

BIBHB511X "Elementary Hebrew 1" (online)

Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00-2:20 pm

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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"). This is NOT a course in simply learning "tools" for "decoding" Hebrew; rather, it is a language class aimed at reading.

Delivery method(s):

This course is entirely online, and is synchronous: we meet twice per week in a videoconference session (probably Microsoft Teams).

Learning Outcomes:

1. Learners will understand Biblical Hebrew as a language to be read (not a puzzle to be decoded).
2. Learners will understand that language use (including "dead" language use) implies fluency.
3. Learners will be able to sight read aloud fluently even where lacking understanding.
4. Learners will be able to recognize elements of morphology and grammar ("parsing").
5. Learners will be able to translate texts appropriate to the first half of a standard grammar textbook.
6. Learners will know the Hebrew nominal and verbal forms.
7. Learners will know Hebrew vocabulary used approximately 50 times or more in the Hebrew Bible.

Required Texts:

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. *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.)
2. 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.)
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.