



**MCMASTER DIVINITY COLLEGE/MCMASTER UNIVERSITY
COURSE SYLLABUS
FALL 2015**

INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL HEBREW 1 (HEB 2AO3)

INSTRUCTOR: MARY L. CONWAY, PH.D.

Divinity College Room 228

Phone: 1.905.525.9140 x26002

Email: conwam2@mcmaster.ca

This course will take place on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 3:30-5:00 p.m.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to biblical Hebrew in order to impart an active knowledge of the language. This course sets students on a journey of learning Hebrew, which will greatly enhance their capacity for study in the biblical texts and prove a tremendous aid to interpretation. Students will learn the Hebrew alphabet, pronunciation, and the basics of the grammar, syntax, and vocabulary of the language of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament. Emphasis will be on morphology (words and their forms) and syntax (how words fit together to make coherent sentences). The course also places a strong emphasis on acquiring a broad Hebrew vocabulary. During this course students will begin to read the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible in its original language.



N.B.: The study of Hebrew is very challenging for most students but is very rewarding for those who persevere. You should plan on spending 1–3 hours every day preparing for and reviewing material covered in class. The secret of success is to attend every class, to complete your assignments regularly and on time, and to review what you have learned on a consistent basis.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES



a.  Knowing

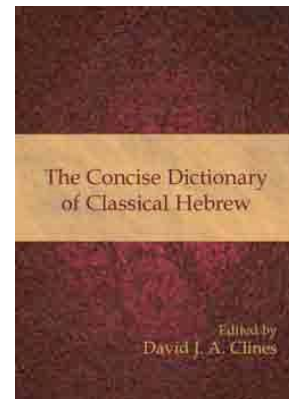
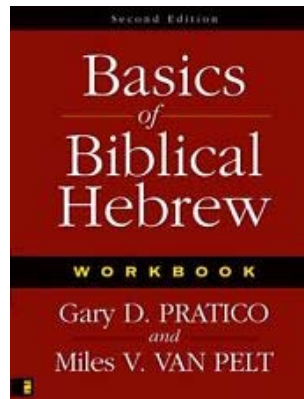
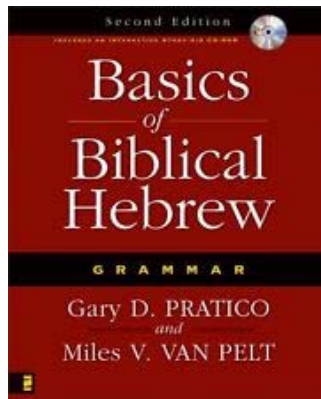
- To build a solid basic vocabulary of Classical Hebrew words
- To understand the basic forms of Hebrew words as they are used in various ways in sentences

- To understand the use of grammars and dictionaries in translating Hebrew texts
- b.  Being
- To embrace the value of understanding the original language in exegeting the biblical text
 - To enrich one's understanding of another culture through knowledge of that culture's language
- c.  Doing
- To begin to translate texts from the Hebrew Scriptures
 - To engage with the Scriptures in their original language and context

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED TEXTS

Both the textbook and workbook must be brought to every class!



Pratico, G. D., and M. V. Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007. ISBN: 978-0310270201

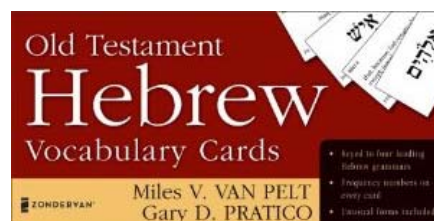
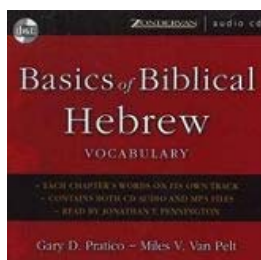
Pratico, G. D., and M. V. Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Workbook*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007. ISBN: 978-0310270225

Clines, David J. A., David M. Stec, and Jacqueline C. R. De Roo. *The Concise Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix, 2009. ISBN: 978-1906055790

Note: These texts will also be used for HEB2B03, Introduction to Biblical Hebrew 2. All required textbooks for this class are available from the College's book service, R.E.A.D. On Bookstore, Room 145, McMaster Divinity College or contact R.E.A.D. On Bookstores, 304 The East Mall, Suite 100, Etobicoke, ON M9C 5K1. Phone 416.620.2934; fax 416.622.2308; e-mail books@readon.ca. Website: <http://webhome.idirect.com/~readon/bookstore.html> **XBkEducation**. Texts may be ordered ahead and sent to your home or purchased on the first day of class.

B. RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

At least one aid to learning vocabulary is strongly recommended. The following are keyed to the course text:



1. Flashworks vocabulary learning computer program <https://www.teknia.com/flashworks> (This is a free download. It is also available on the CD that is included with the text.)
2. Old Testament Hebrew Vocabulary Cards. ISBN: 978-0310259862
3. Basics of Biblical Hebrew Vocabulary Audio CD: ISBN: 978-0310270744

C. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Note: It is extremely important that you do not become dependent on Bible software programs as a substitute for learning. These programs cannot be used on tests and exams. You are **strongly** advised not to use these programs until later in the learning process. Programs such as BibleWorks, Accordance, and Logos will be very helpful research tools when you are more advanced in the language but do not take the place of basic understanding.

Grammar Tests and Translations	35%
Vocabulary Quizzes	15%
Workbook Exercises	15%
Oral Reading	5%
Final Examination	30%
Total Grade	100%

Policy for Missed Quizzes, Tests, and Assignments:

Marks will be deducted for late assignments (workbook exercises) if there is no valid reason, such as illness (a doctor's note may be required) or serious family crisis. The deduction will be 2% per day. It is essential in a language course that students keep up with their work if they are to be successful.

There will be no make up for missed quizzes/tests except in the case of illness (a doctor's note may be required) or serious family crisis. If you must miss a test or quiz due to a valid reason, you must email the professor at conwam2@mcmaster.ca as soon as possible. You must make arrangements to make up the quiz or test at the first possible opportunity.

1. Grammar Tests and Translations: 35%. At the beginning of each Monday class there will be a grammar test covering the material up to the previous class. They may include sentence translations, grammar explanations or diagramming, paradigms, and parsing, etc.

2. Vocabulary Quizzes: 15%. At the beginning of class each Wednesday there will be a vocab quiz covering material up to and including the chapter covered in the last class. These quizzes will simply ask for the English translation of 24 Hebrew words.

3. Workbook Exercises: 15%. Dates marked on course schedule with an asterisk (*). Each chapter in the textbook has a corresponding chapter in the workbook. Once a chapter has been covered in class, students must then complete the corresponding workbook pages before the next class. Workbook exercises will be handed in for grading. The actual pages from the exercise book can be torn out (or photocopied) and stapled together to be submitted (in legible handwriting). At the top of the first page please be sure to write your name.

Note: Students must show evidence in their workbooks of individual translation, such as parsing, highlighting, and tentative translations. Do not give in to the temptation to copy from an English translation. The only way to learn is by doing the translations yourself.

4. Oral Reading: 5%. Students will be tested on their oral reading of selections from the workbook. Details will be provided in class.

5. Final Exam: 30%. Details about the final exam will be given in class nearer to the date.

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE

Note: An asterisk (*) indicates a date when workbook assignments are due.

Wk	Date	Textbook	Content	Grammar Test/Vocab Quiz
1	Sept 14	Chapter 1	The Hebrew Alphabet	----
	Sept 16	Chapter 2	Hebrew Vowels	Vocabulary 1 (Ch 1, Alphabet)
2	Sept 21	Chapter 3	Syllabification and Pronunciation	Grammar 1 (Ch 1-2)
	Sept 23	Chapter 4	Hebrew Nouns	Grammar 2 (Ch 1-3)
3	Sept 28	Chapter 5	Definite Article and Conjunction Waw	Grammar 3 (Ch 1-4)
	Sept 30	Chapter 6	Hebrew Prepositions	Vocabulary 2 (to Ch 5)
4	*Oct 5	Chapter 7	Hebrew Adjectives	Grammar 4 (Ch 1-6)
	Oct 7	Chapter 8	Hebrew Pronouns	Vocabulary 3 (to Ch 7)
5	Oct 12	Thanksgiving	No Class	----
	Oct 14	Midterm recess	No Class	----
6	Oct 19	Chapter 9	Hebrew Pronominal Suffixes	Grammar 5 (Ch 1-8)
	Oct 21	Chapter 10	Hebrew Construct Chains	Vocabulary 4 (to Ch 9)

7	Oct 26	Chapter 11	Hebrew Numbers, Othniel Practice	Grammar 6 (Ch 1-10)
	Oct 28	Chapter 12	Introduction to Hebrew Verbs	Vocabulary 5 (to Ch 11)
8	*Nov 2	Chapter 13	Qal Perfect, Strong Verbs	Grammar 7 (Ch 1-12)
	Nov 4	----	Judges Practice	Vocabulary 6 (to Ch 12)
9	Nov 9	Chapter 14	Qal Perfect, Weak Verbs 1	Grammar 8 (Ch 1-13)
	Nov 11	Chapter 14	Qal Perfect, Weak Verbs 2	Vocabulary 7 (to Ch 14)
10	Nov 16	Chapter 15	Qal Imperfect, Strong Verbs 1	Grammar 9 (Ch 1-14)
	Nov 18	Chapter 15	Qal Imperfect, Strong Verbs 2	Vocabulary 8 (to Ch 15)
11	Nov 23	Chapter 16	Qal Imperfect, Weak Verbs 1	Grammar 10 (Ch 1-15)
	Nov 25	Chapter 16	Qal Imperfect, Weak Verbs 2	Vocabulary 9 (to Ch 16)
12	Nov 30	Chapter 17	Waw Consecutive 1	Grammar 11 (Ch 1-16)
	Dec 2	Chapter 17	Waw Consecutive 2	Vocabulary 10 (to Ch 17)
13	Dec 7	Chs 1–17	Review	Oral Reading Test
	Dec 9	Chs 1–17	Review	----
14	*Dec 14/16	Exam	Date to be determined	

V. CLASSROOM BEHAVIOUR, ATTENDANCE, AND PARTICIPATION

- Students are expected to be on time for class. Admittedly, unavoidable delays do occasionally happen. If you arrive late, please enter as quietly as possible and give an explanation to the professor after class.
- Students are also expected to stay for the entire class session.
- Computers and tablets should only be used for class related purposes, not for social networking and the like. Students may not have cell phones out during tests.
- All thoughtful student participation is welcome. There are no “dumb questions” or “stupid answers.” Students will respect the contributions of other students and respond to them without ridicule or scorn.
- Students may eat or drink in class as long as they do so quietly and unobtrusively and clean up afterwards.

VI. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

All assignments must adhere to the MDC Writing Style Guide, available from <http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/programs/resources-forms>.

Inclusive Language

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all of its publications. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected. The NRSV and TNIV are examples of the use of inclusive language for human beings. It is expected

that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that may take any number of forms, including plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one's own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result in severe consequences, e.g., failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on one's academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College. Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty at <http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/programs/rules-regulations>.

Disclaimer: This syllabus has been prepared with the best information available, but the professor reserves the right to make changes where necessary.