

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
Intermediate Hebrew BIBHB 611
Fall 2020

Professor: Julie Ann Duncan
Time: Friday 2:00 - 3:45 via Zoom

Description

The primary aim of the course is to develop fluency in the translation of biblical prose, through consolidation and expansion of the student's knowledge of grammar and vocabulary. Secondary attention will be given to the introduction of issues of literary analysis and text-critical methodology.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course students should be able to do the following:

- Read aloud from the Hebrew Bible
- Translate passages from the Hebrew Bible using a standard lexicon and other tools
- Translate a prepared Hebrew text without assistance of an English translation or other helps
- Analyze basic verbal and nominal forms
- Navigate *Brown Driver Briggs* along with other Hebrew helps and resources
- Interpret the critical apparatus of BHS and be familiar with basic text critical terminology
- Reflect on standard English translations of the Bible with a heightened awareness of the choices made there, and their interpretive ramifications

Course Requirements:

Regular and prepared participation	40%	(see description below)
Translation Quiz 1	30%	
Translation Quiz 2	30%	

The translation quizzes will come from the material we have read together in class (no dictionaries or notes allowed). Blue books will be distributed by the instructor in advance. A short sight reading passage may be included, no more than 10 % of the quiz grade.

**** Please do not make notations in your Hebrew Bible.****

*If you would like to see a sample translation quiz I would be happy to show you a template.

Required Texts

*(If you have taken Hebrew 1 and 2 with Dr. Arsers you will already have most of these books.)

Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1984.

Choose one of two sizes:

Either -

Compact edition, smaller, soft cover: ISBN-13: 9781598561630
Cost: \$42.90 Amazon

Or -

Standard edition, larger, hard cover: ISBN-13: 9781598561609
Cost: \$59.99 (used) Amazon

C.L. Seow, *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew: Revised Edition*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1995.

Paperback: ISBN: 9781426789076 \$30.00 Amazon

Hardback: ISBN: 1426789076 14.93 Amazon

*If you do not yet own this book I recommend the hardback copy, which you can find at a very reasonable price on Amazon.

John Beckman, *William's Hebrew Syntax* (3rd edition). ISBN: 978-0-8020-9429-2

Cost: \$29.95 (new) Amazon

Brown-Driver-Briggs. *Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*.

ISBN-13: 9781565632066 (hardcover)¹ Cost: \$26.00 Amazon

William R. Scott, *A Simplified Guide to BHS: Critical Apparatus, Masora, Accents, Unusual Letters and Other Markings* (3rd edition). ISBN: 0-941037-35-5
Cost: 40.00 Amazon (Must be 3rd edition)

¹ The hardcover is less expensive than the paperback and easier to thumb through.

Description of Class Sessions:

- We will always read the Hebrew text aloud first
- When you are translating the Hebrew text please keep your translation notes to the side and only consult them as a last resort. You will find that this second encounter with the Hebrew consolidates your learning.
- You will be asked to parse selected verbs. Again, please refrain from consulting your prepared notes straightaway. See what aspects you can identify without notes.
- In the course of translating we will sometimes consult the BHS textual apparatus in the lower margin, where one can find information about variant readings for the Hebrew text – for instance, variant readings in the Septuagint, the Samaritan Pentateuch, or in the Dead Sea scrolls.

Note: Your guide to understanding the symbols and sigla here is William R. Scott, *A Simplified Guide to BHS: Critical Apparatus, Masora, Accents, Unusual Letters and Other Markings*, 3rd edition (note: must be 3rd edition). Our goal here is basic understanding: to reach a point where we don't have to look up *frequently* used symbols in order to understand what is being conveyed about a given word, phrase, or reading.

In addition to the above, we will reflect on our experience of working with the primary text:

- Did anything shift in your impressions of this biblical text after reading it in the original language? If so, what?
- Identify what prompted this shift. For instance, to name just a few possibilities: Was it understanding the nuances of a particular Hebrew word or phrase? The strategic use of repetition? The socio-cultural context of a word or expression (e.g., forensic or liturgical)? Some feature of syntax (emphasis)?

How will this experience inform your readings of English translations in the future?

Schedule

Below is a proposed and provisional schedule of texts for our reading.

Sept 11	Readings in Deuteronomy 5
Sept 18	Readings in Genesis 2-4
Sept 25	Readings in Genesis 2-4
Oct 2	Readings in Genesis 2-4
Oct 9	Readings in Genesis 19
Oct 16	Readings in Genesis 19

Schedule (cont.)

Oct 23 **READING DAY**

Oct 30 *Translation Quiz 1* (30%)

Nov 6 Readings in Job 1-3

Nov 13 Readings in Job 1-3

Nov 20 Readings in 2 Samuel 10-12

Nov 27 **THANKSGIVING BREAK**

Dec 4 Readings in 2 Samuel 10-12

Dec 11 Readings in 2 Samuel 10-12

Dec 16 (Wednesday) *Translation Quiz 2* (30 %)