

**OTHB6300 INTERMEDIATE HEBREW GRAMMAR**  
**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**

**Disclaimer:** This syllabus is intended to give the student a general idea of the content, format, and textbooks used for this class. The professor will submit a full syllabus at the beginning of the class which will contain a course schedule and the instructor's information.

**Mission Statement**

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

**Course Purpose, Core Value Focus, and Curriculum Competencies**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity in that the course is designed to prepare the student to grow in the understanding and application of the Word of God. Characteristic Excellence is also addressed in that the student should be as prepared as possible to be ministers for Christ. This course primarily addresses the competency of Biblical Exposition by preparing the student to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.

**Course Description**

Readings from all the different genres of the Hebrew OT will provide the basis for solidifying and expanding students' grammatical knowledge and for introducing them to all the basic components required for advanced work in the Hebrew text. Foundational elements of the study will be limited grammar review, and introductions to the standard critical edition of the Hebrew Bible, textual criticism, translation theory and method, and syntactical analysis. Guided practice in reading, textual criticism, grammatical and syntactical analysis, and translation will prepare students to achieve maximum benefit from subsequent advanced Hebrew exegesis courses.

**Student Learning Objectives**

**Knowledge**

Students who successfully complete the course will have

- A. Understood how to read and interpret all the various types of markings and notes in the standard critical edition of the Hebrew Bible as well as their significance for reading the text
- B. Expanded their understanding of the disciplines of textual criticism, translation, grammatical analysis, and syntactical analysis
- C. Become familiar with the standard resources which serve as tools for advanced work in biblical Hebrew

**Attitudes**

Students who successfully complete the course will have

- A. Come to appreciate the value in appropriate application of text critical, grammatical, and syntactical analysis for thorough study of the Hebrew texts
- B. Become convinced to continue improvement of their skills through advanced exegetical study
- C. Been encouraged to develop a discipline of study that will incorporate consistent and continual use of the skills exercised in the course

**Skills**

Students who successfully complete the course will be able to

- A. Use the textual apparatus of the standard critical edition of the Hebrew Bible to establish correct texts in selections from the various genres of the OT (textual criticism)

- B. Read and translate from all the various genres of the Hebrew Bible (translation theory and method)
- C. Analyze appropriately the structure of texts in selections from the various genres of the Hebrew OT (grammatical and syntactical analysis)
- D. Incorporate work of the course in refining and improving their personal discipline of study, teaching, and preaching

### **Required Textbooks**

Brown, Walter E. *Intermediate Biblical Hebrew: An Inductive Workbook/Guidebook* (Working title of Draft; materials will be provided as linked pdf documents) (IBH)

Wegner, Paul D. *A Student's Guide to Textual Criticism of the Bible: Its History, Method & Results* (SGTC)

Williams, Ronald J. *Williams' Hebrew Syntax*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Rev. and Expanded by John C. Beckman.

Arnold and Choi. *Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Cambridge Publishing.

### **Additional Resources**

The course requirements assume that students own copies of *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* (BHS), currently the standard critical edition for study of the Hebrew text, and a standard Hebrew lexicon, preferably Brown, Driver, and Briggs, *Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament* (BDB) or Koehler-Baumgartner, *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (HALOT).

In addition, the basis for the introductions to the "sub-disciplines" (use of a critical text, textual criticism, translation theory and method, and syntax) will include readings from various sources.

**NOTE:** Some of these readings will be provided through links in the lesson material. These materials are copyrighted materials and provided on the same basis as limited copies of selected materials would be provided in a traditional classroom setting, meaning that these materials are to be used in support of specific parts of this particular study and are not to be reproduced and/or redistributed beyond the confines of the study of this course.

**A SECOND NOTE:** Finally, you should consider the required texts and certain other resources in the Selected Bibliography to be basic tools for ongoing work in Hebrew language studies, and you will be tasked to use them regularly. Once we get to the heart of the work (in the various biblical Hebrew texts) access to resources may be a challenge so you need to be thinking early about how you will manage it. At this point, I suggest three possible approaches (and probably a combination of them will be needed): 1. Plan to buy some for your own library. You will need to do so sooner or later if you are serious about language study. 2. Locate them in a library or libraries in your region and plan day trips to use the resources. 3. Perhaps partner with another/other student(s) to share resources and/or expenses of accessing resources. (See blackboard for selected bibliography)

### **Course Requirements and Schedule of Assignments**

- A. Read and submit written reports on all assignments related to the subdisciplines of the study
- B. Complete all IBH assignments including reading all the introductory observations and comments on texts, translating the pertinent Hebrew texts, charting/parsing/analyzing specific forms, answering specific questions, and responding to other varied instructions, then submit copies of these materials for grading
- C. Learn and begin to use the basic principles of Textual Criticism and Grammatical and Syntactical Analysis as a part of the normal discipline of work in the Hebrew text

D. Be prepared to post observations and questions from assignments and interact with the posts of the professor and other students on content and significance of assignments on a weekly basis

E. Prepare and submit an annotated selected bibliography treating major resources for intermediate and advanced work in biblical Hebrew

F. Attain a passing average on all required components of the course

### **Course Evaluation**

- A. Participation 10%
- B. Reports on Readings 15%
- C. Posts, Discussion, Interaction 15%
- D. IBH Assignment Submissions 50%
- E. Annotated Selected Bibliography 10%

### **Netiquette Statement on Appropriate Online Behavior**

Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on the Discussion Board. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity will be expected at all times in the online environment.

### **Selected Bibliography:**

Arnold, Bill & John Choi. *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Cambridge, 2003.

Bartelt, Andrew. "On the Subtleties of Hebrew Verbs." *Concordia Journal* 34 (2008): 61-62.

Cook, John. "The Semantics of Verbal Pragmatics: Clarifying the Roles of *Wayyiqtol* and *Weqatal* in Biblical Hebrew Prose." *Journal of Semitic Studies* 49 (2004): 247-73.

Dawson, David. *Text-Linguistics and Biblical Hebrew*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1994.

Harris, R. Laird, Gleason Archer Jr., and Bruce Waltke, eds. *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1980.

Heller, Roy. *Narrative Structure and Discourse Constellations: An Analysis of Clause Function in Biblical Hebrew Prose*. Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbrauns, 2004.

Hunter, Vanlier. *Biblical Hebrew Workbook: An Inductive Study for Beginners*. University Press of America, 1988.

Jouon, Paul. *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew*. Translated and revised by T. Muraoka. Subsidia biblica. Roma: Editrice Pontificio Instituto Biblico, 2005.

Kautzsch, E., ed. *Gesenius Hebrew Grammar*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1910.

Lambdin, T. O. *Introduction to Biblical Hebrew*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1971.

Niccacci, Alviero. *The Syntax of the Verb in Classical Hebrew Prose*. Translated by W. G. E. Watson. Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1990.

Waltke, Bruce, and M. O'Connor. *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbrauns, 1990.