



OT 504A: Introduction to Hebrew A
Fall 2023 • 2 Semester Hours
Mark A. House, Ph.D. • mhouse@newgeneva.org

Course Description

Introduction to Hebrew A is a thirteen-week, two-credit-hour course that introduces students to the fundamentals of Old Testament Hebrew vocabulary, grammar, and syntax. The course is designed to be followed by *Introduction to Hebrew B* and *Introduction to Hebrew C* in the succeeding semesters. Together, these three courses lay the foundation for basic translational and exegetical work using the Hebrew Old Testament. In preparation for the course exams, students will progress through a series of textbook readings and workbook exercises that lay the foundation of content.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be equipped to continue their study of biblical Hebrew, having obtained an essential understanding of the elements of Hebrew vocabulary, grammar, and syntax as covered in the course textbook. Specifically, in this first course they will gain an understanding of:

- A foundational Hebrew vocabulary that includes the forms and meanings of 194 frequently used words;
- The Hebrew alphabet and punctuation system;
- The Hebrew noun, adjective, and pronoun systems, including pronominal suffixes;
- The Hebrew construct chain;
- The Hebrew number system;
- An introduction to Hebrew verbs and the strong verb system.

Required Textbooks

Pratico, Gary D. and Miles V. Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew: Grammar*. 3rd edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2019.

_____. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew: Workbook*. 3rd edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2019.

Recommended Resources

Vance, Donald R., George Athas, and Yael Avrahami, eds. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia: A Reader's Edition*. Stuttgart: German Bible Society, 2015.

Holladay, William L. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1971.

Course Format

Two-hour class sessions will be held weekly. These will consist of a review of the course contents and practice in reading and translation of the workbook assignments. Assignments, quizzes, and exams for the course will be completed online using the Canvas Learning Management System.

Course Requirements

- Complete 12 weekly review quizzes covering each week's unit of study;
- Complete 13 translation assignments;
- Complete two examinations;
- Recite Genesis 1:1-2 in Hebrew from memory.

Review Quizzes (30%)

Review quizzes covering each chapter of the Pratico-Van Pelt (PVP) text as covered in class will serve to prepare the student for each exam. Each review quiz is worth ten points and may be taken a second time, with the highest score being recorded.

Examinations (50%)

There are two examinations for the course that cumulatively constitute fifty percent of the final grade. The exams cover vocabulary, word identification (parsing and/or translation), grammatical content, translation, and exegesis. While the translation and exegesis portions of the exams are of necessity cumulative, each exam will focus on the paradigms and grammatical rules presented since the previous exam. The second exam will also include the memorization assignment. All exams for this course are to be taken online in the Canvas Learning Management System (LMS).

Assignments

Weekly assignments involve translation and parsing and are uploaded in Canvas.

Course Outline

T = top half of the page; B = bottom half of the page

Date	Lesson	Contents	Workbook Assignments
TBD	1	PVP Ch. 1: <i>Alphabet</i>	Typing Exercise; p. 5 all (type each word in Hebrew and transliterate using course transliteration scheme)
TBD	2	PVP Ch. 2: <i>Vowels</i>	Ex. 2: p. 7 #1-17; p. 8b #1-11
TBD	3	PVP Ch. 3: <i>Syllab. & Pronunciation</i>	Ex. 3: pp. 11-12 evens; p. 13 #1-15
TBD	4	PVP Ch. 4: <i>Nouns</i>	Ex. 4: pp. 15-16 evens; pp. 17B-18 evens; p. 19 #1-8
TBD	5	PVP Ch. 5: <i>Def. Article & Conj. Waw</i>	Ex. 5: p. 21 evens; p. 22 evens; p. 23 #2, 4, 6, 8
TBD	6	PVP Ch. 6: <i>Prepositions</i>	Ex. 6: p. 25T evens; pp. 25B-26 #4, 8, 12, 16, 20; pp. 27B-28 evens
TBD	7	PVP Ch. 7: <i>Adjectives</i>	Ex. 7: p. 29 evens; p. 30 evens; pp. 32B-33 evens
TBD	Spring Break—No class, Mid-term exam due		
TBD	8	PVP Ch. 8: <i>Pronouns</i>	Ex. 8: p. 35 evens; pp. 36B-37T evens; pp. 37B-38T evens
TBD	9	PVP Ch. 9: <i>Pronom. Suffixes</i>	Ex. 9: pp. 39-42 evens; pp. 47-48 evens
TBD	10	PVP Ch. 10: <i>Construct Chain</i>	Ex. 10: pp. 49-51T evens; pp. 51B-53T evens
TBD	11	PVP Ch. 11: <i>Numbers</i>	Ex. 11: pp. 57-58 all
TBD	12	PVP Ch. 12: <i>Introduction to Verbs</i>	Ex. 12: p. 59 evens; pp. 60-62 evens; read pp. 63-66
TBD	13	PVP Ch. 13: <i>Qal Perfect – Strong Verbs</i>	Ex 13: pp. 67-68 evens; pp. 69-70 #1, 5, 11; p. 71 evens
TBD	Exam Week—No class		