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OT 501 B Survey of Biblical Hebrew

Paul M. Cook

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OT501B SURVEY OF BIBLICAL HEBREW
Fall 2004
Wed, Fri 1:00-2:15pm

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Please note that this syllabus is subject to revision by the professor.

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 types of parsing aids especially 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. Identify the use and significance of basic grammatical constructions.
- 2.5. Benefit from the use of standard lexical and reference grammars.

3. Course Requirements

- 3.1. A critical element of language study is attendance. Faithful attendance is expected.
- 3.2. Students will receive assignments (exercises from the textbook, worksheet handouts, and quizzes) to complete before the next session. Full completion of assignments 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 instructor will collect the assignments at the beginning of each session. Feel free to collaborate with others on these assignments, but be sure that all work submitted is your own.
- 3.3. Since each day's work will depend on the completion of prior work, it is imperative that students complete all assignments and quizzes on time. Unexcused late assignments will be deducted 25% for each class day late. Unexcused quizzes will be deducted 33% for each class day late.
- 3.4. In the event of an emergency, it is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor as soon as possible. Absences or work submitted late will be considered unexcused if no *prior* notice is given.
- 3.5. There will be 13 quizzes during the term (see schedule below), a midterm exam, and a final exam. Most of the quizzes will be take-home, closed book, closed notes. A few quizzes will be in-class vocabulary quizzes. The take-home quizzes will include vocabulary, listed in Seow, as well as certain grammatical issues covered in class.
- 3.6. The in-class Final Exam will be held at **1:00 pm, on December 16**. Students with an average of 95% or higher prior to the final exam may elect not to take the exam. The Grammatical Analysis and Word Study Assignments will be due by **5:00 pm, on December 17**.

3.7 Asbury Seminary has a chapter of Eta Beta Rho (EBR or **rb**) a national Hebrew honor society. Students who earn a grade of “B” or higher in both OT 501 & 502, and have taken, or intend to take a subsequent 700-level OT course will be eligible and encouraged to seek membership in the society.

4. Required Texts

4.1 Required texts [abbreviations in brackets, cf. **Course Outline** below]

Arnold, Bill T. and John H. Choi. *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003. [Guide, Arnold & Choi]

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

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

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

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

4.2 Optional texts

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. [BDB]

- An acceptable substitute for Holladay above.
- For many, the lexicon of choice for nearly 100 years. Still useful, but in desperate need of updating.
- Arranges words by their root, instead of in strict alphabetical order (thus making it more difficult for the beginning student to use).

Chisholm, Robert. *From Exegesis to Exposition: A Practical Guide to Using Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998. [Chisholm]

- Designed as a 2nd year textbook.
- Helps the student to make the move from reading Biblical Hebrew to preaching, teaching, etc.

Long, Gary A. *Grammatical Concepts 101 for Biblical Hebrew*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 2002.

- Introduces Hebrew concepts by first introducing the concept in English.
- Helpful for students who struggle with English grammar.

4.3 Recommended software

BibleWorks 6.0. Norfolk, Virginia. (ver. 5.0 available in the Media Center at ATS for those who do not purchase the software.)

- A powerful and flexible biblical language software program.
- Equipped with parsing tools.
- Includes lexicons, flashcard tool, and other resources.

Hebrew Tutor. Parsons Technology.

- A first year course in Biblical Hebrew with interactive features.
- Provides practice drills and exercises.
- Pronounces Hebrew words.

5. Student Evaluation

5.1 Exercises	20%
5.2 Worksheets	15%
5.3 Quizzes	20%
5.4 Midterm Examination (in class, October 22)	10%
5.5 Final Examination (1:00 pm, December 14)	15%
5.5.1 Vocabulary (including ch. 20)	3%
5.5.2 Translation	2.5%
5.5.3 Concepts	4.5%
5.6 Grammatical Analysis Assignment (Due: 5:00 pm, Dec 17)	15%
5.7 Word Study Assignment (Due: 5:00 pm, Dec 17)	5%

6. Letter Grade/Percentage Standard:

A	95-100%	C	73-76.9%
A-	90-94.9%	C-	70-72.9%
B+	87-89.9%	D+	67-69.9%
B	83-86.9%	D	63-66.9%
B-	80-82.9%	D-	60-62.9%
C+	77-79.9%	F	Below 60

7. Course Outline

Class	Topics	*Quizzes	Homework	Reading
Week 1	A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Introduction ➤ The Alphabet ➤ The writing system 			
	B <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dagesh and begadkepat letters ➤ Introduction to final assignment. ➤ Hand out <i>Concept Sheet</i>. 	Quiz #1 Due: Alphabet	Seow, Lesson 1 <i>Guide</i> , 1.0	
Week 2	A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Simple vowels, stress, and accents ➤ Vowel markers and the Shewa 		Seow, 1.b, c	Seow, Lesson 2
	B <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ More Vowels ➤ Syllabification 			

Week 3	A	➤ Nouns	Quiz #2 Due: Lesson 2	Seow, 2.a(odd), b (odd)	Seow, Lesson 3 <i>Guide</i> , 2.0; 2.1; 2.1.1-2
	B	➤ Word patterns (geminate, segolate, prefixed, etc.) ➤ Hebrew roots and patterns	*Quiz #3: Vocab Quiz [2]	Seow, 3a(even), b(odd)	Seow, Lessons 4-5
Week 4	A	➤ Introduction to Holladay Lexicon ➤ Definite article	Quiz #4 Due: Lessons 3-5 [3 & 4]	Seow, 4.a	Seow, Lesson 6 <i>Guide</i> , 2.6; 4.1.5, 9, 10; 4.3.3
	B	➤ Prepositions and simple conjunctions		- Holladay Worksheet (nouns)	
Week 5	A	➤ The Adjective	Quiz #5: Vocab [5 & 6]	- Seow 6.c(odd) - Prepositions Worksheet	Seow, Lesson 7 <i>Guide</i> , 2.5; 2.5.1-4
	B	➤ Reading Markers & Pausal Forms ➤ Tetragrammaton		- Adjective Worksheet	Seow, Excursus B Scott, pp. 3-5; 25- 27
Week 6	A	➤ Introduction to all the verbal derived stems in general ➤ Nomenclature for the Stems ➤ Uses of the Qal and Niphal	Quiz #6 Due: Adjective [7]	- Seow 7.b(odd)	Excursus C <i>Guide</i> ; 3.0; 3.1; 3.1.1; 3.1.2; 3.4.3
	B	➤ The Qal participle		- Niphal Worksheet	Seow, Lesson 8
Week 7	A	➤ Uses of the Piel, Pual, Hithpael ➤ Independent Personal Pronouns ➤ Suffixed pronouns	Quiz #7 Due: Binyanim [8]	- Seow, 8.d (odd)	<i>Guide</i> , 3.1.3-5 Seow, Lesson 9
	B	Midterm Exam			
Week 8	A	➤ Uses of the Hiphil, Hophal	Quiz #8 Due: Pronoun & Participle [9]	- Seow, 9.d (odd) - Factitive Worksheet	<i>Guide</i> , 3.1.6-7; 4.3.4
	B	➤ Demonstratives ➤ Relative clauses ➤ Interrogative clauses, exclamations and emphatic questions		- Causative Worksheet	Seow, Lesson 10

Week 9	A	➤ The Construct Chain	Quiz #9 Due: Demonstrative [10]	- Seow, 10.b (#s 1-10)	<i>Guide</i> , 2.2; 2.2.1-13; (cf. 2.5.4 above).
	B	➤ The Superlative ➤ Nouns with pronominal suffixes		- Genitive Relationship Worksheet	Seow, Lesson 11 & 12
Week 10	A	➤ Introduction to “aspect” in the Hebrew verb ➤ The Qal perfect (forms & uses)	Quiz #10 Due: Construct [11 & 12]	- Seow, 11.c (#s 4-6) & 12.c (#s 4-6)	Seow, Lesson 13; <i>Guide</i> , 3.2; 3.2.1.
	B	➤ Grammar Analysis & Word Study Preview		- Perfect Worksheet	
Week 11	A	➤ The Qal perfect of weak roots ➤ Stative verbs	Quiz #11 Due: Perfect Aspect [13]	- Seow, 13b (odd)	Seow, Lesson 14;
	B	➤ Imperfect aspect – forms and uses ➤ Volitionals		- Parsing Worksheet	Seow, Lesson 18 <i>Guide</i> , 3.2.2; 3.3; 3.3.1, 3.3.3
Reading Week: Nov 22-26					
Week 12	A	➤ Qal Infinitive Absolute ➤ Qal Infinitive Construct	Quiz #12 Due: Imperfect Aspect [14]	- Seow, 14.c. (odd) - Imperfect Worksheet	Seow, sections of chps 22 & 23 <i>Guide</i> , 3.4; 3.4.1-2
	B	➤ Preterite ➤ Waw-consecutives ➤ Narrative discourse patterns		- Infinitive Worksheet	Seow, Lesson 20 <i>Guide</i> , 3.5; 3.5.1-2
Week 13	A	➤ Secondary Resources ➤ Poetic Hebrew ➤ Text-Criticism & BHS	Quiz #13: Vocabulary [18]	- Holladay Worksheet (verb)	Seow, Excursus E Scott, 4.
	B	➤ Orientation to the Hebrew Bible		- Translation Worksheet	Seow, Excursus F Scott, chps. 1 & 3
Final Examination 1:00-3:00pm, Thursday, Dec 16					
Grammatical Analysis and Word Study Due: 5:00pm, Dec 17					

* Note that in-class quizzes are in bold. The numbers in brackets represent the lesson(s) in Seow from which vocabulary primarily will be taken for the quiz.