



**BL 511-1 *The Language of the Old Testament* (3)  
Fall 2005  
Instructor: R. R. Remin**

**Contacting the Instructor**

**Office: 723**

**Class Times: TTh 8:15-9:30**

**Email Address: [rremin@cbccts.ca](mailto:rremin@cbccts.ca)**

**Office Phone: 410-2000 ext. 7906**

**Class Location: TBA**

**Course Description**

A beginning course in biblical Hebrew and its grammatical structure. Some attention is given to the oral reading of Hebrew. Students will be introduced to hard copy and electronic resources available to assist their study of biblical Hebrew.

**Student Outcomes**

**Primary Outcomes**

1. The student will learn and review the grammatical elements of biblical Hebrew so that he/she will be able to identify correctly the morphological patterns of the verbs and nouns as well as translate Hebrew text into meaningful English. In this course the grammar of biblical Hebrew will be taught through a combination of deductive and inductive methods. The emphasis falls on the structural pattern of the Hebrew language rather than rote memorization.
2. The student will commit to memory the vocabulary listed in each lesson of the text. By memorizing all of the groups of vocabulary for each lesson of the text, the student will have learned all the Hebrew words which occur seventy times or more in the Old Testament. Before the middle of this first semester students will learn how to use the Hebrew-English dictionary and will be expected and required to use the dictionary constantly.
3. As soon as the student learns the *aleph-beth*, the student will begin reading Hebrew biblical text.
4. The student will be taught the major reading markers (morphemes) so that the student can learn to read the text in a manner similar to that with which they read English and other languages. The emphasis falls on discerning the meaningful units in each case.
5. The student will be introduced to the major reference works for biblical Hebrew.

**Secondary Outcomes**

6. The student will learn how to observe and how to learn by observation.
7. The student will be introduced to those aspects of Ancient Near Eastern (Old Testament) culture which are evident in their readings of Hebrew and in particular those aspects which are

different from our modern cultures. This is a particular interest of the professor who will demonstrate the need for cross-cultural awareness even within the Old Testament.

8. The student will learn a lighter side to Hebrew by reading stories in *Tall Tales* which is a collection of children's stories told in biblical Hebrew. This reading facilitates learning to read more quickly and to read for amusement and pleasure.
9. The student will be introduced to the basic principles of exegesis.

### **Required Texts**

The required texts for this course are:

Gary D. Pratico, Miles V. Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew; Grammar, Workbook and CD-ROM.* (Zondervan, 2001).

Brown, Francis, Driver, S.R., Briggs, Charles A. *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Clarendon Press, 1907).

Ethelyn Simon, Irene Resnikoff, Linda Motzkin and Susan Noss. *Tall Tales Told in Biblical Hebrew* (EKS Publishing Co., Oakland, CA, 1994).

There are several tools available to help memorize vocabulary. How to memorize vocabulary will be discussed in class. However you need to choose one of the following.

- a. *FlashWorks* via an internet connection.
- b. R.B. Dillar, *Hebrew Vocabulary Cards* (Vis-Ed, Springfield, 1981).
- c. A purchased computer program or something off of the internet. E.g. *Biblical Hebrew Vocabulary* produced by Memorization Technology.
- d. Make your own cards. Be accurate!

The following items are highly recommended to those students who wish to begin using their knowledge of Hebrew in Old Testament exegesis immediately.

Walter Kaiser, *Toward an Exegetical Theology* (Baker, 1981).

Douglas Stuart, *Old Testament Exegesis: A Primer for Students and Pastors* (Westminster Press, 1984).

### **Course Schedule**

This course meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:15 to 9:30 a.m. in one of the class rooms of the Canadian Theological Seminary.

Special dates to remember are:

September 27	Day of Prayer (no CTS classes)
October 26-27	Missions Emphasis Days (no CTS classes)
November 8	Two Part Test
November 10-11	Mid-semester Break

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November 29  
December 16-21  
December 21

Word Study / Reference Works Project is due.  
Final Examination as scheduled by the Registrar.  
The Day beyond which no professor can grant an extension for incomplete work. This is the Day by which you must apply to the Dean and/or Registrar's Office for an extension beyond this the Day!

### **Course Requirements**

In addition to the work in preparing each lesson and completing the assignments in the workbook as directed, each student will:

- a. write weekly quizzes testing vocabulary and points of grammar,
- b. write a two part test (in class closed book and take-home) as scheduled in the semester,
- c. complete "word study / reference works project" which is a study of a Hebrew word in the various selected reference works available for studying Hebrew and write an evaluation of the works used (A list of possible Hebrew words, the selected reference works and criteria for grading this assignment will be made available.),
- d. learn how to read the Hebrew lexicon, *BDB* (Brown-Driver-Briggs),
- e. write the final examination during the scheduled examination week,
- f. Remember The Rules For The Class

Have fun!

Make mistakes!

Ask dumb questions!

Cheat! (Except on the tests and the final.)

Consider this classroom a safe zone! There are no dumb questions! There are no topics which are off limit.

### **Course Grade**

The final grade will be determined as follows:

- 20% -- weekly vocabulary/grammar quizzes
- 20% -- Mid-Term Test
- 20% -- Word Study / Reference Works Project
- 40% -- Final Examination

### **Important Notes**

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1. All hand written texts and examinations must be written in ink. All other assignments must be submitted in electronic form via email. These assignments must be MS Word format and must use Greek and/or Hebrew fonts. The fonts will be made available to students.
2. You may contact your professor by various means.
  - a. Office Hours on campus:
    - i. Monday Afternoons
    - ii. Tuesday When not in class. Over lunch
    - iii. Wednesday By Appointment Only
    - iv. Thursday When not in class. Over lunch.
    - v. Friday By Appointment Only
  - b. Email in the office: [rrem@cbccts.ca](mailto:rrem@cbccts.ca)
  - c. Email at home: [remindachs@telus.net](mailto:remindachs@telus.net)
  - d. Voice in the office: 410-2000 ext 7906
  - e. Voice at home: 946-4635
3. Absences are intolerable because of the nature of the subject being learned and the manner in which this course is taught, namely the inductive method. If you must miss a class please work through the lesson(s) missed and then come to the instructor with any problems or questions. In the event you cannot be prepared, you are better being in class unprepared than not in class at all.
4. The instructor shall comply with all academic regulations as printed in the current *Catalogue* and *Student Handbook*, and it is the student's responsibility to be familiar with these regulations. The following academic policies are particularly relevant.
  - a. **Add/Drop Policy:** Students wishing to add a course should refer to the current academic calendar for the last day to officially enter the class. Students intending to withdraw from a course must complete the relevant Registration Revision form. The dates by which students may voluntarily withdraw from a course without penalty are contained in the Calendar of Events in the academic calendar.
  - b. **Course Extensions or Alternative Examination Requests:** Students may not turn in course work after the date of the scheduled final examination for the course unless they have received permission for a "Course Extension." Alternative times for final examinations cannot be scheduled without prior approval. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination times must be submitted to the Registrar's Office two weeks prior to examination week (noted as the "Last Day for Alternative Exam or Course Extension Requests" on the academic calendar). Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."
  - c. **Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty.** The seminary maintains a zero tolerant policy on plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Plagiarism and academic dishonesty can result in a failing grade for an assignment for the course, or immediate dismissal

from the seminary. Even unintentional plagiarism is to be avoided at all costs. Students are expected to be familiar with the policy statements in the current academic calendar and the student handbook that deal with plagiarism, academic dishonesty (cheating), and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean.



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**HEB 100-1 *Biblical Hebrew* (3)**