

## BIBHB511 "Elementary Hebrew 1" (online synchronous)

Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00-2:20 pm

Fall 2025 (September 02 – December 10)

Instructor: G. Brooke Lester

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### Description:

This course is the first semester of a year-long 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 "online synchronous": we meet twice per week at a scheduled time, and learners participate by videoconferencing via Microsoft 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. Again, these books cover both semesters of Elementary Hebrew: Fall and Spring.*

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, less expensive editions of the *BHS* may be 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 will become available on our Moodle course site. Please also consult the Academic Calendar.

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#### Institutional Policies:

This course follows all school academic policies and procedures, which can be accessed in their entirety on the Registrar section of MyGETS at this

link: [https://mygets.garrett.edu/ICS/Registrar\\_and\\_Advising/Common\\_Syllabus\\_Policies.jnz](https://mygets.garrett.edu/ICS/Registrar_and_Advising/Common_Syllabus_Policies.jnz) .