

**OT 510A BIBLICAL HEBREW 1
9/9-12/9 (ONLINE)
FALL 2019**

Last revised: 04/09/2019

**Missio Seminary exists to produce missional Christian leaders-
men and women who incarnate the story of Jesus with humility and authenticity and who
communicate the story with fidelity to Scripture, appreciation of the Christian tradition,
and sensitivity to the needs and aspirations of postmodern culture.**

INSTRUCTOR

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Office hours I am generally in my office on weekdays, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Step back in time and listen to God's story in the original language of the Old Testament. Appreciate the linguistic link to different eras and cultures and the God who spoke in and through them. Learn the sights, sounds, and syntax of biblical Hebrew (Hebrew 1) and explore the structure and significance of Old Testament narrative by translating chapters of Genesis (Hebrew 2).

The course is delivered entirely online and is designed so that students progress through the course on a weekly basis as a cohort. An asynchronous discussion component is built into each week of the course. Synchronous sessions can be arranged if desired. *Three hours*

PERSONAL NOTE FROM THE PROFESSOR

Learning Hebrew is a scary prospect to most seminary students. The writing seems "backwards", the letters look strange, and there are no mental hooks on which to hang the vocabulary since Hebrew comes from a completely different language family than English. And what motivation is there to learn the biblical languages since there are so many more immediately relevant things to attend to in the work of the kingdom (not to mention the preponderance of good Bible translations already available)?

A significant part of being missional is learning to listen to others' stories in their own words and, if possible, *in their own language*. God chose to reveal the first part of his story through a Canaanite dialect to a people he chose out of many nations of the ancient near east. Learning Hebrew helps us to step back in time and listen to that story as he gave it, in order to better see its implications as the Spirit continues to speak through that story today - to us and to a world of many languages and "dialects". I hope this will spur you on with anticipation as we proceed on this online journey over the next few months.

Studying a language takes a lot of work. Taking an online course requires discipline and self-motivation. Studying a language online requires a commitment from students to "count the cost" and organize their time carefully in order to be successful.

--Rick Houseknecht

GOAL OF THE COURSE

In Hebrew 1-2 our goal is to immerse you in the linguistic world of the Old Testament. The first term you will begin to explore the signs and sounds of Biblical Hebrew, as well as elementary grammar, syntax, and vocabulary. Learning Hebrew and reading the Hebrew Bible will provide you with an opportunity to listen “from inside” a particular linguistic culture, a culture in which our incarnational God revealed himself and his mission to his covenant people. Hence, this course is designed to coincide with your other seminary classes in developing your skills to exegete both the Bible and culture.

Studying Hebrew (especially online) also provides you with an opportunity to develop self-discipline and patience with regard to an investment that does not pay immediate dividends. Students often find difficulty in motivating themselves to learn a subject that does not show immediate relevance to their life and ministry. Hebrew 1-2 promise long-term benefits if you persevere, and in the process will provide exercise in the fruits of patience and self-control which are needed for various situations you will undoubtedly face as a servant of God.

PROGRAM GOALS AND COURSE OBJECTIVES

PROGRAM GOALS	COURSE OBJECTIVES
Goal 1: Students will cultivate grace-based missional lives increasingly characterized by the fruit of the Spirit, and love for God and others.	1. To develop self-discipline as a fruitful spiritual exercise.
Goal 3: Students will cultivate knowledge of the Bible and ability to humbly interpret & apply it in light of history, culture & genre.	2. To be able to recognize, write, and pronounce the Hebrew alphabet and vowel points. 3. To be able to recognize and interpret basic elements of Biblical Hebrew grammar and syntax (both nominal and verbal, through the strong verbal system). 4. To memorize and recognize in context the vocabulary occurring fifty times and up in the Hebrew Bible (by the end of Hebrew 2).

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS

ASSIGNMENT OR ASSESSMENT	RELATED OBJECTIVES	PERCENT OF GRADE	ESTIMATED TIME IN HOURS
1. Vocab quizzes	3, 4	20%	27
2. Reading, online work, & homework	all	15%	80
3. Two exams	all	50%	8
4. Spiritual discipline exercise, online discussion and reflection	1	15%	6
Total estimated time for the above assignments.			121 hours
Approximately 10 hours per week			
Note: All assignments must be submitted by the due date listed in the syllabus and no later than the final due date for the course listed in this syllabus by permission of the instructor. After the final due date, faculty cannot grant students permission to submit late work. See “Completion of Course Work” below.			

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

[Putnam, F. C. \(2010\). *A New Grammar of Biblical Hebrew*. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press.](#)
[. \(1997\). *Card-Guide to Biblical Hebrew*. Quakertown, PA: Stylus, 1996; rev. ed.](#)

RECOMMENDED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

Long, G. A. (2002). *Grammatical Concepts 101 for Biblical Hebrew*. Peabody: Hendrickson.

Highly recommended for students whose first language is not English or who simply feel weak in English grammar. The relevant sections can be read long with the topics in the schedule below.

Silzer, P. J. and T. J. Finley. (2004). *How Biblical Languages Work*. Grand Rapids: Kregel.

A nice introduction to learning Hebrew and Greek; the final chapter includes some practical tips for learning the languages.

WEBSITES:

<https://paradigmsmasterpro.com/>

Paradigm quizzes for Hebrew verbs.

<http://www.animatedhebrew.com/lectures/index.html>

View "white board" lectures on topics we will cover this year. Included other resources as well.

<http://www.bible101.org/hebrew/home.html>

Summary notes on first year Hebrew (based on Page Kelley's grammar), including vocab quizzes and exercises (incomplete).

<http://www.bible-researcher.com/links08.html>

Includes many links relating to the Hebrew Bible.

<http://www.mechon-mamre.org/p/pt/ptmp3prq.htm>

Hear someone read the entire Hebrew Bible out loud! You can select the book and chapter

CLASS PROCEDURES

The Weekly Outlines contain the information you will need for each week's readings, lectures, activities, and assignments. You will find the weekly outlines on the online course site for that week.

Our weeks generally run from Tuesday and ends on Monday night at Midnight, PST. No work will be assigned or due on Sunday, and you are encouraged to take a sabbath rest. All posts and assignments will be due as noted, PST, on the day indicated. As a general rule, homework is due on **Mondays** and **Thursdays** by 11:59 p.m. PST.

DISCUSSION FORUMS

The first discussion assignment is to answer the "getting to know you" questions. Please read one another's entries and feel free to interact.

Interaction with classmates is a challenge for students in an online course. To encourage this, you are required to post at least one question for each assignment. You are encouraged to post and discuss more, so this is a bare minimum. You may receive extra credit (added to one of your exams) for answering any fellow students' questions (correctly) regarding the exercises before those exercises are due. This use of the discussion forum is not to have others "get you the right answers," but to raise issues that you don't understand as you work through the homework. Your questions should be specific, e.g., how does this verb function with this noun in #7? Or how do I know which word this adjective modifies in # 3?

You will also discuss your spiritual discipline project with your classmates on three occasions. You must respond to the question posted for the day, and interact with at least one other group member. Please take this exercise seriously and encourage one another.

Please note: The discussion forum is not optional. It is a graded part of your online learning experience. Interacting with the instructor and fellow students is integral to your learning experience, so please take full advantage of the discussion forum.

ASKING QUESTIONS DURING THE COURSE

As mentioned above, you should ask questions about the exercises (or lessons) through the online discussion forum. Though I encourage students to answer these as much as possible, I will chime in as often as the situation warrants. I would prefer to answer questions via the discussion forum so all students can see the interaction, rather than by private email.

If you do need to contact me privately, please use the email link on the online course site. In general, I will check my email from the class several times per week at random times. My goal is to respond to your email within 24 hours. Saturdays and Sundays are days when I do not check email regularly, so plan accordingly.

CLASS PARTICIPATION STANDARDS

Attendance and presence are required for this class. You are expected to contribute to the required discussion forums. In the required online forums you are expected to post a substantive contribution to the discussion at that time. Basically it means that you will add to the discussion with a well supported position, perspective, related issues, or other insight.

Assignments will be posted in the Weekly Outline. Be aware of deadlines for posts and for assignments that are turned into the instructor.

DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS

Vocab Quizzes and Exams

Vocab quizzes must be taken online twice each week by the assigned due dates. Each quiz will generally consist of 10 Hebrew words to be glossed (translated) into English, and a question associated with the week's assignments (e.g., parsing a verb, learning a paradigm, etc.). The first 6 quizzes are cumulative, and afterward will concentrate on one new list, the previous list, and one review list (see the Weekly Outlines). The first quiz will cover the Hebrew alphabet (and you will need to download and print it, since you need to be able to write the Hebrew letters). Because these quizzes are "on your honor", the last question on each quiz will ask if you have cheated in any way.

Quizzes not completed by the due date will be marked down 10% for each day late (down 50% after four days), but your three lowest quiz grades will be dropped at the end of the course. Therefore you have three "freebies". NOTE: Online quizzes are mostly short answer. After you are finished you may review the quiz to see what answers you missed, but it is possible that you may have a correct answer that will show up as "incorrect" since the program evaluates automatically. I will check your quizzes and give you credit for any correct answer that may show up as incorrect in the online evaluation. Your quiz grades will be posted in the online course gradebook.

Exams are cumulative, and may consist of grammar, translation, parsing, and paradigms. You will designate a proctor for your midterm and final (not a family member; a pastor or church worker is recommended) and email her/his name and address to me by the end of the second week of class. Your proctor must be present at your exam, and will sign off and fax/send it.

Homework

Homework is essential for learning the concepts and material discussed in class and in the text. Please read the assigned pages in the text and view the narrated PowerPoints before working through the exercises. It is a good idea to read through the text once, view the PowerPoint, and then read the text again. Please read the enrichment sections at the end of each lesson.

For the exercises, I will not be looking for perfect answers, but rather for completeness and effort. Homework will be graded on the following scale, per assignment:

On time and complete: 100%

Incomplete: percentage completed

Late: minus 10% per day, up to the 4th day. After this it will remain 50% (if fully completed) unless it is not turned in at all – so please do your homework even if it is not on time.

I will drop your lowest homework grade.

Because of this, it completely defeats the purpose of the course to copy from an English translation. Do the work as best you can and work towards understanding, not towards perfect translations. I do not mind if you check a translation after you have completed your work, but please show clearly on your homework what was your original work and what was your “corrected” work.

If you have questions, make use of the online forum to query your classmates. Chances are that others will have the same questions as you, and some will be able to provide explanations (as you may be able to do in other circumstances).

TURNING IN HOMEWORK: Homework should be uploaded on the e-campus course links for each assignment. You may transliterate Hebrew using the transliteration guide posted online, or use a Hebrew font (you may use the Teknia Hebrew font that comes with the Teknia program (CD) or downloaded BWHEB from <http://www.bibleworks.com/fonts.html>; you may use other Hebrew fonts, but be sure to embed them in your documents).

CHECKING HOMEWORK: I will check your homework for completeness, but you should check your homework for accuracy against the key that will be available on the online course site after the assignment is due. **It is very important that you go over your homework with the key and make sure that you understand any mistakes you may have made.** If there is something you still don't understand, post your question in the online discussion forum or contact me directly.

You should set aside at least 8-10 hours per week for your study of Hebrew. It is best to distribute this time as equally as possible over the week.

Self-Discipline Exercise and Reflection

Language study requires self-discipline. To reinforce this, you will develop a plan of self-discipline during the term. You could choose a weekly 24 hour “fast” from something such as food, social media, or TV. You could choose to be involved in a mercy ministry which you have not been involved in before, or set apart a half hour each day to pray. Whatever it is, you should practice something you do not currently do so that you may grow in self-discipline, whether it is “fasting” or practicing a spiritual discipline in a new way. You should submit your plan by the second week via email or fax, noting how you will go about practicing this discipline during the term, and goals you have (i.e., what you hope to learn and gain through the experience). A 1-2 page reflection paper is due the last class, which should answer the following questions:

Was I faithful to my plan? If not, why not?

Did I achieve my goals? If not, why not?

What did I learn or experience that I didn't anticipate?

Did your classmates help/encourage you in any specific ways? How?

Will I continue this as a spiritual discipline? Why or why not?

In all honesty, how would I grade my own efforts with regard to self-discipline and this class? (Give a percentage).

This exercise in spiritual formation is important, and will count for 20% of the course grade (made up largely of the grade you give yourself).

Discussion Board

You will discuss your progress with the fasting exercise on three separate occasions during the course of the term. You must post a substantial contribution to the week's question(s) and respond to at least one other member of your group. The questions and due dates are listed on the appropriate weekly course sheets.

AudioBible

You are required to listen to biblical passages on the AudioBible on a number of times. It is important to both hear and pronounce Hebrew. Hearing the sounds of a language help to learn a language, even if our goal is not to communicate in Hebrew to one another. Please make sure you complete these assignments.

Optional Exercises/Further study

There are a number of tools you may take advantage of as you learn each lesson – see the website links above and on the weekly assignment sheets. Animated Hebrew gives detailed lectures on the material. Other exercises from several websites are available to help you learn various forms and grammatical principles. If you complete the requirements for the week and are still fuzzy on the concepts, please make use of these tools.

How to Label and Submit Assignments

Assignments are submitted in the e-campus assignments links as a Word document. Please label assignments with YOUR NAME and the ASSIGNMENT # or Title.

COURSE SCHEDULE WITH TOPIC, ASSIGNMENTS, SUBMISSION METHOD, AND DUE DATES

WEEK 1: 9/9
Introduction and Alphabet Vowels
WEEK 2: 9/17
Syllables The Noun
WEEK 3: 9/24
The (Qal) Imperfect The (Qal) Preterite
WEEK 4: 10/1
Prepositions Commands & Prohibitions

WEEK 5: 10/8
The Construct Chain The (Qal) Perfect
WEEK 6: 10/15
Adjectives The (Qal) Participle
WEEK 7: 10/22
Exam Independent Pronominals
WEEK 8: 10/29
Pronominal Suffixes Stative Verbs and hyh
WEEK 9: 11/5
The (Qal) Infinitives Questions, Negation, Numerals
WEEK 10: 11/12
The Other Stems; Niphal (N-Stem)
WEEK 11: 11/19
Piel, Pual, & Hitpael (D Stems)
THANKSGIVING BREAK: 11/26-28 (NO CLASS)
WEEK 12: 11/29 (FRIDAY TO THURSDAY)
Hiphal and Hophal (H stems)
WEEK 13: 12/6
Qal Passive; Recognizing Verbal Forms Final

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY AND ACADEMIC POLICIES

Academic Policies: Students are fully responsible to know and follow all seminary rules, regulations, and deadlines published in Missio Seminary's Academic Catalog, and all requirements concerning their degree programs. The catalog is found on Missio e-campus.

Course Syllabus: Students are fully responsible to know and fulfill the requirements stated in the course syllabus. Students should speak with the professor about issues related to course work and deadlines during the course. See "Completion of Course Work" below for policies on course extensions.

E-campus Course Site: Students are fully responsible for course content and materials that are posted on the course site. Students are encouraged to check the course site frequently during the course. Student usage of the course site is tracked by the software and monitored by the professor of the course. Students who experience difficulty accessing or using the E-campus should email helpdesk@missio.edu and include their student ID# in their correspondence.

Academic and General Integrity: As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to integrity and Christ-likeness in all areas of life. What this means in the academic realm is that the completion of all assignments and assessments are to reflect your own work. Cheating includes (but is not limited to) representing another's work as your own (such as a Bible version) or copying someone else's homework, quiz, or test, (in current or past classes). Students found cheating will receive a zero for the assignment, quiz, or exam (and perhaps the course), and may face further action by the academic office, such as expulsion from school. See Missio's catalog for more information on plagiarism and Missio's policies related to cheating and plagiarism.

TECHNICAL HELP

A limited kind of help can be provided to students needing technical help. Questions related to computers, system failures or problems cannot be accommodated. Students are responsible to maintain their computer and computer access to the Internet. **Students are responsible to secure their own help for computer problems during the course.** Missio's help desk is for online course site problems that originate with the institution rather than problems related to the student's technical knowledge, or computer or Internet difficulties.

Assistance with the online course site are within the scope of the Help Desk. The Help Desk is open during the weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Email questions to the institutional technology department at helpdesk@missio.edu or call 215-368-5000 x138. Weekend, evening or holiday questions will be answered on the next weekday. Please plan accordingly.

ATTENDANCE POLICY AND GRADES

Although there are no required on-site class meetings, students are expected to be fully engaged in the online class and complete assignments on time, with due dates twice each week.

COMPLETION OF COURSE WORK – VARIANCE FORMS

All course work is to be completed by the last day of classes for the term or by the date posted in the course syllabus. Extensions to this time limit will be made only by the academic affairs committee. The individual faculty member does not have the authority to grant any extensions of time beyond the last class of the term. Requests for extensions must be made in writing to the committee at least one week prior to the last day of classes. Variance forms for this purpose are available in the academic office or on Missio's website. All requests should specify the reasons for the extension and the length of the extension desired. Requests are not automatically granted. Go to <https://missio.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/academics-variance-request-form.pdf>.

STUDENT COURSE EVALUATIONS

Student course evaluations are an important part of Missio’s commitment to continuous improvement. Students are required to complete the course evaluation within one week of the final due date of the course.

STUDENT PC SECURITY

Missio Seminary recognizes the need for computer use throughout the entire educational process today. Computers equipped with Internet access and applications that help deliver information and knowledge are vital. Students are encouraged to bring their electronic computing devices to campus to facilitate their course work and supplemental activities. Given the current climate of online dangers such as viruses, malware, phishing scams, and other related risks it is critical to secure all such devices regardless if they’re being used on campus or not. Please take the appropriate steps to safeguard the security of your own electronic devices to protect the integrity of the student network on campus and provide a safe computing environment for everyone to use.

GRADING SYSTEM

To remain in good academic standing, a student must maintain the grade point average designated for his or her program (see Missio’s Academic Catalog for details).

MISIO SEMINARY GRADING SYSTEM			
A	4.00	93.0 -100	Superior
A-	3.67	90.0 – 92.9	
B+	3.33	87.0 – 89.9	
B	3.00	83.0 – 86.9	Good
B-	2.67	80.0 – 82.9	
C+	2.33	77.0 – 79.9	
C	2.00	73.0 – 76.9	Fair
C-	1.70	70.0 – 72.9	
D+	1.30	67.0 – 69.9	Poor
D	1.00	63.0 – 66.9	
D-	.70	60.0 – 62.9	
F	0.00	00. - 59.9	Failing