



15800 Calvary Rd
Kansas City, MO 64147

Ph.D. Syllabus

Course: BL705E & EN Hebrew Intensive II (blended*)
Credit: 3 Semester Hours
Semester: Spring 2021 (Cycle 6)
Time: 6:30–8:30 P.M. Tuesday and Thursday, May 10–July 2
Location: Calvary University, CABRE 101 and online classroom
Instructor: Joel T. Williamson, Jr., Th.M.
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I. DESCRIPTION

The second of two courses of an intensive introduction to Biblical Hebrew. Emphases are accurate pronunciation, recognizing noun and verb forms, memorizing infinitives and participles in the Qal stem for strong verbs, understanding the derived stems and the ‘Color Chart’, handling weak verbs, parsing and analyzing verbs, working with the Masoretic accents, grasping simple narrative syntax, adding to vocabulary, and translating and following simple narrative texts.

* This is a blended class, meaning that both campus and online students take this class together. Campus students attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. All interaction and assignments for campus and online students are done in the online classroom.

II. OBJECTIVES

A. Competencies to be achieved. The goal of this course is not knowledge, but knowhow. “Knowledge is not knowhow until you understand the underlying principles at work and can fit them together into a structure larger than the sum of its parts. Knowhow is learning that enables you to *go do*.”¹ With knowhow, you are prepared to read, analyze, interpret, and apply the Hebrew text of the Old Testament. Achieving knowhow involves a lifelong process and thus beyond the scope of this course. In it, however, you will take your next few steps by learning the following facts and skills:

1. **Basic Facts.** You can’t read or analyze the Hebrew text without the basic facts and tools; therefore, you will be expected to demonstrate the following skills by the end of the semester:
 - a. The ability to translate on sight the most common words in the Hebrew Old Testament. (PLO’s: 1, 2) (Assignments: Exams, Quizzes)
 - b. The ability to translate simple phrases and clauses from the Hebrew Old Testament without a lexicon. (PLO’s: 1, 2) (Assignments: Exams, Quizzes, Homework)

¹ Peter C. Brown, Henry L. Roediger III, and Mark A. McDaniel, *Make It Stick: The Science of Successful Learning* (Cambridge, MA and London: Belknap Press, 2014), 158. (The emphasis comes from the authors themselves.)

2. **Exegetical Skills.** Only a reliable procedure can consistently provide reliable solutions when you confront an interpretive problem. Toward this end, you will be expected to demonstrate the following skills by the end of the semester:
 - a. The ability to identify and parse all the parts of speech in assigned passages. (PLO's: 1,2) (Assignments: Exams, Quizzes, Homework)
 - b. The ability to analyze and explain the basic syntactic structure of assigned passages. (PLO 1, 2, 4) (Exams, Quizzes, Homework)
 - c. The ability to recognize and solve simple exegetical problems from the texts you read. (PLO 1, 2, 4) (Exams, Quizzes, Homework)

III. TEXTBOOKS

- A. **Holy Bible.** The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB, English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask me if you have questions about a particular translation or version.
- B. **Other Textbooks.** None. You will continue to use the books you used in BL704.

IV. REQUIREMENTS

Types of Assignments. It is my conviction that most of the learning and the best learning that you will gain from this class will come through the assignments you do. Although they will be used to calculate your course grade, the primary purpose of these assignments is to help you develop knowhow, the ability to extract insight from the Hebrew Bible. Of course, knowhow doesn't just happen; you must cultivate it, so take out your hoe; the process begins now.

Examinations (350 points). Each week of the course, you will take an online examination in Canvas. These exams are cumulative, each covering all the course material since the beginning of the semester. In them, you will demonstrate your competency in both categories of course objectives, but particularly in the last one. I will post each exam on Friday and is due no later than 11:59 P.M. on the following Wednesday. Without my special permission, YOU MAY NOT TAKE ANY EXAM LATE (OR EARLY).

Quizzes (300 points). In addition to the exam, you will also have a quiz each week in Canvas. Each quiz will cover all the vocabulary words assigned since the beginning of the BL704, but focus specifically on those words from the current lesson. Again, without my special permission, YOU MAY NOT MAKE UP ANY MISSED QUIZ.

Homework (350 points). While knowhow in biblical Hebrew does require a body of basic facts, knowing facts alone is not enough. You also need to skill in applying those facts to the analysis and interpretation of specific examples from the Hebrew Bible. Therefore, for every class session, I will post specific assignments for you in Canvas. These may be turned in late (within 14 days of the due date), but ALL LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL RECEIVE ONLY HALF CREDIT.

Specific Assignments. These are the specific assignments for this course listed in the order according to the week in which they are due:

Week 1. Piel Perfect, Hiphil Perfect (Lessons XV–XVI)	(0 points)
Week 2. Qal Imperfect (Lessons XVII and XVIII)	(150 points)
Homework	(50 points)
Quiz #1	(50 points)
Exam #1	(50 points)
Week 3. Qal Imprefect & Preterite (Lessons XIX and XX)	(150 points)
Homework	(50 points)
Quiz #2	(50 points)
Exam #2	(50 points)
Week 4. Volitives & Object Suffixes (Lessons XXI and XXII)	(150 points)
Homework	(50 points)
Quiz #3	(50 points)
Exam #3	(50 points)
Week 5. Qal Infinitives (Lesson XXIII)	(150 points)
Homework	(50 points)
Quiz #4	(50 points)
Exam #4	(50 points)
Week 6. Piel & Hiphil Imperfects (Lessons XXIV and XXV)	(150 points)
Homework	(50 points)
Quiz #5	(50 points)
Exam #5	(50 points)
Week 7. Reflexive, Middle, and Passive Stems (Lessons XXVI and XXIX)	(150 points)
Homework	(50 points)
Quiz #6	(50 points)
Exam #6	(50 points)
Week 8. Remaining Verb Stems (Lessons XXVIII and XXX)	(100 points)
Homework	(50 points)
Exam #7	(50 points)

V. METHODS

A. Teaching

1. **Lecture.** The primary function of the weekly class sessions is to introduce and explain new material; therefore, I will devote much of each session to lecture. Come to class prepared to take notes and ask questions.
2. **Practical Exercise.** No one ever learned a foreign language merely by taking and reciting lecture notes. Therefore, you will spend the last hour of most class sessions doing practical exercises and supervised homework.
3. **Reading.** Ultimately, the only way to learn a language is to use it. Therefore, a portion of almost every class will be devoted to sight reading of simple passages from the Hebrew Old Testament, some of which you will then have as homework.

B. Grading

1. Examinations 350 points
2. Quizzes 300 points
3. Homework 350 points

C. Calculating the Final Grade

930–1000 points	A	730–769 points	C
900–929 points	A-	700–729 points	C-
870–899 points	B+	670–699 points	D+
800–829 points	B-	630–669 points	D
770–799 points	C+	0–559 points	F

D. Academic Issues and Support

- a. **Plagiarism.** Plagiarism is defined as copying any part of a book or paper without identifying the author. This also includes taking another person’s ideas and presenting them as your own.
- b. **Style.** All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition and the Calvary Style Guide, 2019 update.
- c. **Assistance.** The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu), located in the library building, is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for all students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams, and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.
- d. **Disabilities.** Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.