HEBREW I – STMM 515

Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry
Winter Quarter 2012 • Hunthausen 110 • Monday 9-11:50 am

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course will introduce you to the history, grammar and vocabulary of the Hebrew language as it is preserved in the Hebrew Bible. It will also provide an opportunity to delve into various aspects of Judaism in antiquity as well as in more contemporary times. In particular, we will focus on the use of Hebrew in Jewish liturgy and schedule a visit to a local synagogue to see the language in its liturgical setting.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Ability to read scriptural texts critically (MDiv, MAPS, MATS).
- Ability to use biblical tools and resources as a way to inform their own exegesis for the purpose of doing their ministry (MDiv).
- Ability to be a responsive, discerning listener who can enter another's worldview [whether ancient or modern] (MDiv, MAPS, MATS).

III. TEXTBOOKS

A. Required*

1. J. Cook and R. Holmstedt, *Biblical Hebrew: An Illustrated Introduction. Lessons, Appendices, and Glossaries* (Part One) and *Readings* (Part Two). Available as a course pack at SuperCopy.

*One copy is on reserve at Lemieux Library.

B. Further Bibliography (for future reference)

- **Introductory Grammars**

Thomas O. Lambdin, *Introduction to Biblical Hebrew*
Gary Pratico, *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar*
Choon Leong Seow, *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew*

- **Dictionaries and Lexica**

Francis Brown, S.R. Driver and Charles A. Briggs, *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament* (= BDB)
L. Koehler and W. Baumgartner, *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*, 2 vols. (= HALOT; originally appeared as 5 vols. in German)
David J.A. Clines, *The Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*, 8 vols.

- **Reference Grammars**

Wilhelm Gesenius, *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar*; ed. and enl. by E. Kautzsch; trans. by A.E. Cowley (= GKC)
Paul Joüon and T. Muraoka, *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew* (formerly 2 vols.; now 1 vol.)

Bruce Waltke and Michael O'Connor, *Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax* (IBHS)

IV. SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

Jan. 7	Lessons 1-4: The consonants; the vowels; שְׁוָא (Sheva); דָּגֵשׁ (Dagesh).
Jan. 14	Lessons 5-7: Subject pronouns – Singular; Copular Clauses; Nouns – Singular. Take-home exam #1 distributed.
Jan. 21	**NO CLASS (MLK BIRTHDAY)**
Jan. 28	Lessons 8-10: The Article הַ and the Interrogative הַ; ל of Possession – Singular; Nouns – Plural and Dual. Take-home exam #1 due.
Feb. 4	Lessons 11-13: Subject Pronouns – Plural; יֵשׁ and אַיִן; Conjunction ו and Prepositions.
Feb. 11	Lessons 14-16: שְׁאֵלוֹת (Questions); The Verb – A Preview; קַל Perfect Conjugation – Singular. Take-home exam #2 distributed
Feb. 18	**NO CLASS (PRESIDENT'S DAY)**
Feb. 25	Lessons 17-19: ל of Possession – Plural; Introduction to Syntax and Word Order; קַל Perfect Conjugation – Plural. Take-home exam #2 due.
Mar. 4	Lessons 20-21: סְמִיכוּת (Bound Forms); The Irreal Use of the Perfect Conjugation.
Mar. 11	Lessons 22-23: Enclitic Pronouns – Singular; קַל Imperfect Conjugation – Singular. Take-home exam #3 distributed. (Exam due Wednesday, March 20, at 9:50 am.)
Mar. 18	Lessons 24-25: The Infinitive; the Adverbial Infinitive.

V. REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT

1. **Quizzes**. Each class will begin with a short (10 minutes) quiz on the previous week's vocabulary and grammar.
2. **Homework**. Weekly assignments will be graded on a check-plus (95), check (85), check-minus (75) basis.
3. **Take-home exams**. There will be three take-home exams (see above for dates).
4. **Recitation of Hebrew prayer**. You will recite from memory a short Hebrew prayer.

Your final grade will be calculated thus:

Quiz Average	30%
Take-home #1	10%
Take-home #2	20%
Take-home #3	20%
Prayer recitation	10%
Homework	10%
Final Grade	100%

Letter grades will be determined thus:

A	93 – 100
A-	90 – 92.99
B+	87 – 89.99
B	83 – 86.99
B-	80 – 82.99
C+	77 – 79.99
C	73 – 76.99
C-	70 – 72.99
D+	67 – 69.99
D	63 – 66.99
D-	60 – 62.99
F	< 60

VI. SPECIAL NEEDS

If you have or think you may have a disability (including an "invisible disability" such as a learning disability, a chronic health problem, or a mental health condition) that interferes with your performance as a student in this class, you are encouraged to discuss your needs and arrange support services and/or accommodations through Disabilities Services staff in the Learning Center, Loyola 100, 206-296-5740.

VII. ACADEMIC HONESTY

The School of Theology and Ministry strictly adheres to the Academic Policy concerning Academic Honesty as published in the Seattle University Student Handbook (see the Seattle University website).

VIII. CITATION FORMAT

Students in the Pastoral Counseling degree submit papers with citations in APA (American Psychological Association) format delineated by the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. All other students submit papers with citations in CMS (Chicago Manual of Style) format delineated by *The Chicago Manual of Style: The Essential Guide for Writers, Editors, and Publishers.* The basic rules for these style formats may be found at the following websites:

- **APA:** http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/ (Diana Hacker website/social sciences)
- **CMS** http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/ (Diana Hacker website/history)
  or http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html (CMS website)

At times students need assistance with the writing process itself. In addition to face-to-face assistance offered by Seattle University's Writing Center (McGoldrick Learning Commons 2nd Floor), two websites offer online assistance with writing.

- **Seattle University Writing Center:** http://www.seattleu.edu/writingcenter/ (Resources)
- **Purdue Writing Center:** http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/