

Asbury Theological Seminary ePLACE: preserving, learning, and creative exchange

Syllabi

eCommons

1-1-2000

OT 501 Concise Hebrew

J. Christian Stratton

Follow this and additional works at: <http://place.asburyseminary.edu/syllabi>

Recommended Citation

Stratton, J. Christian, "OT 501 Concise Hebrew" (2000). *Syllabi*. Book 586.
<http://place.asburyseminary.edu/syllabi/586>

This Document is brought to you for free and open access by the eCommons at ePLACE: preserving, learning, and creative exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ePLACE: preserving, learning, and creative exchange. For more information, please contact thad.horner@asburyseminary.edu.

Concise Hebrew - OT 501 (& Comprehensive Hebrew I)

Spring 2000 – A Three Hour Tour
Instructor: J. Christian Stratton

Office Phone: 606.858.2131
Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 4-5 pm

Course Description

This course introduces you to Biblical Hebrew for purposes of exegetical work in Christian ministry. Thus, every type of Christian ministry can be enhanced if the goals of this course are achieved. Particular emphasis is given to inductive learning of the fundamentals of Biblical Hebrew, the use of standard exegetical tools, and the Bible study software available.

In other words, I will introduce the essentials of Hebrew grammar and syntax. In conjunction with our introduction to exegetical tools, you will gain dexterity in understanding the expression and text of the Hebrew Bible and hopefully a greater love for the Old Testament Scriptures as the Word of God.

Course Objectives

1. To analyze properly Biblical Hebrew words through the learning of elementary phonology
2. To determine the range of grammatical functions and choose the most appropriate one(s) by knowing the changes in word formation (morphology)
3. To interpret the interrelations of Biblical Hebrew words (syntax)
4. To pronounce correctly and employ basic reading skills and translation of Hebrew texts
5. To distinguish the basics of Biblical Hebrew prose and poetry
6. To gain facility using a standard Hebrew lexicon such as *Brown, Driver, and Briggs (BDB)* and to become familiar with reference grammars such as *Gesenius/Kautzsch /Cowley (GKC)*, *Joüon/Muraoka (JM)*, and *Waltke/O'Connor (W-O'C)* in order to interpret the Hebrew Scriptures
7. To discover how to use an exegetical Bible software program for study in Hebrew
8. To recognize and do a befitting word study in Biblical Hebrew
9. To memorize a few common vocabulary words in the Hebrew Bible (approximately 130 words)

Many of the course objectives may appear pedantic to you, but I assure you they are very important. But let us suppose for a moment that you meet all objectives with flying colors, yet have not developed a passionate love for the study of God's word in Hebrew. Then, I will have partially failed as your instructor. I know that much of the burden is on you, but I want you to

know that I share much of the responsibility for your development of a love for interpreting God's word and teaching and/or preaching God's word more effectively.

Many problems students encounter in Concise Hebrew are problems in terminology. Because this is a language course, I will be using grammatical terms that you may vaguely remember from your years in high school English classes but have since forgotten. Many of the terms I will employ have a basis in all languages, so first familiarizing yourself with the terms in English will certainly assist you in understanding Hebrew. If your English grammar is a bit rusty, let me encourage you to read a short book that I have found helpful and could help you "brush-up" on your understanding of the English language (Madeline Semmelmeier, The New Webster's Grammar Guide, Berkley: New York, 1991.). Also, many internet sites are designed to help acquaint persons with English lingo and function (e.g. www.ucl.ac.uk/internet-grammar).

Disclaimer Regarding Required & Recommended Resources

You will observe there are five required resources for this course. Please keep in mind that their overall expense can be retrieved and their benefit further realized in the majority of other Old Testament classes offered at Asbury Seminary.

One of the recommended purchases for this class is BibleWorks (\$299), a significant outlay of money. This exegetical tool is recommended for two primary reasons: First, one of the primary objectives of this class is to introduce Bible software which will enable you to employ insights from Biblical Hebrew for your ministry; BibleWorks is one of the best programs to facilitate this purpose. You will be given some "hands-on" assignments that can be completed with the use of BibleWorks. Second, the purchase of BibleWorks is an investment for additional classes. When you take other biblical study courses with Asbury Seminary, you will find this program very useful in your study (e.g. Inductive Biblical Studies, Exegetical Greek and Hebrew); moreover, BibleWorks is required extensively in the Concise Greek course.

Fortunately, Asbury's B. L. Fisher Library has BibleWorks loaded for your use on twenty-four computers. Take advantage of the free use of this program throughout this course and all during your graduate training in Wilmore.

Note: If you already own a Bible software program that fully "parses" (that is, explains the forms of) Hebrew words, then you may seek permission from me to use it in this class.

Required Texts

- A1. Bornemann, Robert A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1998.

Along with the materials created by the instructor, this text will supplement knowledge for the course. We will do some of the exercises from this text as noted below on the "Course Outline." It contains lessons which will help us to know all the essentials of Biblical Hebrew grammar. The text is written in a personal dialogical way.

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

Even though this dictionary or lexicon was published around the beginning of this century, it still provides the most wealth of information per the expense. You will

probably agree its format needs revising. We will learn how to use *BDB* throughout the course. I have designed worksheets to accomplish this task.

- A3. Elliger, K., and W. Rudolph. Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1967-77.

Referred to as BHS, this is the Hebrew Bible reproduced from the oldest complete manuscript of the Old Testament, *Codex Leningradensis* (ca. 1008 A.D.), without significant alteration.

- A4. Scott, William R. A Simplified Guide to BHS. Berkley, CA: BIBAL, 1987.

This is a basic introduction to many of the peculiarities of the Hebrew Bible. Scott provides an English key to the Latin text critical notes (found at the very bottom of a BHS page) which were added by scholars this century who edited BHS and to the Aramaic side marginal notes (a.k.a. "massorah") which were put there by Medieval Jewish rabbis who created the vowel and accent system of the Hebrew Bible. Scott also explains many other features of the Hebrew Bible that will help you to understand how it has been put together through hundreds of years.

- A5. Chisholm, Robert. From Exegesis to Exposition. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.

This book is designed to help a person figure out the significance of the Hebrew text and to craft a way to communicate its significance. We will read the portions of the text that relate to word study methodology, syntactical issues, and the narrative/poetry issues of the Hebrew Bible.

Recommended Texts & Software

You do not need to buy these Hebrew tools; however each one has value for gaining further competence with the Hebrew language and thought-world.

1. BibleWorks 4.0 Hermenueitika, Big Fork, MT.

This software program will assist us in spotting grammatical forms of Hebrew words (also called parsing) which we could not otherwise understand and provides an abridged Hebrew dictionary (*Brown, Driver, and Briggs*) for quick reference. It is also a powerful tool for doing Hebrew word studies functioning as a concordance to find all occurrences of a word and providing a quick and easy way to see how the recurrence of a word functions in context.

***WARNING:** *BibleWorks* is a tool for ministry, but if your desire is to take additional Hebrew based courses take some precautionary measures in using this resource. Always try to push yourself to parse and translate as much Hebrew as possible before going to *BibleWorks* for parsing help.

2. Kohlenberger, John III. The Interlinear NIV Hebrew-English Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1987. (One volume)

Kohlenberger's text is the best interlinear available (and one of only a few, in contrast to Greek interlinears) and can give you a sense of how the Hebrew is translated with an

English "word for word" translation beneath the Hebrew and the NIV translation on the side margin.

***WARNING:** An interlinear is a tool for ministry, but if your desire is to take additional Hebrew based courses take some precautionary measures in using this resource. Always try to push yourself to parse and translate as much Hebrew as possible before consulting an interlinear for translation assistance.

- A3. Joüon, Paul, S.J. A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew. Edited and translated by T. Muraoka. 2 Vols. Subsidia Biblica 14/I-II. Roma: Editrice Pontificio Istituto Biblico, 1993.

This is the most up-to-date and comprehensive reference grammar. It was written by the French biblical studies scholar, Joüon, in 1923 and subsequently revised and translated by the Japanese biblical studies scholar, Muraoka, in 1991. It is clearly written and it has a thorough section on syntax, a section often neglected in Hebrew grammars. It is full of useful insights and information for anyone with a basic knowledge of Biblical Hebrew grammar.

- A4. Owens, John Joseph. Analytical Key to the Old Testament. 4 Vols. Grand Rapids Baker, 1989-1992.

This resource parses every Hebrew word in the Old Testament verse by verse, chapter by chapter, and book by book and gives the appropriate page where the word is found in the *Brown, Driver, and Briggs* lexicon. As mentioned above, the BibleWorks software program will also parse all Hebrew words, but Owens' work does so in a printed form.

***WARNING:** *Owens* is a tool for ministry, but if your desire is to take additional Hebrew based courses take some precautionary measures in using this resource. Always try to push yourself to parse and translate as much Hebrew as possible before going to *Owens* for parsing help.

- A5. Waltke, Bruce, and Michael O'Connor. An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1990.

This wonderful text contains virtually all the "ins and outs" of Hebrew syntax. In comparison, Williams' text is like a "reader's digest" version of Waltke-O'Connor. W-O'C is much easier to comprehend at the intermediate Hebrew level.

- A6. Williams, Ronald J. Hebrew Syntax: An Outline. Toronto: University of Toronto, 1976.

This book is a brief introduction to Hebrew syntax. Williams is too brief at many points and uses many terms for syntax that are now outdated; nevertheless, his text continues to be useful for the beginning Hebrew student.

A indicates that the resource is on the reserve shelf in the library under "Matlock" or "Stratton." Also, two beginning Hebrew grammars which have been used recently to learn Hebrew here at ATS are on the reserve shelf: Page H. Kelley, Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar, (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992) and C. L. Seow, A Grammar For Biblical Hebrew, Rev. Ed. (Nashville: Abingdon, 1995).

Evaluation

Attendance Policy:

When studying a language, it is absolutely necessary that a student keep pace with the class. If a student falls behind, it can be disastrous. Therefore, each student is allowed three absences without penalty. ***However, every absence (for any reason) beyond three will result in the loss of one grade increment in the final grade (e.g. from a B to a B-).***

Attendance throughout the course is expected; persons absent for more than six sessions of the course will not be eligible for a passing grade.

If you have any questions, please see me the first day of class.

Approximate Grade Scale:

A 93-100	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66
A- 90-92	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62
B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F 0-59

Your grade is calculated on the following factors:

Assignments & Readings	15%
Quizzes – Celebration of S. L.	25%
4 Exams	60%
Total	100%

1. Assignments & Readings - 15% of course grade

Cf. the "Course Outline" below for hands-on assignments.

Collaborating with your colleagues should be and will be a significant part of your learning experience. Thus, I strongly encourage you to work with peers outside of class after you have first independently worked on the assignment. Collaboration is good, but wholesale co-optation is not.

Full participation and engagement is essential in order to obtain the learning goals of this course, so please be prepared ready to discuss with your peers and instructor. At my discretion, I will grade the assignments in order to determine that work is being done or choose not to grade certain assignments. We will have a voluntary class session on Fridays or Mondays from 12-1.

NOTE: Late exercises & worksheets will be accepted, but penalized 20% for each calendar day late and receive no comments.

Please stay current with your reading. Students will be asked to turn in a reading report at the end of the semester for all assigned reading.

A key factor of this part of your grade is your attitude and affectation towards the material in this course. It goes without saying, but bears repeating, that a large majority of your success in understanding Hebrew is achieved by a positive attitude and lots of motivation.

2. Celebrations of Small Learning (Quizzes) - 25% of course grade

You will be quizzed on vocabulary from the list given to you by the instructor. We will memorize approximately 135 words. The quizzes are comprehensive; thus you are responsible for remembering any prior vocabulary after it has been introduced. Quizzes will have approx. ten words each on them.

In addition to vocabulary quizzes, you will also be quizzed on certain grammatical forms throughout the course. For example, there will be quizzes on the consonants, vowels,

qal perfect, & qal imperfect paradigms (cf. the "Course Outline" below). If other quizzes are determined to be necessary, they will be prepared by the instructor.

Quizzes will normally be taken the first 5 to 10 minutes of class on scheduled days. You are allowed to make-up one quiz by scheduling a time with the instructor.

3. Celebrations of Big Learning (4 Exams) – 60% of course grade

After the completion of each module on major portions of grammar, you will take an exam. All exams assume prior knowledge from the course and are thus cumulative.

General Procedures

Some general notes about our course procedure are necessary:

1. During my office hours (Tuesday/Thursday 4-5 p.m.), I will be glad to talk to you about class concerns. All you need to do is go to the Administration building and come to my office, AD 304D, on the third floor. If your schedule does not permit you to see me during my normal office hours, please schedule an appointment with me.

Another option of reaching me is via email. See the top of page one for the address.

If you have an urgent question, please feel free to call me on campus. If I do not answer the phone, leave a message. I could be on another phone line, and if so, I will return your call promptly.

2. My tutoring assistant during this semester is Nancy Heeren. She will be available for tutoring on Tuesday from 4-5 in a conference room in the Library on the second floor.
3. Put your name and Seminary Post Office (SPO) box number on the back of everything you turn in to me.

Further Study in the Hebrew Language

1. After you complete OT 501 you will be ready for a second semester of Biblical Hebrew (OT 502) which is designed to give you a mastery of beginning Hebrew and make you more of a complete Hebraist. It is offered two or three times a year in various semesters. Then, upon completion of OT 502, a student may take any Hebrew exegesis course and other Semitic language courses (e.g. Biblical Aramaic).
2. OT 501 prepares you to take any upper level OT Inductive Biblical Study course.
3. I will encourage you to read daily from the Hebrew Scriptures and participate in weekly Hebrew reading groups that meet on campus in the fall and spring semesters.
4. Asbury Seminary has a chapter of a Hebrew honor society entitled Eta Beta Rho (a.k.a. HBR & רב []). Students who earn a combined grade of 3.0 or higher after taking both OT 501 & 502 with the intent to complete an exegesis class or an OT 700 class are eligible for membership into the society.

Course Procedure & Outline

During our two class sessions I will present new material and most days we will read a selected biblical passage, so always bring your Hebrew Bibles!

We will go over assignments on Friday or Monday from 11:30-12:30. If your schedule does not permit you to be at these sessions, the answers will be on reserve in the library.

Each module will be fully explained when assigned by the instructor. For some modules, other reading & hands-on assignments will be added at the time it is formally assigned.

Course Outline

Module 1: Sights and Sounds of Biblical Hebrew
February 7-25, 2000

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
<u>Quiz*</u>			
___	Consonants	**	<i>Bornemann, 6-7</i>
___	Semitic Language Introduction		
___	Vowels & Vowel Letters		<i>Bornemann, 16-17</i>
___	Pronunciation		<i>Bornemann, 21-22</i>
___	Narrative/Poetry as Literature		<i>Chisholm, 149-184</i>
___	Exam #1		

***Requirement of watching the BibleWorks video & completing a worksheet is due by **March 1**

Module 2: Basics of the Hebrew Noun & Its Accessories – Morphology
February 28-March 24, 2000

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
<u>Quiz*</u>			
___	Basics of the Nouns		
___	Three Noun Declensions	<i>Chisholm, 57-61,64-66</i>	<i>Bornemann, 30-31</i>
___	Definite Art., Preps., Conjs, & Adjs.	<i>Chisholm, 66-70,72-75</i>	<i>Bornemann, 39-40;</i> Adj.
___	Intro. to <i>BDB</i>	<i>"How to Read BDB"</i>	BDB Worksheet #1
___	Construct State	<i>Chisholm, 62-64</i>	Construct Worksheet
___	Pronouns	<i>Chisholm, 70-72</i>	<i>Bornemann, 47-48, 52-53</i>

___ Exam #2

Module 3: General Introduction & Conjugating the Hebrew Verb & Particles – Morphology
March 27-May-5, 2000

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
___	<u>Quiz*</u> Verbal Stems	<i>Chisholm, 78-86</i>	<i>Bornemann, 59</i>
___	Verbal Aspects (Part 1) Perfect	<i>Chisholm, 86-94</i>	Worksheet
___	Verbal Aspects (Part 2) Impf	<i>Chisholm, 66-70,75-78, 103-07</i>	Worksheet
___	Coordinate Relationships	<i>Chisholm, 94-103, 108-12, 119-47</i>	Worksheet
___	Particles	<i>Chisholm, 113-118</i>	Worksheet
___	Introduction to Reference Grammars		

___ Exam #3

Module 4: Word Studies
May 8-12, 2000

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
___	<u>Quiz*</u> Word Study Method & Resources	<i>Chisholm, 31-56</i>	Worksheet
___	Introduction to OT Commentaries		

___ Exam #4

*Vocabulary Quizzes - Starting with week four, there is a weekly vocabulary quiz. Cf. A vocabulary list is provides at the end of this syllabus.

**Readings will be assigned from *Bornemann* throughout the course as needed.

***Copies of the BibleWorks video are located in the Library Computer Lab. For instructional purposes, you may download an outline of the file "Hand - Intro to BibleWorks" from the folder, "Matlock," on the "T-drive". Consult the staff of the Computer Lab for assistance.

Select Bibliography

Elementary Biblical Hebrew Grammars

1. Kelley, Page H. Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992.
2. Kittel, Bonnie. Biblical Hebrew: A Text and Workbook. New Haven: Yale, 1989.
3. Lambdin, Thomas O. Introduction to Biblical Hebrew. New York: Scribner, 1971.
4. Seow, C. L. A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew. rev. ed. Nashville: Abingdon, 1995.

Advanced Biblical Hebrew Grammars

1. Gesenius, Wilhelm. Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar. Edited by E. Kautzsche. Oxford: Clarendon, 1910; reprint 1970.
2. Gibson, J. C. L. Davidson's Introductory Hebrew Grammar – Syntax. 4th ed. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1994.
3. Joüon, Paul. A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew. Translated and edited by T. Muroaka. 2 Vols. Subsidia Biblica. Vols14/I-14-II. Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1991.
4. Waltke, Bruce, and Michael O'Connor. An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1990.
5. Williams, Ronald J. Hebrew Syntax: An Outline. Toronto: University of Toronto, 1976.

Hebrew Lexicons

1. Brown, Francis, S. R. Driver, and Charles A. Briggs, eds. A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament. Oxford: Oxford, 1907; reprint, Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1979.
2. Clines, David J. A., ed. The Dictionary of Classical Hebrew. 3 Vols. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic, 1993-. (3 vols. to date – more coming!)
3. Holladay, William. A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1971.
4. Koehler, Ludwig, Walter Baumgartner, eds. The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament. 4 Vols. Leiden: Brill, 1994-. (3 vols. published in English thus far.)

Hebrew Lexical Helps

1. Armstrong, Terry, Douglas Busby, and Cyril F. Carr. A Reader's Hebrew-English Lexicon of the Old Testament: Four Volumes in One. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1989.
2. Beall, Todd, William Banks, and Colin Smith. Old Testament Parsing Guide. 2 Vols. Chicago: Moody, 1990. (Out of print)
3. Einspahr, Bruce. Index to Brown, Driver, & Briggs Hebrew Lexicon. Chicago: Moody, 1977.

Hebrew Analytical Lexicons

1. Accordance 3.0. Oaktree, Altamonte Springs, FL. (Macintosh based)
2. BibleWorks 4.0. Hermenueitika, Big Fork, MT. (Windows based)
3. Davidson, Benjamin. The Analytical Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1992.
4. Owens, John Joseph. Analytical Key to the Old Testament. 4 Vols. Grand Rapids Baker, 1989-1992.

Hebrew Interlinears

- Kohlenberger, John III. The Interlinear NIV Hebrew-English Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1987. (One volume)

Hebrew Word Study Tools

1. Botterweck, Johannes, and Helmer Ringgren, eds. Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament. 9 Vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974-1998. (9 vols. to date – more coming!)
2. Harris, R. Laird, Gleason Archer, and Bruce Waltke, eds. Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament. 2 Vols. Chicago: Moody, 1981.
3. Jenni, Ernst, and Claus Westermann, eds. Theological Lexicon of the Old Testament. 3 Vols. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1997.
4. VanGemeren, Willem, ed. The New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis. 5 Vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.

Hebrew Concordances

1. Accordance 3.0. Oaktree, Altamonte Springs, FL. (Macintosh based)
2. BibleWorks 4.0. Hermenueitika, Big Fork, MT. (Windows based)
3. Even-Shoshan, Abraham. A New Concordance of the Old Testament. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1993.
4. Lisowsky, Gerhard. Konkordanz zum Hebraischen Alten Testament. 2nd ed. Stuttgart: Wurttembergische Bibelanstalt, 1958.
5. Mandelkern, Solomon. Veteris Testamenti Concordantiae: Hebraica atqua Chaldaicae. Tel Aviv: Sumptibus Schocken Hierosolymis, 1971.
6. Wigram, George. The New Englishman's Hebrew Concordance. Revised ed. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1984.

Hebrew Vocabulary Aids

1. Hebrew Tutor. Parsons Technology, Hiawatha, IA.
2. Landes, George M. A Student's Vocabulary of Biblical Hebrew. New York: Scribner, 1961.
3. Mitchel, Larry A. A Student's Vocabulary for Biblical Hebrew and Aramaic. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984.
4. Watts, John D. W. Lists of Words Occurring Frequently in the Hebrew Bible. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987. (Out of print)