



15800 Calvary Rd
Kansas City, MO 64147

Ph.D. Syllabus

Course: BL704E & NE Hebrew Intensive I (blended)
Credit: 3 Semester Hours
Semester: Spring 2024 (Cycle 5)
Time: 6:30–8:30 P.M. Tuesday and Thursday, March 11–May 3
Location: Calvary University, CABRE 100 and the online classroom
Instructor: Joel T. Williamson, Jr., Th.M.
Office: Madison Hall 1218; Ext. 1347 or 816-425-6173
Home Phone: 816-258-1726 (text only, please, except in emergencies)
E-mail: joel.williamson@calvary.edu

I. DESCRIPTION

The first of two courses of an intensive introduction to Biblical Hebrew. Emphasis in the course is on accurate pronunciation, learning the morphology and syntax of nouns and adjectives, memorizing the finite and volitive forms in the *Qal* stem for strong verbs, understanding simple narrative syntax and the role the major Masoretic accents play therein, beginning vocabulary acquisition, and translating simple sentences.

* This course is offered in two formats: in-person and online. Students registered for in-person attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. For both in-person and online students, assignments and interaction outside of the class period are done in the learning management system.

II. OBJECTIVES

Competencies to be achieved. The basic 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 When you have knowhow in biblical Hebrew, you are prepared to read, analyze, interpret, and apply the Hebrew text of the Old Testament. Growth in knowhow takes a minimum of ten years. Though not nearly so long this course, can help you take your first steps. In it, you will gain the foundational facts and crucial skills needed to gain Hebrew knowhow:

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 (PLO 1, 2) (Exams, Quizzes, Homework):
 - a. The ability to write or pronounce any Hebrew word.
 - b. The ability to transliterate from Hebrew text to European phonetic notation and vice versa.
 - c. The ability to identify the basic meaning of the most common words in biblical Hebrew.

¹Peter 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. **Solving Problems.** 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 (PLO 1, 2, 4) (Exams, Quizzes, Homework):
 - a. The ability to parse the noun and verb forms studied during the course
 - b. The ability to translate portions of the biblical text into basic English.
 - c. The ability to recognize and solve simple exegetical problems from the texts you read.

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.**
 1. Seow, C. L. *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew*. Revised edition. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1995. [ISBN: 978-0687157860, \$40.00]
 2. Holliday, William L. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Leiden: E. J. Brill; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988. [ISBN: 978-0802834133, \$40.00]
 3. Elliger, K. and W. Rudolph, ed. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. 2nd. ed. Stuttgart: Deutsche Biblegesellschaft, 1997 (either the standard edition [ISBN: 978-3-438-05218-6, \$79.99], the pocket edition [ISBN: 978-3-438-05219-3, \$69.99], or the paperback edition [ISBN: 978-3-438-05222-3, \$39.99]).

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. The quiz will focus specifically on the material from the previous class session. While the quiz is not cumulative, it will cover all the vocabulary words assigned since the beginning of the course. 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. Phonology	(0 points)
Week 2. Nouns	(143 points)
Homework: Lessons I and II	(50 points)
Quiz #1	(43 points)
Exam #1	(50 points)
Week 3. Nouns and Particles	(143 points)
Homework: Lessons III and IV	(50 points)
Quiz #2	(43 points)
Exam #2	(50 points)
Week 4. Adjectives and Participles	(143 points)
Homework: Lessons V and VI	(50 points)
Quiz #3	(43 points)
Exam #3	(50 points)
Week 5. Pronouns	(143 points)
Homework: Lessons VII and VIII	(50 points)
Quiz #4	(43 points)
Exam #4	(50 points)
Week 6. Noun Phrases	(143 points)
Homework: Lessons IX and X	(50 points)
Quiz #5	(43 points)
Exam #5	(50 points)
Week 7. Qal Perfect Verb	(143 points)
Homework: Lessons XI and XII	(50 points)
Quiz #6	(43 points)
Exam #6	(50 points)
Week 8. Piel Perfect Verb	(142 points)
Homework: Lessons XIII and XIV	(50 points)
Quiz #7	(42 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 several hours each week memorizing vocabulary and doing practical exercises and 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

A. 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

B. Academic Issues and Support

- 1. Plagiarism.** Plagiarism is defined as copying any content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person’s or AI entity’s ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. The use of AI generated content in student work is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated.
- 2. 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 latest Calvary Style Guide.
- 3. Assistance.** The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu) is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for Calvary University 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.
- 4. Disabilities.** Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.