: p211 (all); p217 diagnostics & parsing #1-5; p221 diagnostics & parsing #5-9; p223 #1-3; p239 (all); p247 (all); p249 #21-30	
Monday, December 7, 2009	<b><u>Translation of Psalm 121</u></b> Reading: none Translation: Psalm 121:1-4 Vocab: Van Pelt #161-320	<b>Quiz #13:</b> (Cumulative Vocab & Parsing) Van Pelt #121-320
Tuesday, December 8, 2009	<b><u>Translation of Psalm 121</u></b> Reading: none Translation: Psalm 121:5-8	
Thursday, December 10, 2009	<b><u>Finish Translation &amp; Review for Final</u></b>	<b>Quiz #14:</b> Genesis 45:7a
December 14 – 17, 2009	<b><u>Final Exam Week</u></b>	