

BIBL6102: Hebrew Readings

North Park Theological Seminary
Spring 2013
Day and Time TBD

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Welcome to Hebrew Readings! This course is an opportunity for all of us to grow in our understanding of the Hebrew language and the texts of the Hebrew Bible. My hope is that you will be both challenged and blessed by our time together and that you will come away from this course with a deep appreciation for God's Hebrew Word and with an understanding of the language, texts, and tools that you will be able to incorporate into your future ministry.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, students translate and discuss selected texts from the Hebrew Bible in order to enhance their facility with the Hebrew language. 1 credit hour.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To increase knowledge of Hebrew grammar and vocabulary.
- To develop an understanding of Hebrew syntax.
- To become familiar with tools for studying Hebrew texts.
- To gain confidence, proficiency, and speed in reading, translating, and exegeting Hebrew texts.
- To discuss the ways in which all of these can be used to enhance ministry.

COURSE TEXTS

Required:

Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia (BHS).

Recommended for purchase (only about \$20 and very useful!):

Arnold, Bill T. & Choi, John H. *A Guide To Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Recommended reference tools:

Gesenius, W. & Kautzsch, E. *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar*. 2nd ed. Oxford: Clarendon, 1995.

Joüon, Paul & Muraoka, T. *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew*. Roma: Editrice Pontificio Istituto Biblio, 1993.

Waltke, Bruce & O'Connor, Murphy. *An Introduction to Hebrew Syntax*. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 1990.

Williams, Ronald J. *William's Hebrew Syntax*. 3rd ed. Toronto: University of Toronto, 2007.

Recommended basic grammars, vocabulary help, and other tools:

Groom, Sue. *Linguistic Analysis of Biblical Hebrew*. Waynesboro, GA: Paternoster, 2003.

Landes, George M. *Building Your Biblical Hebrew Vocabulary: Learning Words by Frequency and Cognate*. Atlanta: SBL, 2001.

Pratico, Gary, & Van Pelt, Miles. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.

Seow, C. L. *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1995.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This course is designed as a pass/fail course. If you would like to take it for a grade, talk to Luke.

1. **Preparation:** Students should come to class prepared to discuss the text for the week. Please try to have a *minimum of ten verses* translated from where we left off the previous week. With that said, *this course is for your own self-improvement and understanding of Hebrew!* If you find that you are able to translate quickly, feel free to move ahead or talk to Luke about other passages that you could move on to (if you happen to get through our selected texts). Students should seek/expect/strive to spend about two (2) hours outside of class per week working with the Hebrew language.
2. **Participation:** Students are expected to participate in class by reading, translating, parsing, answering questions, discussing, speculating, asking questions, and having fun! Attendance is expected at all class sessions. If you are unable to make it to one, please let Luke know. *You may be asked to turn in translation notes for any class periods you miss.*
3. **Translation Notes:** These are for your own benefit, but please take good notes as you are translating. See below for what should be included in this. You may be asked at some point to turn in some of your work so that Luke can see how you are coming along. As noted above, if you miss a class period, you may be asked to turn in your notes for the verses covered in that class.

TRANSLATION TEXTS

Texts for the semester are TBD. We will probably try to spend some time focusing on Hebrew poetry (as the Fall term focused on narrative), but that depends upon the composition of the class. Feel free to offer suggestions. There is no set pace for the class and so we will simply work through texts and select new ones as needed.

When you are translating you should *parse all verbs* (Luke will be asking you about these), and come up with a *literal-ish translation* (you can rearrange some syntax and all that to make it a coherent English sentence, but try to keep it as close as possible to the Hebrew). Also, write down any **questions**, try to recognize **strange forms**, take note of **what is happening with syntax**, think about **theological implications and literary forms**, and anything else that seems relevant or that you would like to talk about.