



**MCMASTER DIVINITY COLLEGE  
COURSE SYLLABUS  
FALL 2016**

**INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL HEBREW 1 (OT 1B03)**

**INSTRUCTOR: MARY L. CONWAY, PH.D.**

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Mondays and Wednesdays, from 3:30-5:00 p.m.

See the course web page on [Avenue to Learn](#) (A2L).

**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 challenging for many students but is very rewarding for those who persevere. The secret of success is to attend every class, to complete your assignments regularly and on time, and to review on a consistent basis.

**II. LEARNING OUTCOMES**



a.  Knowing

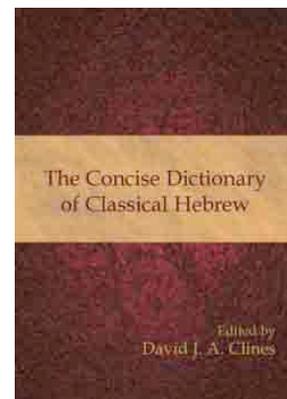
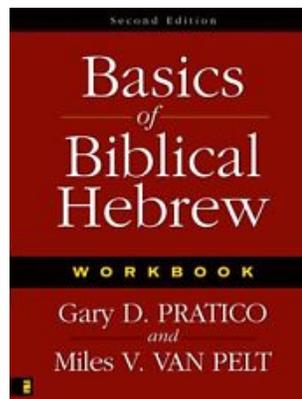
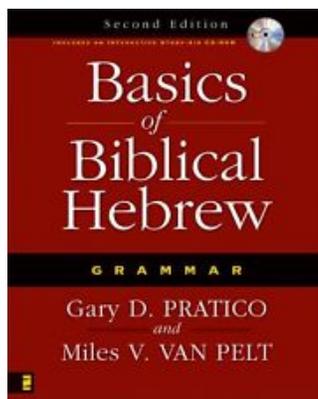
- To build a solid basic vocabulary of Classical Hebrew words
- To understand the basic forms of Hebrew words as they are used in various ways in sentences
- To understand the use of grammars and dictionaries in translating Hebrew texts

- 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
  - To deepen one's relationship with God through interacting with Scripture
- 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*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007. ISBN: 978-0310270201

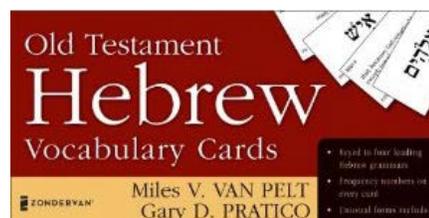
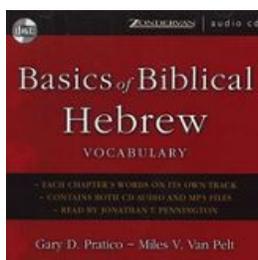
Pratico, G. D., and M. V. Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Workbook*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007. ISBN: 978-0310270225

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, READ On Bookstore, Room 145, McMaster Divinity College. Texts may be purchased on the first day of class. For advance purchase, you may contact READ On Bookstore, 5 International Blvd, Etobicoke, Ontario M9W 6H3: phone 416.620.2934; fax 416.622.2308; email [books@readon.ca](mailto:books@readon.ca). Other book services may also carry the texts.

## 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 older printings of 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.

|                                       |             |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Grammar Tests and Translations</b> | <b>35%</b>  |
| <b>Vocabulary Quizzes</b>             | <b>15%</b>  |
| <b>Workbook Exercises</b>             | <b>15%</b>  |
| <b>Oral Reading</b>                   | <b>5%</b>   |
| <b>Final Examination</b>              | <b>30%</b>  |
| <b>Total Grade</b>                    | <b>100%</b> |

### 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 5% 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](mailto: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. These 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 are marked on the 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.

I prefer that you upload PDFs of your legible workbook pages to the appropriate dropbox on Avenue to Learn. The pages may be scanned as a PDF file and uploaded. Or, you can photograph the pages clearly and convert the JPGs to one PDF file. Or, you can paste the JPGs into a single Word/RTF document and convert it to a PDF file. Most word processors have a "Save as PDF" option or you can "Print" and choose PDF as your printer to save the file. Files must be one workbook page per page and right side up. Please do NOT try and upload multiple JPGs; your upload limit is one file. Name your file by your last name and chapter numbers, e.g., "Surname Ch 18-21."

Alternately, you can tear out the pages along the perforations or photocopy them and hand them in to the instructor in class. Be sure your name is on them.

**Note:** Students must show evidence in their workbooks of individual translation, such as parsing, highlighting, and tentative translations. See the rubric and sample pages on Avenue to Learn. 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. It will consist of vocabulary, parsing, and translation of Bible verses.

#### IV. COURSE SCHEDULE

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

| Wk | Date    | Textbook  | Content                              | Grammar Test/Vocab Quiz       |
|----|---------|-----------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1  | Sept 12 | Chapter 1 | The Hebrew Alphabet                  | ----                          |
|    | Sept 14 | Chapter 2 | Hebrew Vowels                        | Vocabulary 1 (Ch 1, Alphabet) |
| 2  | Sept 19 | Chapter 3 | Syllabification and Pronunciation    | <b>Grammar 1 (Ch 1-2)</b>     |
|    | Sept 21 | Chapter 4 | Hebrew Nouns                         | Vocabulary 2 (Ch 1-3)         |
| 3  | Sept 26 | Chapter 5 | Definite Article and Conjunction Waw | <b>Grammar 2 (Ch 1-4)</b>     |

|    |         |                |                                  |                             |
|----|---------|----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
|    | Sept 28 | Chapter 6      | Hebrew Prepositions              | Vocabulary 3 (to Ch 5)      |
| 4  | *Oct 3  | Chapter 7      | Hebrew Adjectives                | <b>Grammar 3 (Ch 1-6)</b>   |
|    | Oct 5   | Chapter 8      | Hebrew Pronouns                  | Vocabulary 4 (to Ch 7)      |
| 5  | Oct 10  | Thanksgiving   | <b>No Class</b>                  | ----                        |
|    | Oct 12  | Midterm recess | <b>No Class</b>                  | ----                        |
| 6  | Oct 17  | Chapter 9      | Hebrew Pronominal Suffixes       | <b>Grammar 4 (Ch 1-8)</b>   |
|    | Oct 19  | Chapter 10     | Hebrew Construct Chains          | Vocabulary 5 (to Ch 9)      |
| 7  | Oct 24  | Chapter 11     | Hebrew Numbers, Othniel Practice | <b>Grammar 5 (Ch 1-10)</b>  |
|    | Oct 26  | Chapter 12     | Introduction to Hebrew Verbs     | Vocabulary 6 (to Ch 11)     |
| 8  | Oct 31  | Chapter 13     | Qal Perfect, Strong Verbs        | <b>Grammar 6 (Ch 1-12)</b>  |
|    | Nov 2   | Chapter 14     | Qal Perfect, Weak Verbs 1        | Vocabulary 7 (to Ch 13)     |
| 9  | *Nov 7  | Chapter 14     | Qal Perfect, Weak Verbs 2        | <b>Grammar 7 (Ch 1-13)</b>  |
|    | Nov 9   | Chapter 15     | Qal Imperfect, Strong Verbs 1    | Vocabulary 8 (to Ch 14)     |
| 10 | Nov 14  | Chapter 15     | Qal Imperfect, Strong Verbs 2    | <b>Grammar 8 (Ch 1-14)</b>  |
|    | Nov 16  | Chapter 16     | Qal Imperfect, Weak Verbs 1      | Vocabulary 9 (to Ch 15)     |
| 11 | Nov 21  | Chapter 16     | Qal Imperfect, Weak Verbs 2      | <b>Grammar 9 (Ch 1-15)</b>  |
|    | Nov 23  | ----           | Judges Practice                  | Vocabulary 10 (to Ch 16)    |
| 12 | Nov 28  | Chapter 17     | Waw Consecutive 1                | <b>Grammar 10 (Ch 1-16)</b> |
|    | Nov 30  | Chapter 17     | Waw Consecutive 2                | Vocabulary 11 (to Ch 17)    |
| 13 | Dec 5   | Chs 1–17       | Review and Practice              | ----                        |
|    | Dec 7   | Chs 1–17       | Review                           | <b>Oral Reading Test</b>    |
| 14 | *Dec 12 | <b>Exam</b>    | <b>Final Exam</b>                | <b>Ch 1-17</b>              |

## 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, tablets, and phones should only be used for class related purposes, not for social networking and the like. Students may not have cell phones or tablets 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 stylistic considerations (including but not limited to questions of formatting, footnotes, and bibliographic references) must conform to the McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses

<http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/sites/default/files/documents/mdcstyleguide.pdf>. Failure to observe appropriate form will result in grade reductions.

### **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 is the property of the instructor and is prepared with currently available information. The instructor reserves the right to make changes and revisions up to and including the first day of class.