

HEBR 2312-02: HEBREW GRAMMAR

HEBR 5301-16: HEBREW I

Fall 2015

Department of Classics and Biblical Languages

COURSE DESCRIPTION

HEBR 2312: *An introduction to the vocabulary, grammar, and syntax of Biblical Hebrew, designed to give students the skills necessary for translation and interpretation of the Hebrew Bible.*

Hebrew Grammar (HEBR 2312) may be taken anytime during a student's tenure at HBU. It is the first part of the basic program of study in Hebrew Grammar. HEBR 2312 fulfills three hours of the Liberal Arts Core Curriculum Foreign Language requirement. Students who complete HEBR 2312 in the fall may enroll in HEBR 2322 during the following spring.

HEBR 5301: *Hebrew I is a study of Hebrew grammar and syntax for reading the Hebrew Bible and other Second Temple literature.*

Hebrew I (HEBR 5301) may be taken by students enrolled in the MATS to fulfill elective credit, or by students entering the MABL program who are required to complete Hebrew leveling work. It is the first part of the basic program of study in Hebrew Grammar. Students who complete HEBR 5301 in the fall may enroll in HEBR 5302 during the following spring. It is recommended for students who complete both HEBR 5301 and HEBR 5302 to enroll in Hebrew reading courses to continue learning. The only prerequisite is a sincere desire to learn Biblical Hebrew!

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Name: Phillip Marshall

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Office Phone: 281-649-3135

Office Location: Atwood 1, #234

Office Hours: WF 10:00am-11:00am; otherwise, we can meet by appointment

Web Page Addresses:

HBU <http://www.hbu.edu/Choosing-HBU/Academics/Colleges-Schools/School-of-Christian-Thought/Departments/Department-of-Classics-and-Biblical-Languages/Faculty/Phillip-Marshall.aspx>

Personal <http://BiblicalLanguages.net/>

LEARNING RESOURCES

Course Text(s):

Ross, Allen P. *Introducing Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001. ISBN 0-8010-2147-2

Elliger, Karl, and Willhelm Rudolph, eds. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. 5th ed. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1997. [BHS] ISBN 3-438-05222-9

Holladay, William L. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1971. ISBN 0-8028-3413-2

Other Supplementary Materials: [Asterisks indicate that the texts are required for HEBR 5301 in addition to those listed above.]

*Long, Gary A. *Grammatical Concepts 101 for Biblical Hebrew*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2002. ISBN 1-56563-713-5

Van Pelt, Miles V. and Gary D. Pratico. *The Vocabulary Guide to Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003. ISBN 0-310-25072-2 (can be used for vocabulary acquisition, but is not required)

Internet access to: <http://www.animatedhebrew.com>

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Overview/ Purpose of the course

The instructor will guide students toward achieving a basic grasp of the Biblical Hebrew language. Students will be encouraged to continue their study of Hebrew through course work at HBU and on their own in the future.

Upon completion of this course, students should be able (through class work, quizzes, and written examinations) to:

1. Demonstrate ability to write the Hebrew alphabet, vocalize Hebrew vowels and identify vowel classes, and to understand Hebrew syllable structure.
2. Demonstrate ability to identify and inflect basic Hebrew grammatical forms, including nouns, prepositions, adjectives, pronouns, and construct chains.
3. Demonstrate ability to identify and parse verbs in the Qal stem across the Perfect, Imperfect, and Volitional conjugations.
4. Demonstrate ability to sight-read brief Hebrew verbless clauses and clauses with verbs in the Qal Perfect, Imperfect, and Volitional conjugations.
5. Demonstrate ability to utilize lexical and grammatical tools to translate a more extensive verse of Hebrew narrative.
6. Demonstrate ability to recognize and translate Hebrew vocabulary terms that appear frequently in the Old Testament.

RELATION TO DEPARTMENTAL GOALS AND PURPOSES

The mission of the Department of Theology is to provide students with a foundation in the classical theological disciplines, facilitate intellectual and spiritual growth, and equip individuals in skills essential to Christian ministry.

Consistent with this mission, this course is a basic introduction to the Classical Hebrew language, which will serve as the foundation for reading original texts in the Judeo-Christian tradition from linguistic, rhetorical, literary, and theological perspectives. The course gives the students opportunity to grow in the Christian faith and to develop in service to community and church.

RELATION TO THE SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN THOUGHT GOALS

The mission of the School of Christian Thought is to serve and equip the Church; to provide students with foundational knowledge in philosophy, theology, and apologetics

through reading and engagement with the ideas and languages of classic and biblical texts; to challenge students to display sound reasoning, to communicate clearly, and to demonstrate effective research skills; and to foster both intellectual and spiritual growth as students and faculty alike seek to glorify God in all things.

This is accomplished by teaching students how to read ancient Hebrew texts using the best grammatical and linguistic tools.

RELATION TO THE PURPOSE STATEMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY

The mission of Houston Baptist University is to provide a learning experience that instills in students a passion for academic, spiritual, and professional excellence as a result of our central confession, “Jesus Christ is Lord.”

This course seeks to provide an educational atmosphere which fosters academic excellence, freedom of thought, moral and spiritual development of students, and the enrichment of life through the Christian faith and message.

ATTENDANCE

Please see the official Attendance Policy in the HBU Classroom Policy on Blackboard. Students missing more than 25% of the class will be given a failing grade.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Students needing learning accommodations should inform the professor immediately and consult the Academic Accommodations section of the HBU Classroom Policy posted on Blackboard.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADE SCALE

Teaching Strategies

Language acquisition requires the accumulation of various vocabulary and grammar skills. To assist the student in these tasks, the professor will present aspects of Biblical Hebrew grammar during class and students will practice these skills in class. The professor will also assign practice exercises on a regular basis to be done outside of class, to be corrected using an answer key before the next class meeting, and to be reviewed in class. In addition, with each textbook chapter the professor will assign vocabulary words to memorize to be utilized in translation and grammar exercises. Weekly grammar/vocabulary quizzes based on each textbook chapter will facilitate the acquisition of new words and the application of grammatical concepts.

In order to download all the necessary course handouts (assignments/course outline, syllabus, grammar handouts, Ross answer keys, drill sheets with answer keys) and audio files, students should go to my website:
<http://BiblicalLanguages.net>. There is a link to this website on the homepage of this course in Blackboard.

General Course Requirements

1. The student is expected to attend all class meetings, participate in class discussions, take notes on lecture, and meet the requirements of the course as indicated by the professor or instructor, this syllabus, and the assignments given.

You are permitted to be absent 1 time without penalty. After that, each absence will result in reducing the final grade by one-half of a letter grade.

2. Students will take two major exams this term in which they will demonstrate their knowledge of grammar and their ability to translate Hebrew phrases and sentences. The dates for these examinations are given on the Course Outline.

3. In addition to these major exams, students will demonstrate their knowledge of Biblical Hebrew vocabulary, grammar, and syntax during regular quizzes. To determine the final grade, the instructor will drop the two lowest quiz grades. These opportunities are designed to keep students involved in a regular program of study. (You cannot acquire a second language by “cramming” at the last minute; regular, systematic study is required!) Quizzes on a chapter of Ross will occur at the beginning of the next class meeting after we have covered the homework for that chapter in class.

4. Students will demonstrate their ability to translate Biblical Hebrew sentences and to parse assigned words through the homework exercises. See below for how to conduct your homework.

5. Students are encouraged to spend at least two to three hours per week practicing their Hebrew skills on a computer utilizing the website <http://www.animatedhebrew.com>, where they may listen to summaries of Ross, hear vocabulary words for each lesson, and quiz themselves on vocabulary.

MA students are also required to read all portions of the Long textbook that cover the same kind of material that we cover in the Ross textbook.

6. The final grade will be determined according to the following percentages:

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|---------------------|-----|
| a. Midterm Exam 1 | 30% |
| b. Final Exam | 30% |
| c. Quiz Average | 30% |
| d. Homework Average | 10% |

Grading Standards

HEBR 2312: The grade scale for the School of Christian Thought’s undergraduate courses is: A (90-100), B (80-89), C (70-79), D (60-69), F (59 and below).

HEBR 5301: The grade scale for the School of Christian Thought’s graduate courses is: A (93-100), A- (90-92), B+ (87-89), B (83-86), B- (80-82), C+ (77-79), C (73-76), C- (70-72), F (69 and below)

Requirements for Each Three-Hour Class Session:

In the detailed class schedule that I provide on my academic website, <http://BiblicalLanguages.net>, for a particular class meeting you will be given assignments which must be completed by the day of that class meeting. Your assignments due for that class session will include the following:

Listen to the Assigned Lectures at www.animatedhebrew.com: A presentation of the grammar lesson for each Lesson of Ross [IBH] is provided at

www.animatedhebrew.com. Go to this page and click on “Lectures,”¹ then click the Lesson number you need to listen to. Follow along in your textbook; press “pause” and read the section to yourself if you need to. There will usually be 2 chapter lectures to listen to prior to each 3-hour class meeting. Do not neglect this, since you will not be able to complete the homework assignments which are due by the same class meeting.

Read the Assigned Chapters: The reading assigned for each class meeting is to be done before the student comes to class. The reading required for each class meeting will be prefaced by an abbreviation of the book (these are given after the book is listed above) in which the reading is found. For ex., “IBH Ch.1” means the first chapter of the Ross textbook.

Complete Written Assignments for the Assigned Chapters: Students should do the written assignments for each session *before* class meets that week. This most always includes exercises from the end of the Lesson in Ross’s textbook [IBH]. Occasionally there will be drill sheets that I have designed for you to reinforce the grammar of that chapter. Please keep all your homework in a loose-leaf binder; students will turn in their homework for a particular chapter on the day that they have taken a quiz for that chapter. NOTE: Students will receive an answer key to correct their homework. Prior to the class meeting for which the assignment is due, they should have checked and corrected their work, attempting to understand why they missed any answers. They are to come to the class prepared to ask questions on any exercise question that they got wrong and could not understand why they were incorrect. *If it is **not** clear that the student has corrected his/her homework, student will receive 0% for the assignment.*

Quizzes on Ross Chapters: After we have gone over the lesson homework, you will be given a short quiz (10-15 min) for that lesson at the beginning of the *next* class session. There will usually be two (sometimes one) quizzes each session.

Note on Memorization: Students should memorize the material assigned for each week *before* class meets that week. Any such memory work will be noted in the assignment for each class session.

Note on Vocabulary Memorization: At the end of each chapter in Ross, you are given a Vocabulary list. Students will need to memorize these items in preparation for the quizzes, which will include grammar and vocabulary from each lesson. For nouns, students should learn the grammatical gender (masculine or feminine) as well as the noun’s plural form, if it is provided. For verbs, students must learn the meanings of the verb in its various stems [we will discuss the different stems later in the course]. To drill yourself on the vocabulary, go to www.animatedhebrew.com and click on “Vocabulary Flashcards.”²

Note on Daily Work: It will be IMPOSSIBLE for you to pass this course if you adopt the pseudo-study method referred to as *cramming*. Therefore, you will be required to

¹ Note: These lectures are available via You-tube or via Adobe Flash Player. If you don’t have Adobe Flash Player but desire to use it instead of You-tube, go to <http://www.adobe.com> and click on “Get Adobe Flash Player.”

² Note: You will need Adobe Shockwave Player to watch use the Vocab flashcard/drill program. If you don’t have it, go to <http://get.adobe.com/shockwave> and click on “Agree and Install Now.” Make sure you choose the right operating system if you’re not using Windows on a PC.

study at least 5-6 days each week of the session. If you don't, you won't pass, and you won't learn.

As you can see, on your own you will listen to an initial lecture on new chapter material and will complete homework on it BEFORE we discuss the material in class. When you arrive at class, I will review the new materials in a presentation (so that you will now have heard it a second time, with much more understanding since you've now completed the written homework). Sometimes I will refine or even modify something Ross said. Then we will spend time drilling what you've learned and going over answers to the homework exercises you completed prior to the class session.

LATE WORK & TEST POLICY

Late work will only be allowed with the permission of the instructor.

Make-up exams will be given in the event of illness, death in the immediate family, official participation in events representing the university or with prior permission from the professor. The make-up exam period will be announced and the make-up exams will be given in Atwood 2. The student must present an I.D. card to take the test. **Make-up tests for quizzes will not be given, since the two lowest quizzes will be dropped anyway.**

TOPICAL OUTLINE

Class Meeting Date		Topic: Class Assignment	Notes
Th	8/27	Orientation; Chapters 1 & 2	
Th	9/3	Chapters 3 & 4	
Th	9/10	Chapters 5 & 6	Sept 9: Last day to drop without a 'W'
Th	9/17	Chapters 7 & 8	
Th	9/24	Chapters 9 & 10	
Th	10/1	Chapters 11 & 12	
Th	10/8	Chapters 12 & 13	
Th	10/15	Chapters 14 & 15	Midterm Exam Bring Holladay lexicon
Th	10/22	Chapters 15 & 16	
Th	10/29	Chapters 17 & 18	Oct 30: Last day to drop with a 'W'
Th	11/5	Chapters 19 & 20	
Th	11/12	Chapter 21; Catch-up/Review	
Th	11/19	Chapters 22 & 23	
Th	11/26	NO CLASS	Thanksgiving Break Nov 26-29
Th	12/3	Chapters 24 & 25	Due: Oral recitation of Gen 1:1 from memory. Last day of class
TBA	TBA	Time TBA	FINAL EXAM

The content of this outline and the attached schedule are subject to change at the discretion of the professor.

Student Signature – I have read and understand the syllabus for this class. I understand that the content of this syllabus and the topical outline are subject to change at the discretion of the professor. I have read and understand the HBU Classroom Policy posted on Black Board.

I promise to uphold the Code of Academic Integrity at Houston Baptist University and will not tolerate its violation by others.