



**MCMASTER DIVINITY COLLEGE  
COURSE SYLLABUS  
Spring 2017 (May–June)**

**INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL HEBREW 1 ONLINE (OT 1G03)**

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

Divinity College Room 228  
Phone: 1.905.525.9140 x26002  
Email: [conwam2@mcmaster.ca](mailto:conwam2@mcmaster.ca)

**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. **A follow up course on the second half of the text is offered.**

**N.B.:** The study of Hebrew is challenging for most students but is very rewarding for those who persevere. **You should plan on spending at least several hours every day listening to lectures, completing assignments, and reviewing.** You cannot “set this course aside” for a week or two while you work on a paper for another course! The secret of success is to keep to a regular schedule of study, to complete your assignments carefully and on time, and to review what you have learned on a consistent basis.

**Note:** You must have some basic familiarity with computers if you choose to take an online course. You should be able to navigate web pages, make PDF documents, and upload these files.

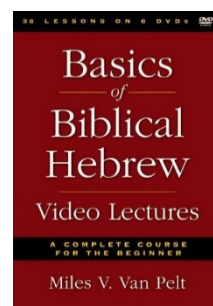
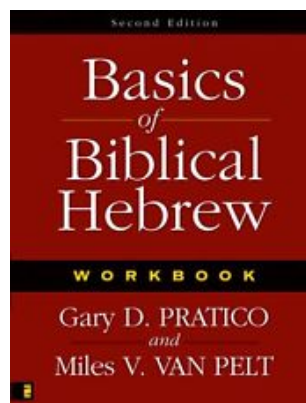
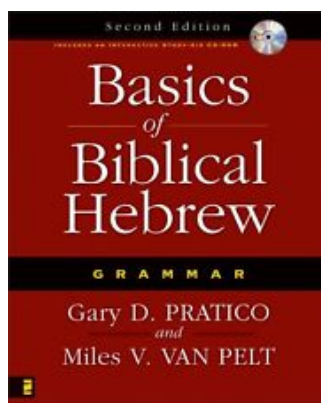
## II. LEARNING OUTCOMES



- 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

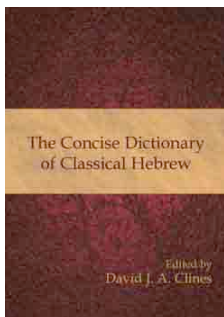
### A. REQUIRED TEXTS/MATERIALS (Also used in the follow up course.)



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

Van Pelt, Miles V. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Video Lectures: A Complete Course for the Beginner*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012. ASIN: 0310498244



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

You do not need to purchase this lexicon immediately, but it will be needed by Week 10, Nov 14-18.

**Note:** The **video lectures** may be purchased online from Amazon or Chapters-Indigo as a set of discs that covers both Hebrew 1 and 2, or purchased as individual downloads from <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/bbh>. For the second option there is “instant delivery.”

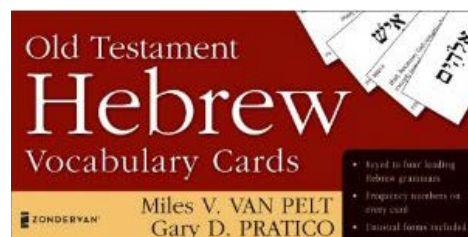
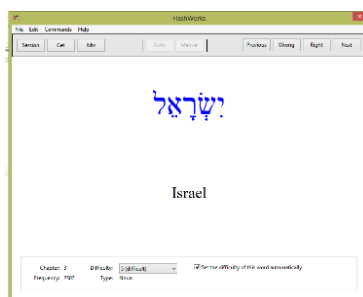
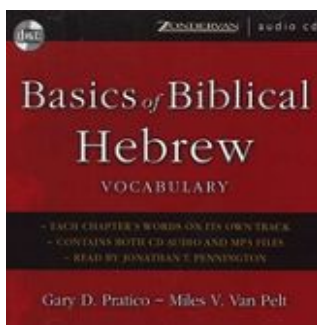
All required textbooks for this class are available from the College’s book service, R.E.A.D. On Bookstore, Room 145, McMaster Divinity College, or contact R.E.A.D. On Bookstores, 304 The East Mall, Suite 100, Etobicoke, ON M9C 5K1. Phone 416.620.2934; fax 416.622.2308; e-mail [books@readon.ca](mailto:books@readon.ca). Website: <http://webhome.idirect.com/~readon/bookstore.html#BkEducation>. Texts may be ordered ahead and sent to your home or purchased at the college.

## B. COURSE WEBSITE

A course website has been established on *Avenue to Learn*, also referred to as A2L, (<http://Avenue.mcmaster.ca/>) that contains learning resources and more detailed instructions. The link to this website will appear on A2L a few days before the course begins.

## C. 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. This is a free download from <https://www.teknia.com/flashworks>. It is also available on the CD that is included with 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
4. The Memrise app, which is available for iPhone and Android, also has an option for the BBH text.

## D. 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.

<b>Vocabulary Quizzes</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Workbook Exercises</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Term Test 1</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Term Test 2</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Total Grade</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Policy for Missed Quizzes, Tests, and Assignments:

Further details for assignments are given on the *Avenue to Learn* website. There is some flexibility in when students take tests, but they must be completed by a deadline. It is essential in a language course that students do not fall behind if they are to be successful. Marks will be deducted for late assignments or delayed tests if there is no valid reason, such as major illness (a doctor's note may be required) or a major family crisis. The deduction will be 3% per day. If you have a valid reason to request an extension, please email me at [conwam2@mcmaster.ca](mailto:conwam2@mcmaster.ca) before the due date. Please schedule your time carefully.

**1. Vocabulary Quizzes: 10%.** Students will complete brief online quizzes on the vocabulary for each chapter.

**2. Workbook Exercises: 20%.** Each chapter in the textbook has a corresponding chapter in the workbook. Once a chapter has been covered by the video lecture and text, students must then complete the corresponding workbook pages. Students are required to complete a *minimum* of every other question (1, 3, 5 or a, c, e) in each exercise. Workbook exercises will be handed in for grading on a regular basis as indicated on the schedule below. This will be done as follows:

The pages will be scanned or clearly photographed and uploaded as **one PDF file** (one workbook page to electronic page, right side up) to the Dropbox for that assignment (see A2L for more details). They will be returned to A2L within a week with comments. Every question will not be checked and corrected. Since you have an answer key and can consult the versions, you are expected to self-correct as part of the learning process. However,

helpful feedback will be given.

**Important:** Students **must** show evidence in their workbooks of individual effort, such as parsing, highlighting, tentative translations, and corrections. Examples are given on the course website. You will be evaluated by the rubric on A2L; please check this before completing your workbook. **Do not** give in to the temptation to simply copy from an English translation; this is plagiarism. The only way to learn is by doing the translations yourself. However, **after** you have completed your translation as well as you can, **be sure** to check your translation against a good, recent, fairly literal translation such as the NASB.

**3. Term Test 1: 20%.** This will cover all material from Chapters 1 to 6 and will include vocabulary, grammar, parsing, and translations.

**4. Term Test 2: 20%.** This will cover all material from Chapters 1 to 12 and will include vocabulary, grammar, parsing, and translations.

**5. Final Exam: 30%.** Review materials will be provided. The exam will cover all material from Chapters 1 to 17 and will include vocabulary, grammar, parsing, and translations.

**Important:** Learning a language is a **cumulative process**. Students will be expected to know the material from Chapter 1 in the text up to the last chapter cited, including vocabulary, for all tests and exams.

**Note:** The tests and exam must be submitted by the due dates indicated below and must be completed within an allotted time. **NOTE THAT ALL TERM TESTS AND THE EXAM, WHETHER DONE ON LINE, OFF SITE ON PAPER, OR AT THE COLLEGE ON PAPER, MUST BE PROCTORED.** This is not necessary for vocabulary quizzes. Tests/exams may be completed in one of three ways:

- (1) **At the College:** Students who live nearby may contact the instructor and arrange, at least a week before the exam, a mutually convenient time within the time frame to come in to the College to write the test/exam on paper.
- (2) **Off Site On-line:** Note that this method of taking the tests/exam will limit you as to highlighting, circling, and making notes when you do your translations since the questions are on the screen.
- (3) **Off Site on Paper:** Note that this method of taking the tests/exam allows you to highlight, circle, and make notes when you do your translations since the questions are on paper.

For (1) the professor will proctor. For (2) and (3), students must choose a responsible person, such as a pastor or teacher, to proctor the exam. This person must be approved by the instructor and the Registrar of McMaster Divinity College and the proctor must be contacted by the college before the text/exam is taken. Please allow adequate time for this to be arranged within the time frame; we must receive the proctor's name, position, and contact information (including email address) at least 10 days before the first test/exam is due to be written. The exam will be sent to this person, who will print the exam, be present with you when you write the exam to ensure that appropriate procedures are followed, and

return the exam to us for grading. Be sure the proctor is willing to serve in this capacity before you send the information to us.

#### IV. CONTACT WITH THE INSTRUCTOR

The instructor will be available via email, in person, by phone, or by Skype. Please do NOT use the built-in A2L email system, but the direct email address [conwam2@mcmaster.ca](mailto:conwam2@mcmaster.ca). On the discussion page on A2L, the student will be able to interact with any other students who may be taking the course. No marks are assigned for participating in this discussion. The student is encouraged to schedule conversations with the instructor during the semester and is responsible for initiating this interaction. Remember, there are no “dumb questions”; questioning is a good way to engage in the learning process.

#### V. COURSE SCHEDULE

Wk	Date	Text	Content	Wkbk/Tests	Vocab Quizzes
1	May 1–5	Ch. 1 Ch. 2	Introduction, The Hebrew Alphabet Hebrew Vowels		
2	May 8–12	Ch. 3 Ch. 4	Syllabification and Pronunciation Hebrew Nouns		
3	May 15–19	Ch. 5 Ch. 6	Definite Article and Conjunction Waw Hebrew Prepositions	<i>Workbook Ch. 1-4 due by Monday, May 15.</i>	Vocabulary Quiz 1 (Ch. 3-5), Thurs, May 18.
4	May 22–26	Ch. 7 Ch. 8	Hebrew Adjectives Hebrew Pronouns	<b>Term Test 1 to Ch. 6 due by Friday, May 26.</b>	Vocabulary Quiz 2 (Ch. 6-7), Thurs, May 25.
5	May 29–Jun 2	Ch. 9 Ch. 10	Hebrew Pronominal Suffixes Hebrew Construct Chains	<i>Workbook Ch. 5-8 due by Monday, May 29.</i>	Vocabulary Quiz 3 (Ch. 8-9), Thurs, June 1.
6	Jun 5–9	Ch. 11 Ch. 12 Ch. 13	Hebrew Numbers Introduction to Hebrew Verbs, Using a Lexicon Qal Perfect, Strong Verbs		Vocabulary Quiz 4 (Ch. 10-12), Thurs, June 8.
7	Jun 12–16	Ch. 14 Ch. 15	Qal Perfect, Weak Verbs Qal Imperfect, Strong Verbs	<i>Workbook Ch. 9-13 due by Monday, June 12.</i> <b>Term Test 2 to Ch. 12 due by Wednesday, June 14.</b>	Vocabulary Quiz 5 (Ch. 13-14), Thurs, June 15.
8	Jun 19–23	Ch. 16 Ch. 17	Qal Imperfect, Weak Verbs Waw Consecutive		Vocabulary Quiz 6 (Ch. 15-16), Thurs, June 22.
9	Jun 26–30	Exam Week		<i>Workbook Ch. 14-17 due by Monday, June 26.</i> <b>Exam Due Date Thursday, June 29.</b>	



## VI. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

All assignments must adhere to the MDC Writing Style Guide, available from <https://mcmasterdivinity.ca/sites/default/files/documents/mdcstyleguide.pdf>.

### **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.