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OT 501 Survey of Biblical Hebrew

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Recommended Citation

Arnold, Bill T.; Choi, John H.; and Asbury Theological Seminary, "OT 501 Survey of Biblical Hebrew" (2001). *Syllabi*. Book 948.
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OT 501 Survey of Biblical Hebrew

Instructors:
Bill T. Arnold & John H. Choi
June, 2001

3 semester units

1. Course description

This course introduces students to Biblical Hebrew for purposes of exegetical work in pastoral ministry. Particular emphasis is given to the fundamentals of Biblical Hebrew and basic exegetical tools, including several types of parsing aids especially well suited for pastoral use.

2. Course objectives

Having successfully completed this course, students will be able to:

- 2.1. analyze Biblical Hebrew words through the use of elementary phonology,
- 2.2. determine the range of grammatical functions and choose the most appropriate one(s) by observing word formation (morphology),
- 2.3. interpret the interrelations of Hebrew words (syntax),
- 2.4. distinguish the basics of Hebrew prose and poetry,
- 2.5. benefit from the use of standard lexica and reference grammars.

3. Course procedures and requirements

3.1. As always in language study, attendance is essential and therefore required for the class. Each student is allowed one unexcused absence without penalty. Additional unexcused absences will result in the loss of one grade increments in the final grade (i.e. from a B to a B-).

3.2. At the end of each lesson, students will receive an assignment to complete before the next class period. Full participation is essential in order to obtain the learning goals of this course. Students should be prepared to discuss the assigned exercises by the beginning of each class period. The instructors will collect the assignments randomly in order to determine that they are being completed in a timely fashion.

3.3. There will be ten quizzes during the term (see schedule below) and one exam. The quizzes will include vocabulary as needed.

3.4. Asbury Seminary has a chapter of Eta Beta Rho (HBR or $\square \delta \rho$), a national Hebrew honor society. Students who earn a grade of "B" or higher in OT 501 and one subsequent ATS course requiring Hebrew will be eligible and encouraged to seek membership in the society.

4. Course texts

4.1. Required texts

Elliger, K., and W. Rudolph. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1967-77.

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

Scott, William R. *A Simplified Guide to BHS*. Berkley, Calif.: BIBAL, 1987.

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

4.2. Recommended texts

BibleWorks 4.0. Hermenueitika, Big Fork, Mont. (available in the Media Center at ATS for those who do not purchase the software.)

Brown, Francis, S. R. Driver, and Charles A. Briggs. *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Oxford: Oxford, 1907; reprint, Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1979.

Armstrong, Terry, Douglas Busby, and Cyril Carr. *A Reader's Hebrew-English Lexicon of the Old Testament: Four Volumes in One*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 1989.

5. Student evaluation

5.1. Class attendance, preparation, and participation	10%
5.2. Exegetical exercises	35%
5.3. Quizzes	35%
5.4. Final examination	20%

6. Schedule

Date	Topics and Quiz schedule	Seow Assignments
June 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Introduction ➤ The Alphabet ➤ The writing system ➤ Dagesh and begadkepat letters 	Seow 1-4
June 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Quiz – alphabet ➤ Simple vowels, stress, syllabification, and accents ➤ Vowel markers and the Sheva ➤ Syllabification 	Seow 5-16
June 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Quiz – alphabet (again), weak consonants, and vowels ➤ Nouns & word patterns (geminate, segholate, prefixed, etc.) ➤ Hebrew roots and patterns 	Seow 17-45
June 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Definite article ➤ Prepositions and simple conjunctions ➤ Excursus A: Introduction to the dictionaries and other lexical tools ➤ Excursus B: Reading markers and pausal forms 	Seow 54-69
June 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Quiz – Nouns ➤ The Adjective 	Seow 70-77
June 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Quiz – Adjectives (form and uses) ➤ Verbal Derived Stems ➤ The Qal participle ➤ Excursus C: Nomenclature for the Stems ➤ Introduction to all the verbal derived stems in general 	Seow 78-91
June 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Quiz – verbal patterns ➤ Independent Personal Pronouns ➤ Suffixed pronouns 	Seow 92-103
June 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Quiz – Uses of the Qal ➤ Demonstratives ➤ Relative clauses ➤ Interrogative clauses, exclamations and emphatic questions 	Seow 104-13
June 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Quiz – Uses of the Piel ➤ The Construct Chain ➤ The Superlative ➤ Nouns with pronominal suffixes ➤ Excursus D: Reference grammars (introduction) 	Seow 116-44
June 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Quiz – Uses of the Hiphil ➤ Introduction to “aspect” in the Hebrew verb ➤ The Qal perfect ➤ Excursus E: Poetic Hebrew 	Seow 145-59
June 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Quiz – Qal perfect (form and uses) ➤ The Qal perfect of weak roots ➤ Stative verbs ➤ Excursus F: Orientation to the Hebrew Bible ➤ Introduction to word study methodology 	Seow 160-72
June 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Imperfect inflection 	Seow 205-13
June 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Quiz – Qal imperfect (form and uses) ➤ Narrative discourse patterns 	Seow 225-32
June 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Exegetical assignments 	
June 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Final Exam 	