



Birmingham Theological Seminary
2200 Briarwood Way
Birmingham, Alabama 35243
(205) 776-5650

OT1021 - Beginning Hebrew II Syllabus

Semester: Spring 2026

Day & Time: Monday 7:30 - 9:30 PM

Professor: William Stroup

Email: bill@stroups.net

Course: OT 1021 Beginning Hebrew II

Room: A202

Credits: 2

Phone: 205 586 9152

Course Note: Our goal is to learn Hebrew; not just to make a grade nor fulfill a requirement.

Course Description: OT1020 Beginning Hebrew I

This course offers an introductory study to the fundamentals of Biblical Hebrew including the basics of Hebrew writing (alphabet, vowels, syllabification and punctuation), the Hebrew nominal system, and the Hebrew verbal system.

Course Objectives:

The purpose of this course is to equip the student with the essential vocabulary and grammatical framework with which to read and, with some degree of accuracy, to translate the Hebrew Old Testament.

Required Texts:

Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar: Third Edition (Zondervan Language Basics Series)
Third Edition by Gary D. Pratico (Author), Miles V. Van Pelt (Author)

Basics of Biblical Hebrew Workbook: Third Edition (Zondervan Language Basics Series)
by Gary D. Pratico and Miles V. Van Pelt | Feb 5, 2019

Biblical Hebrew Laminated Sheet (Zondervan Get an A! Study Guides) Pamphlet

Collateral or Recommended Texts:

English Grammar to Ace Biblical Hebrew Paperback – Illustrated, April 12, 2010
by Miles V. Van Pelt (Author)

Course Requirements and Assessments

Students will be graded as follows:

- 50% completion of the workbook on time
- 40% weekly vocabulary quizzes
- 10% class participation

BTS Format, Style, and Writing Standards:

All research papers must be formatted in accordance with Turabian Chicago standards including the title page. All papers are to be #12 font Times New Roman and Double-Spaced. Any paper not conforming to these standards will automatically be dropped one letter grade. Please see the BTS Turabian Style Guide for more information on turning in papers and assignments.

The BTS Turabian Style Guide and other resources are available on the BTS Writing Center webpage: <https://www.btswritingcenter.net/>

In addition, the Writing Center runs 2-3 Writing Workshops every semester. They are very helpful and highly recommended.

BTS Plagiarism / Generative AI Policy

In addition to the BTS plagiarism policy, BTS is implementing a new Generative AI policy. Unless clearly directed by the instructor, the students should submit their own work, independent of artificial intelligence tools. Use of generative AI to write papers or to write significant portions of assignments is considered an ethical violation of our Student Code of Conduct and to be a violation of general academic integrity, which could result in a zero on the assignment and/or a lowered letter grade for the course by the professor. If determined to be an egregious violation, it could lead to further sanctions administered through the Academic Committee, including expulsion from BTS.

Course Schedule:

DAY	DATE	AGENDA / TOPIC
Monday	Jan 26	<p>Readings and Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pratico Chapter 18 <p>Assignments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workbook Chapter 18

Monday	Feb 2	Readings and Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pratico Chapter 19 Assignments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workbook Chapter 19 • Vocab Quiz 19
Monday	Feb 9	Readings and Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pratico Chapter 20 Assignments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workbook Chapter 20 • Vocab Quiz 20
Monday	Feb 16	Readings and Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pratico Chapter 21 • 6 Assignments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workbook Chapters 21 • Vocab Quiz Chapters 21
Monday	Feb 23	Spring Break
Monday	Mar 2	Reading and Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practico Chapter 22-23 Assignments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workbook 22 - 23 • Vocab quiz 22 -23
Monday	Mar 9	Readings and Materials

Monday	Mar 16	<p>Reading and Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practico Chapter 24-25 <p>Assignments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workbook 24 • Vocab quiz 24-25
Monday	Mar 23	<p>Reading and Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practico Chapter 26-27 <p>Assignments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workbook 26 • Vocab quiz 26-27
Monday	Mar 30	<p>Reading and Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practico Chapter 28-29 <p>Assignments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workbook 28 • Vocab quiz 28-29
Monday	April 6	<p>Reading and Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practico Chapter 30-31 <p>Assignments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workbook 30 • Vocab quiz 30-31
Monday	April 13	<p>Reading and Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practico Chapter 32-35 <p>Assignments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workbook 32 & 34 • Vocab quiz 32-35

Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to demonstrate punctuality and attend all class sessions. Any absences should be communicated to the professor beforehand. Students may miss up to three classes with impunity.

[NOTE: Standard BTS Attendance Policy is that students may not miss any more than three classes without a course penalty. Given the reality of distance-based students and video conference options, if students **clearly identify at the beginning of the semester that they will primarily be asynchronous students (depending on the digital recording of class because of a conflict with their schedule)**, then the student may attend without incurring a penalty for their “absences,” providing they are turning in all their work on time. Please see the BTS Faculty Handbook for more information on synchronous and asynchronous video conference students and policies and the commitments a faculty member agrees to when they teach a video conference or a live hybrid class]

Class Policies and Procedures:

- BTS highly recommends using handwritten note taking methods in class and keeping computer usage to a minimum.
- Other electronics should be used sparingly.
- All assignments must be submitted by email by 11:59 (CDT/CST) on the due date.
- Late assignments will incur a -3 point deduction per weekday after the due date, except in cases of emergency communicated to the professor.
- Missed tests/exams may only be made up with an excused absence, preferably in advance of class. Excused absence tests/exams must be made up before the final day of the semester.

Video Conference Policies and Procedures:

- Please utilize the BTS “Best VC (Video Conference) Practices” information for the course.
- Laptops/Desktops are the preferred method of attending a video conference course. Information will be shared on the screen, so phones will be less useful.

- In Video Conference, it is preferable for the student to keep their video on (when possible) so that students and faculty may engage with one another. Extended periods of dark screen will result in follow-up and potential removal from class.
- Other electronics should be used sparingly.

Course Bibliography / Extended Bibliography

This is generally a good list for students to use in doing research for papers. It can be anywhere from 20 works to 100 works. Books in this list do not need to conform to traditional reformed standards, but it is the recommendation of the administration that a brief amount of time spent with students walking through the Extended Bibliography identifying potentially useful research texts or texts that argue from outside the reformed tradition to avoid student confusion.

GRADING CRITERIA AND ASSESSMENT RUBRIC

A to A-	B to B-	C to C-	D to D-
Correct spelling and grammar/punctuation	Minor errors in spelling or grammar/punctuation	Multiple errors in spelling or grammar/punctuation per page	Difficult to read due to English writing errors
Smooth writing that provides for effective and efficient reading	Writing is acceptable, but not as organized and coherent	Writing is not smooth, sometimes confusing and inconsistent	Writing lacks clarity, focus, structure, and is incoherent
Person and format are proper for assignment	Person and format are inconsistent	Person and format are not appropriate	Person and format are totally inappropriate
Scripture, paraphrases, quotes, and summaries are appropriately used, cited, and clearly supports main argument	Scripture, paraphrases, quotes, and summaries are appropriate but need more depth and use of critical thinking	Scripture, paraphrases, quotes, and summaries are inadequate for main argument and do not reflect understanding	Scripture, paraphrases, quotes, and summaries are improperly used, over used, under used, or cited in error
Paper completely conforms to <i>Turabian's Manual for Writers</i>	Paper generally conforms to <i>Turabian's Manual for Writers</i>	Paper somewhat conforms to <i>Turabian's Manual for Writers</i>	Paper does not conform to <i>Turabian's Manual for Writers</i>

BTS Outcomes Evaluation

Please rank each outcome on a scale of 1-5

1: this outcome is not covered in this class

2: this outcome is only touched on in this class

3: this outcome is discussed in conjunction with class material

4: this outcome lightly assessed as part of course assessment (one assignment)

5: this outcome is fully integrated into the assessment of this course (multiple assignments)

1. Scripture: Students will effectively articulate the truth of Scripture and Scripture as truth, engaged with learning biblical knowledge and reformed principles of the supremacy of Scripture as God's word.
2. Reformed Theology: Students will be able to engage and reproduce the primary and essential elements of Reformed Theology.
3. Local Church: Students will be engaged in applied ministry projects in the local church
4. Wisdom: Students will grow in character; increasing in their demonstration of wisdom and its fruits.
5. Discipleship: Students will be able to understand and articulate the nature and importance of discipleship—both ordinary (means of grace) and extraordinary (biblical counseling).
6. Communication: Students will grow in the efficacy of their communication (articulation, teaching/speaking, and preaching—respective to various departments) both in content knowledge and rhetorical strategies.
7. Worldview: Students will demonstrate a growing ability to apply God's word to all spheres of life, evidenced through class discussion and other assigned assessments.
8. Leadership: Students will grow in their understanding of godly leadership and ability to lead others in service of the local church.

Outcome	Rank	Rationale (one sentence)
Scripture	5	The entire course is devoted to learning Biblical Hebrew grammar, vocabulary, and translation skills for reading the Old Testament accurately in the original language.
Reformed Theology	2	While the course supports future theological study, it focuses on linguistic competency rather than Reformed doctrinal formulation.
Local Church	1	No applied ministry projects or direct local-church components are included in the course requirements.
Wisdom	2	Students grow in diligence, discipline, and academic humility, though wisdom formation is not an explicit focus of instruction or assessment.

Discipleship	1	The course does not address discipleship practices directly, focusing instead on language acquisition.
Communication	3	Mastery of vocabulary and translation fosters clearer biblical communication, though rhetorical or teaching components are not assessed.
Worldview	2	Hebrew study indirectly strengthens biblical worldview formation, but worldview analysis is not a formal part of the course.
Leadership	1	Leadership development is not addressed within the learning activities or assessments for this course.