

Course Syllabus

Course Number & Title: 121 Advanced Hebrew

Semester: Fall 2026

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Course Description:

Vocabulary mastery of words occurring 50 or more times in the Old Testament. Inductive approach to, and review of grammatical, syntactical, and semantic features through a detailed analysis of the Hebrew text. 3 hrs.

Student Learning Objectives:

1. To introduce the origins of the Hebrew language and its relation to other western Semitic languages.
2. To build upon the rudiments of elementary Hebrew grammar in the reading and translation of the Hebrew OT, and to expand understanding of the various uses of the principal parts of speech.
3. To sample various genres of Hebrew literature, including narrative, poetry, and prophetic oracles.
4. To master frequently used words of Hebrew vocabulary in order to enhance the student's ease and confidence in working with Hebrew texts: nouns over 100X, and verbs over 50X.
5. To survey the history of the transmission and translation of the Hebrew text through the centuries.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. The student will be able to trace the origins and development of the Hebrew language in appreciating God's self-revelation through this linguistic vehicle that is one of the earliest alphabetic languages.
2. The student will, through usage, become familiar with the primary tools for Hebrew translation, and will be able to translate many simple portions of the Hebrew text without lexical aids, and translate more complex texts with academic tools.
3. Through assigned readings and translations of the Hebrew Testament, the student will apply principles of Hebrew exegesis for interpreting the text and applying its message through teaching and preaching God's Word.

Course Requirements

1. Required Texts

- a. *Old Testament Textual Criticism* by Ellis Brotzman. There is an open-book quiz over each chapter of Brotzman. [Quizzes](https://www.wrs.edu/assets/docs/Courses/Advanced_Hebrew/Brotzman_Quizzes.pdf) are due the first class in December. (https://www.wrs.edu/assets/docs/Courses/Advanced_Hebrew/Brotzman_Quizzes.pdf)
- b. *From Exegesis to Exposition: A Practical Guide to Using Biblical Hebrew* by Robert Chisholm (OR *OT Exegesis: A Primer for Students and Pastors*, by Douglas Stuart)
- c. *Watts' Lists of Words Occurring Frequently in the Hebrew Bible*
Available new online or digitally at www.archive.org

2. Recommended Texts

Workbook for Intermediate Hebrew: Grammar, Exegesis, and Commentary on Jonah and Ruth by Robert Chisholm. (Student should reference the Introduction and Appendix, p. 263, in completing the workbook on Jonah.)

3. SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS due by week of mid-term

—G.D. Young. “*Language of the OT*” in *Expositor’s Bible Commentary, Vol. I*,
OR Waltke/O’Conner. *Introduction to Hebrew Syntax, Chpt. 1*
—English “*Preface*” in *Biblia Hebraica*

4. VOCABULARY using Watts’ Lists of [Hebrew] Words ...

We will learn most Hebrew Nouns used over 100 times and most Verbs used over 50 times.

5. TRANSLATIONS

Joshua 1 Jonah Ruth Psalm 23

On your Joshua and Psalm 23 translations, list the root of every unknown word that you look up. These translations will be turned in after having reviewed them together in class.

Jonah and Ruth may be translated in the appropriate sections of Chisholm’s *Workbook for Intermediate Hebrew*, or else on blank paper following the [template](https://www.wrs.edu/assets/docs/Courses/Advanced_Hebrew/Translation--Sample_Form.pdf) on the course information page:
https://www.wrs.edu/assets/docs/Courses/Advanced_Hebrew/Translation--Sample_Form.pdf

6. WORD STUDY

Develop a 2-4 page word study on the Hebrew word of your choice. Show how the word is used in various contexts; develop general and special meanings for the word and, if applicable, for its derivatives. Due the first class in December.

7. FINAL EXAM

There will be a final exam over the Word Lists, grammatical moment discussions, and over one of the assigned translations.

Grading

Vocabulary exams: 25%	Word Study: 10%	Readings: 10%
Translations: 25%	Brotzman Quizzes: 5%	Final Exam: 25%

Class Schedule

WEEK	VOCAB EXAM WORDS	TRANSLATION
Week I (Aug 31)	(Course Preview and recommended Hebrew tools)	
Week II (Sept 7)	List 1 & 2: Words 1-59	Translate Joshua 1
Week III	List 3: Words 60-121;	Translate Ruth 1
Week IV	List 4: Words 125,126,130-32,134-36,138-39,142-45,152-53,157-60,164-67	
Week V		Translate Ruth 2
Week VI (Oct. 5)	List 4: Words 170-72,178-79,181-82,185,187-88,192,195-199,202-204,209,212-215,218	Translate Ruth 3
Week VII	List 6: Words 1-43	Translate Ruth 4
Week VIII	Catch Up	(Midterm Week)
Week IX	List 7: Words 44-76	Translate Psalm 23

Week X (Nov. 2)	List 8: Words 77-116	Translate Jonah 1
Week XI	List 9: Words 117-155	Translate Jonah 2
Week XII	List 9: Words 156-191	Translate Jonah 3
Week XIII	List 11.1: Words 1-6,10-27	
Week XIV	Catch Up	Translate Jonah 4
Week XV (Dec. 7)	List 11.2/3: Words 1-11/1-8,10-16	Esther: Rapid Reading -Word Study Due
Week XVI (Dec 14)	Final Exam	

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This course syllabus and the accompanying course protocols are intended to accurately reflect all aspects of the course learning experience. However, the professor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as necessary because of events and circumstances that occur during the term.

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