

Course: BL611 N Hebrew II*
Credit: 3 Semester Hours
Semester: Spring 2026 (Sessions 1 and 2)
Time: 6:00–9:00 P.M. Mondays, January 12–May 4, 2026
Location: Calvary University, EEd 118 and the online classroom
Instructor: Joel T. Williamson, Jr., Ph.D. candidate
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I. DESCRIPTION

The practical demonstration and application of grammar, reading, and exegesis in the Hebrew text. Special emphasis is placed upon making Hebrew a useful tool for the ministry. (Prerequisite: BL610 or equivalent)

** 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

- 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. Growth in knowhow is a lifelong process and thus beyond the scope of this course. In it, however, you will take your next few steps by learning to do the following:
1. **Basic Skills.** 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)
 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:
 1. The ability to identify and parse all the parts of speech in assigned passages. (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. The ability to analyze and explain the basic syntactic structure of assigned passages (PLO 1, 2, 4) (Assignments: Exams, Quizzes, Homework). passages.
3. The ability to recognize and solve simple exegetical problems from the texts you read. (PLO 1, 2, 4) (Assignments: 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.** In addition to the textbooks from OT631, you need the following:
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 rake and hoe; the process begins now.

Examinations (40%). Every other 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 previous semester. In them, you will demonstrate your competency in both types of skills listed in the course objectives. Without my special permission, YOU MAY NOT TAKE ANY EXAM LATE (OR EARLY).

Quizzes (30%). In addition to the biweekly exams, 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 previous course. Again, without special permission, YOU MAY NOT MAKE UP ANY MISSED QUIZ.

Homework (30%). While knowhow in biblical Hebrew does require a body of basic facts, knowing facts alone is not enough. You also need to develop skill in applying those facts to the analysis and interpretation of specific Hebrew texts. Therefore, for each class session, I will post specific homework assignments 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. Hiphil Perfect (Lessons XVI) (0 points)

Week 2. Perfect with Object Suffix (Lesson XVII)	(95 points)
Homework	(20 points)
Quiz #1	(25 points)
Exam #1	(50 points)
Week 3. Qal Imperfect – 1 (Lesson XVIII)	(45 points)
Homework	(20 points)
Quiz #2	(25 points)
Week 4. Qal Imperfect – 2 (Lesson XIX)	(95 points)
Homework	(20 points)
Quiz #3	(25 points)
Exam #2	(50 points)
Week 5. Qal Preterite (Lesson XX)	(45 points)
Homework	(20 points)
Quiz #4	(25 points)
Week 6. Qal Volitives (Lesson XXI)	(95 points)
Homework	(20 points)
Quiz #5	(25 points)
Exam #3	(50 points)
Week 7. Imperfect with Object Suffix (Lesson XXII)	(45 points)
Homework	(20 points)
Quiz #6	(25 points)
Week 8. Qal Infinitive Construct (Lesson XXIII)	(95 points)
Homework	(20 points)
Quiz #7	(25 points)
Exam #4	(50 points)
*** BREAK BETWEEN CYCLES ***	
Week 9. Piel Imperfect, et al. (Lesson XXIV)	(45 points)
Homework	(20 points)
Quiz #8	(25 points)
Week 10. Hiphil Imperfect, et al. (Lesson XXV)	(95 points)
Homework	(20 points)
Quiz #9	(25 points)
Exam #5	(50 points)
Week 11. Niphal Verb Forms (Lesson XXVI)	(45 points)
Homework	(20 points)
Quiz #10	(25 points)
Week 12. Hithpael & Histaphel (Lesson XXVII)	(95 points)
Homework	(20 points)
Quiz #11	(25 points)
Exam #6	(50 points)

Week 13. Geminate Verb Forms (Lesson XXVIII)	(45 points)
Homework	(20 points)
Quiz #12	(25 points)
Week 14. Passive Verb Forms (Lesson XXIX)	(70 points)
Homework	(20 points)
Exam #7	(50 points)
Week 15. Rare Verb Forms (Lesson XXX)	(20 points)
Homework	(20 points)
Week 16. Moving On	(70 points)
Homework	(20 points)
Final Exam	(50 points)

I. 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 400 points
2. Quizzes 300 points
3. Homework 300 points

C. Calculating the Final Grade

960–1000 points	A	800–839 points	C
940–959 points	A-	780–799 points	C-
920–939 points	B+	0–779 points	F
860–879 points	B-		
840–859 points	C+		

D. 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 Calvary Style Guide, 2019 update.
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. **Attendance.** See attendance policy in the university catalog.
5. **Disabilities.** Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.