



Course Syllabus

KNB 1001HS – Introduction to Biblical Hebrew I

Knox College, Toronto School of Theology

Summer 2018

Instructor Information

Instructor: Jennifer Pfenniger
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Office Hours: After class or by appointment
Teaching Assistant: None

Course Identification

Course Number: KNB1001HS
Course Format: In-class
Course Name: Introduction to Biblical Hebrew I
Course Location: Knox College, 23 King's College Circle, Room TBA
Class Times: May 7 – May 29, Monday–Thursday, 9:30am-12:30pm
Prerequisites: None

A. Course Description and Student Learning Goals

This intensive course is the first of *two* courses designed to introduce the student to the basics of Biblical Hebrew grammar and syntax. *Parts I (KNB 1001HF) and II (KNB1002HS) of the course taken consecutively, will give the student the equivalent of a year-long introduction to Biblical Hebrew.* This course is intended for both those who wish to acquire Hebrew for use in ministry and for those who intend to go on to advanced academic degrees. This course uses video lectures to be viewed before class as well as a web-based interactive workbook for exercises. Class time will be devoted to clarifying material encountered in the readings and video lectures, learning vocabulary, and doing in-class exercises.

The Learning Goals listed below relate to the following areas:

- a) Understanding of Area Content (**UAC**)
- b) General Academic Skills (**GAS**)
- c) Ministerial and Public Leadership (**MPL**)
- d) Personal and Spiritual Formation (**PSF**)

Upon successfully completing this course and its complement, the student will:

- 1) have a basic understanding of the principles of Hebrew grammar and syntax (**UAC**)
- 2) have a working vocabulary of approximately 400 words sufficient to read, with supplementary aids, basic Hebrew narrative (**UAC**)
- 3) gain experience in using a variety of Hebrew language tools, including lexicons, grammars, Hebrew software as an aid to translation and exegesis (**UAC, GAS**)

- 4) have guided practice in reading and translating the Hebrew Bible (UAC, MPL)
- 5) demonstrate ethical behaviour, taking responsibility for the expectations of course and showing respect and willingness to listen in the learning atmosphere including class discussions and small groups (PSF, MPL)

Learning a language requires commitment, determination, and good time management. It is important for students to set aside adequate time each day outside of class to review grammar and vocabulary. During a typical week you will be expected to: review lessons before they are presented in class, review old and prepare new vocabulary, memorise paradigms, complete daily exercises, practise reading aloud, and seek extra help if concepts are not at first understood.

B. Required Textbooks

Required texts are available at the University of Toronto Bookstore (<https://uoftbookstore.com/textbooks/>).

- Gary D. Pratico and Miles V. Van Pelt, *Basics of Biblical Hebrew: Grammar* (2nd ed.; Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007). [ISBN: 978-0-310-27020-1]
- Gary D. Pratico and Miles V. Van Pelt, *Basics of Biblical Hebrew: Workbook* (2nd ed.; Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007). [ISBN: 978-0-310-27022-5]
- Miles V. Van Pelt, *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Video Lectures: A Complete Course for the Beginner* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012). DVD. [ISBN: 978-0-310-49824-7]

At first glance, this bundle does look expensive, but it includes almost everything that you will need to complete *two semesters* of Hebrew learning.

C. Recommended Resources

- Gary A. Long, *Grammatical Concepts 101 for Biblical Hebrew* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2002).

D. Course Requirements and Assignments

The class consists of a four, three-hour class sessions per week. The assignments and their weights are as follows:

- **Tests (50%):** Two tests on vocabulary, grammar and syntax. Tests will be approximately 45–60 minutes in length and will be given at the beginning of class. Students will be allowed to retake failed tests on the Thursday of the week of the test for a maximum score of 70%.
- **Final Exam (40%):** A cumulative exam on vocabulary, grammar and syntax. Two hours. Session 14.
- **Homework and Participation (10%):**

E. Course Policies & Information

Policies for courses are contained in the *TST Basic Degree Handbook* and the *Knox Student Handbook*. See further, the *Syllabus Supplement* available from the class Quercus page. In particular, please note the following:

1. **E-mail:** Email correspondence related to the course will be sent to *UTmail addresses only*. All students are required to have a University of Toronto email address and to check their UTmail account regularly for messages relating to class. Students should not attempt to forward UTmail messages to gmail.com, yahoo.com, or similar accounts as such messages can be rejected as spam. All college-related correspondence should be sent from a UTmail address. The instructor is not obliged to respond to email from non-utoronto addresses. Students must set up their utoronto email address as it is entered in the ACORN system. Information regarding UTORid and UTmail is available at <http://www.utorid.utoronto.ca/>. For help with these and other technological issues the following

options are available: email help.desk@utoronto.ca; phone 416-978-HELP; or visit the Help Desk at the Information Commons at Robarts Library.

2. **Attendance:** 80% attendance at a lecture course is required for credit.
3. **Completion of Course work:** students are expected to submit assignments by the date given in the course outline. The penalty for late work is 4% deducted per week late (2% off per half week). All course work (including any late work) must be completed by the end of term, the last day of exams. Students who experience exceptional circumstances (e.g., ongoing or debilitating medical issues, bereavement, personal calamity etc.) should inform the instructor as soon as possible and should consult with their faculty advisor or the Director of Academic Programmes to request an extension beyond the end of term (i.e., "Standing Deferred" or "SDF" status). The SDF, if approved, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. Such a request must be made as soon as possible, since an SDF must be authorised by the Knox Basic Degree Advisory Committee and the Faculty, which meet according to a fixed schedule. If a student has not completed work but has not been granted an SDF, a final mark will be submitted calculating a zero for work not submitted.
4. **Style Guidelines for Papers:** see Knox "Style Manual" booklet and *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, by Kate L. Turabian.
5. **Email assignments:** Papers and assignments are not accepted by fax or e-mail, except in rare cases by prior permission of the instructor.
6. **Plagiarism Policy:** Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to the Knox Director of Academic Programmes. For details, see the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* and the Graduate program Handbooks (linked from <http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks>) and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* (<http://www.adfg.utoronto.ca/Assets/ADFG+Digital+Assets/Code+of+Behaviour+on+Academic+Matters+15bAugust+1812c+199515d+Updated+July+112c+2016.pdf>). A student who plagiarizes in this course will be assumed to have read the document "Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing" published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library_Archives/Theological_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm.
7. **Use of Turnitin.com.** Where specified in the syllabus, students will be required to submit their course essays or other major written assignments to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site. Students who have *principled objections* to the use of this service should see the course instructor during the *first two weeks of the course* to arrange an alternative. Typically, this will involve submitting drafts of the assignment at regular intervals throughout the semester. If one is using the Turnitin service, then during the first week of the course, students should look at the "Set Up" and "Originality Check" instructions found at the following link: www.turnitin.com/en_us/training/student-training, and follow the instructions to create a user profile. The course ID and password will be distributed to students via Quercus during the first week of the course.
8. **Use of Technology in Class.** Laptops and other computing devices may be used in the classroom for note-taking purposes only. The use of the internet is not permitted while class is in session unless it is

part of a specific class activity. Students wishing to text message, search for images, fact check etc. should do so during the break or outside of class.

Much of the learning that goes on in the classroom is founded upon mutual disclosure that takes place between the instructor and the student and between students. Parties outside of that learning community have not committed themselves to this relationship of trust. For this and other reasons, permission to record lectures in audio format is granted for use by registered students only. Video recording is not permitted without the written permission of the instructor. *Recordings and notes of class lectures may not be electronically reproduced, posted, or distributed without the written permission of the instructor.*

9. **Logging onto your Quercus Course.** For information on how to access this course on Quercus, and how to perform basic Quercus tasks do the following:

INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO ACCESS QUERCUS (THE SUCCESSOR TO BLACKBOARD AND THE PORTAL) ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE.

Note also the other links for help with "Using the Discussion Board," "Handing in an Assignment," "Joining a Group," FAQs, etc.

10. **Consultation:** Please do not hesitate to consult with the instructor about any questions you may have.

F. Weekly Schedule of Classes, Readings & Assignments

Week 1

Session 1	May 7	Chapters 1–2: Alphabet and Vowels
		Required Reading:
		• <i>BBH</i> , chs. 1–2
		Homework:
		• <i>BBHW</i> , pp. 1–4
Session 2	May 8	Chapters 3–4: Syllabification and Pronunciation, Nouns
		Required Readings:
		• <i>BBH</i> , chs. 3–4
		Homework:
		• <i>BBHW</i> , pp. 7–9, 11–13
Session 3	May 9	Chapters 5–6: Definite Article, Conjunction, Prepositions
		Required Reading:
		• <i>BBH</i> , chs. 5–6
		Homework:
		• <i>BBHW</i> , pp. 15–19, 21–23

Session 4 May 10 Chapters 7–8: Adjectives and Pronouns

Required Reading:

- *BBH*, ch. 7

Homework:

- *BBHW*, pp. 25–28 (omit the composition exercise that begins at the bottom of p. 26); for Bible translations on pp. 27–28 you may need to consult the lexicon at the back of your textbook
- *BBHW*, pp. 29, Parsing (1–20); p. 30, Translation (1–15); pp. 31–32, Inflecting (1–3, 7–9); pp. 32–33, Bible translations (1–14)

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Week 2

Session 5 May 14 Chapter 9: Pronominal Suffixes



Test 1: Chapters 1–8

Required Reading:

- *BBH*, ch. 9

Homework:

- *BBHW*, pp. 35–37; Translation, Part 1 (1–10) on p. 35; Translation, Part 2 (1–10) on p. 36; Translation, Part 3 (1–5) on pp. 36–37; Bible translations (1–7) on p. 37. *Do not do the composition exercise on p. 38.*

Session 6 May 15 Chapter 10: Construct Chain

Required Reading:

- *BBH*, ch. 10

Homework:

- *BBHW*, translate and identify, part 1 (1–15) on pp. 39–42; translate and identify, part 2 (odd only) on pp. 43–44; translate and identify, part 3 (odd only) on pp. 45–46; Bible translations (3, 5) on p. 47.

Session 7 May 16 Chapters 11–12: Numbers and Verbs

Required Reading:

- *BBH*, chs. 11–12

Homework:

- *BBHW*: Translation (1–25) on pp. 49–51; Construct Nouns, Part 1 (even only) on pp. 53–55; Construct Nouns, Part 2 on p. 55 is optional, but it would be good practice.

Session 8 May 17 Chapters 12–13: Verbs and *Qal* Perfect Strong

Required Reading:

- *BBH*, ch. 13

* **Make-up Test 1**

May 21 - Victoria Day, no class meeting

Week 3

Session 9 May 22 Chapters 13–14: *Qal* Perfect Strong and *Qal* Perfect Weak

**Test 2: Chapters 9–13****Required Reading:**

- *BBH*, ch. 13

Homework:

- *BBHW*: Parsing (1-10) on p. 67; Translation (1-10) on p. 68; Bible translations (1-2, 4-6) on pp. 69-70; Inflecting (1-10) on p. 71.

Session 10 May 23 Chapters 14–15: *Qal* Perfect Weak and *Qal* Imperfect Strong

Required Reading:

- *BBH*, chs. 14–15

Homework:

- *BBHW*: Exercises in 14a: Parsing (1-20) on pp. 73-74; Translation (odd only) on pp. 74-75; Bible translations (1, 3, 4) on p. 76; Inflecting Verbs (1-25) on pp. 78-79. Exercises in 14b: Parsing (1-15) on p. 81; Bible translations (1, 4) on pp. 83-84.
- *BBHW*: Parsing (1-15) on p. 89; Translation (odd only) on pp. 90-91; Bible translations (1-3, 9) on pp. 91-92; Inflecting (1-15) on p. 93.

Session 11 May 24 Chapters 15–16: *Qal* Imperfect Strong and *Qal* Imperfect Weak

Required Reading:

- *BBH*, ch. 16

Homework:

- in *BBHW*: Exercises in 16a: Parsing (1-10) on p. 95; Translation (1-10) on p. 96; Bible translations (8-10) on pp. 98-99. Exercises in 16b: Parsing (1-10) on p. 101; Translation (1-5) on p. 102; Bible translations (7, 10) on p. 104; Exercises in 16c: Parsing (1-15) on p. 107; Translation (1-5) on p. 108; Bible translations (1, 3, 4) on p. 109; Exercises in 16d: Parsing (1-15) on pp. 111-112; Bible translations (2, 5) on pp. 113-114; Exercises in 16e: Parsing (1-15) on p. 115; Bible translations (1-3) on p. 116; Exercises from 16f: Parsing (1-15) on pp. 119-120.

Week 4

Session 12 May 28 Chapters 16–17: *Qal* Imperfect Weak and *Waw* Consecutive

Required Reading:

- *BBH*, ch. 17

Homework:

- in *BBHW*: Parsing (1-10) on p. 125; Bible translations (1-3, 10, 11, 13) on pp. 126- 128; Parsing (1-10) on p. 130; Bible translations (2, 3) on p. 131.

✳ **Make-up Test 2 • Take-home Practice Exam**

Session 13 May 29 Final Meeting for Part 1



Final Exam: Chapters 1–17

G. Toronto School of Theology Grading Scale and Standards

The following chart presents the standard used for assessment in this course. It is included in the interests of transparency and to assist students in self-appraisal. If you wish to discuss an assignment to be submitted or a grade that has been received, please feel free to make an appointment with the instructor.

Letter Grade	Numerical Value	GPA	Grasp of Subject Matter	Explanation
“A” range: Excellent: Student shows original thinking, analytic and synthetic ability, critical evaluations, broad knowledge base.				
A+	90-100	4.0	Profound and creative	Strong evidence of original thought, of analytic and synthetic ability; sound and penetrating critical evaluations which identify assumptions of those they study as well as their own; mastery of an extensive knowledge base.
A	85-89	4.0	Outstanding	
A-	80-84	3.7	Excellent	Clear evidence of original thinking, of analytic and synthetic ability; sound critical evaluations; broad knowledge base.
“B” range: Good: Student shows critical capacity and analytic ability, understanding of relevant issues, familiarity with the literature.				
B+	77-79	3.3	Very Good	Good critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; good familiarity with the literature.
B	73-76	3.0	Good	

B-	70-72	2.7	Satisfactory at a post-baccalaureate level	Adequate critical capacity and analytic ability; some understanding of relevant issues; some familiarity with the literature.
FZ	0-69	0	Failure	Failure to meet the above criteria.