BIBHB511 "Elementary Hebrew 1" (blended synchronous)

Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00-2:20 pm
Instructor: G. Brooke Lester
Instructor email: brooke.lester@garrett.edu
Revision date: March 29, 2023

Description:

This course is the first half of an introduction to the Hebrew language of the Hebrew Bible, providing basic knowledge of Biblical Hebrew grammar, vocabulary, and syntax, as well as the skills to study and interpret the text of the Hebrew Bible in the context of ministry. *The course emphasizes fluency in reading (aloud), as this is a known prerequisite to a working understanding (as opposed to a laborious and error-prone "decoding").*

Delivery method(s):

This course is "blended synchronous": we meet twice per week at a scheduled time, and learners may participate in-person or via Teams. *Learners should expect to spend at least nine (9) hours per week on this course, outside of class time. I strongly recommend dividing this time up into 90 minutes daily, with one day of rest.*

Learning Outcomes (for two semesters):

- Learners will understand Biblical Hebrew as a language.
- Learners will understand that language use (including "dead" language use) implies fluency.
- Learners will be able to sight read aloud accurately even where lacking understanding.
- Learners will be able to recognize elements of morphology and grammar ("parsing").
- Learners will know the Hebrew nominal and verbal forms.
- Learners will know Hebrew vocabulary used approximately 50 times or more in the Hebrew Bible.

Required Texts (covers Hebrew 1 and Hebrew 2):

This is, unavoidably, a "book-heavy" course. Please feel free to contact the instructor with questions about the course if you are unsure whether this investment is right for you. Used books are fine, though you'll want to avoid a too-overwritten copy of Seow.

1. Brown, Francis, S. R. Driver, Charles A. Briggs, Wilhelm Gesenius. *The New Brown, Driver, Briggs, Gesenius Hebrew and English Lexicon: With an Appendix Containing the Biblical Aramaic.* Hendrickson, 1994. ISBN-10 1565632060. ISBN–13: 9781565632066 (hardcover). Cost: $34.95. (This is a great one to get used, if you can.)

2. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia.* 5th revised edition. Hendrickson Publishers, 2007. ISBN-10 1598561995. ISBN-13 978-1598561999. Hardcover $56.90. (Other editions of the *BHS* are probably fine; feel free to consult with the instructor.)
3. Seow, CL. *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew.* Revised edition. Abingdon, 1995. ISBN-10 1426789076. ISBN-13 978-1426789076. Hardcover $48.27. (Please be sure that you have the revised edition! It is completely different from the earlier 1993 original edition.)
4. Lester, Scrivener, Green. *Handbook to A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew.* Abingdon, 2005. ISBN-10 9780687008346. ISBN-13 978-0687008346. Paperback $15.49.

Course Requirements:
- Prepared participation in twice-weekly synchronous sessions.
- Twice-weekly homework, including viewing asynchronous lectures and assigned written lessons.
- Twice-weekly active reading of Seow (I recommend viewing lectures first).
- Regular vocabulary quizzes, based on Seow's vocabulary lists.
- Two examinations, each weighted equally.

Basis for Final Grade:
- Exams: 40%
- Quizzes: 20%
- Evidence of Preparation, including homework and participation: 40%

Schedule:

This class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00-2:20 pm (Central Time). Our schedule is available on our Moodle course site. Please also consult the Academic Calendar.

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Additional Academic Policies:

All students are required to abide by the academic policies detailed in the Academic Handbook for the current academic year. The following policies are of particular importance to the successful completion of one's coursework:

Writing

• Academic integrity and plagiarism: (See 19-20 Handbook, 12, 78-83) All professors are required to respond to all suspected incidents of academic dishonesty, especially plagiarism. Repeated incidents of plagiarism or academic dishonesty may result in dismissal from the school.

• Writing and citations: The *Turabian Manual for Writers* and the *Chicago Manual of Style* footnote/bibliography format provide the standard formats for all introductory courses. In advanced courses an instructor may require another style guide appropriate to the discipline (such as APA). (19-20 Handbook, 84)
• Writing Support: The Writing Center at Garrett-Evangelical offers programs to support all students' theological research and writing. See https://www.garrett.edu/student-life/student-services "Writing Center" for more detailed information.

Attendance and Class Participation

• Inclusivity/Diversity: The basic commitments of the seminary to mutual love and searching for the truth in Christ lead to a principle that in the classroom and in course assignments, persons are always to be respected and ideas are to be freely discussed.... All participants in the teaching-learning process have an obligation to honor and respect varying perspectives on relevant issues.

(See 19-20 Handbook, 9)
• Attendance and lateness policies: Attendance is required. Students who miss more than 20% of the class sessions (e.g., more than 2 classes in the weekly schedule, a proportionate amount for other class formats) should not expect to pass the class. (19-20 Handbook, 19)
• Some faculty may limit on the usage of electronic devices such as cell phones during class. At the least, all cell phones should be silenced during the whole of a class session.

Academic Accommodations

• Student accommodations for documented conditions should be developed and requested before the beginning of the semester. See the *Accessibility, Special Needs, and Disabilities* policy and process set out in the Academic Handbook (19-20 Handbook, 12). Such accommodations are developed in consultation with the Registrar.

• Extensions: For Masters students, extensions, if granted, are normally for four weeks following the last day of class in spring and fall semesters or the final due date for coursework for January and summer terms. Extensions may not exceed three months following the end of the term. (19-20 Handbook, 20)