



15800 Calvary Rd
Kansas Citv. MO 64147

Course: BL610T&TN Hebrew I*
Credit: 3 Semester Hours
Semester: Fall 2026 (Sessions 1 and 2)
Time: 6:00–9:00 P.M. Monday, August 17–December 11
Location: Calvary University, East Education 118 and Online Classroom
Instructor: Joel T. Williamson, Jr., Ph.D. candidate
Office: Madison Hall 1218; Ext. 1347
Cell Phone: (816) 258-1726 (text only, please, except in emergencies)
E-mail: joel.williamson@calvary.edu

I. DESCRIPTION

A study of the fundamentals of Hebrew phonology, morphology, and syntax, emphasizing extensive reading of the biblical text.

** 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. 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. Since growth in knowhow is a lifelong process, you cannot achieve it in this course. You can (and must), however, do the following:

A. Knowledge of Basic Facts (PLO: 1, 2; Assignments: Exams, Quizzes, Homework). You cannot read or analyze the Hebrew text without a store of basic facts and tools; therefore, you will be expected to demonstrate the following abilities by the end of the course:

1. The ability to write and pronounce any Hebrew word.
2. The ability to transliterate from Hebrew text to European phonetic notation and vice versa.
3. The ability to identify the basic meaning of the most common words in biblical Hebrew.

B. Skill in Basic Text Analysis (PLO’s: 1, 2, 4; Assignments: Exams, Quizzes, Homework). Analyzing and interpreting Hebrew involves the ability to apply what you know to specific text. Therefore, you will be expected to demonstrate the following abilities by the end of the course:

1. The ability to parse the noun and verb forms studied during the course.
2. The ability to translate portions of the biblical text into rough English.
3. The ability to recognize and solve simple exegetical problems from the texts you read.

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.)

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]

IV. ASSIGNMENTS.

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 spade and hoe; the process begins now.

Examinations (275 points). Every other week of the course, you will take an online examination in Canvas. These exams will be cumulative, each covering all the course material from the beginning of the semester. In them, you will demonstrate your competency in both categories of course objectives, but particularly in the last one. YOU MAY NOT TAKE ANY EXAM LATE (OR EARLY).

Quizzes (350 points). You will also have a quiz in Canvas each Tuesday. The content of the quiz will be limited to material presented during the previous week. While the quiz is not cumulative, it will cover all the vocabulary words assigned since the beginning of the course. Quizzes are due no later than the following Thursday. YOU MAY NOT MAKE UP ANY MISSED QUIZ.

Homework (375 points). While knowhow in biblical Hebrew does require a body of basic facts, facts alone are not enough. You also need the skill to use those facts in analyzing and interpreting actual material from the Hebrew Bible. Therefore, every week, specific translation and analysis assignments will be posted in Canvas. You may turn homework in late, (within 14 days of the due date), but LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL RECEIVE ONLY HALF CREDIT.

Specific Assignments. The specific assignments for this course are listed in order according to the class session in which they are due:

1. *Week 1* (0 points)
2. *Week 2* (50 points)
 - a. Exercise 1b and c (4) (25 points)
 - b. Quiz #1 (phonology) (25 points)

- | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| 3. <i>Week 3</i> | | (85 points) |
| a. Exercise 2a, b, and c (15) | (25 points) | |
| b. Quiz #2 (vocabulary, 14-15) | (25 points) | |
| c. Exam #1 | (35 points) | |
| 4. <i>Week 4</i> | | (50 points) |
| a. Exercise 3a, and c (22) | (25 points) | |
| b. Quiz #3 (vocabulary, 21) | (25 points) | |
| 5. <i>Week 5</i> | | (90 points) |
| a. Exercise 4a and b (36-37) | (25 points) | |
| b. Quiz #4 (vocabulary, 33-34) | (25 points) | |
| c. Exam #2 | (40 points) | |
| 6. <i>Week 6</i> | | (50 points) |
| a. Exercise 5a and b (45) | (25 points) | |
| b. Quiz #5 (vocabulary, 44) | (25 points) | |
| 7. <i>Week 7</i> | | (90 points) |
| a. Exercise 6c and d (62-63) | (25 points) | |
| b. Quiz #6 (vocabulary, 60-61) | (25 points) | |
| c. Exam #3 | (40 points) | |
| 8. <i>Week 8</i> | | (50 points) |
| a. Exercise 7b and c (76) | (25 points) | |
| b. Quiz #7 (vocabulary, 75) | (25 points) | |
| **** Break between Sessions **** | | |
| 9. <i>Week 9</i> | | (90 points) |
| a. Exercise 8d and e (87-88) | (25 points) | |
| b. Quiz #8 (vocabulary, 85) | (25 points) | |
| c. Exam #4 | (40 points) | |
| 10. <i>Week 10</i> | | (50 points) |
| a. Exercise 9d and e (103) | (25 points) | |
| b. Quiz #9 (vocabulary, 101-102) | (25 points) | |
| 11. <i>Week 11</i> | | (90 points) |
| a. Exercise 10b and c (114-15) | (25 points) | |
| b. Quiz #10 (vocabulary, 112-13) | (25 points) | |
| c. Exam #5 | (40 points) | |
| 12. <i>Week 12</i> | | (50 points) |
| a. Exercise 11b, c, and d (126-28) | (25 points) | |
| b. Quiz #11 (vocabulary, 125) | (25 points) | |
| 13. <i>Week 13</i> | | (90 points) |
| a. Exercise 12c and d (143-44) | (25 points) | |
| b. Quiz #12 (vocabulary, 142-43) | (25 points) | |
| c. Exam #6 | (40 points) | |
| 14. <i>Week 14</i> | | (50 points) |
| a. Exercise 13b and c (155-56) | (25 points) | |
| b. Quiz #13 (vocabulary, 154) | (25 points) | |

15. *Week 15* (50 points)
a. Exercise 14c and d (169) (25 points)
b. Quiz #14 (vocabulary, 167–68) (25 points)
16. *Week 16* (65 points)
a. Exercise 15a, c, and d (178–79) (25 points)
b. Exam #7 (40 points)

V. METHODS

A. Teaching

1. *Lecture.* Because this course emphasizes student participation, the professor will use lecture as little as possible. Nevertheless, you will have to put up with some lectures (including rants that sound a lot like preaching).
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 may then have as homework.

B. Grading

1. Vocabulary Quizzes 350 points
 2. Exams 275 points
 3. Homework 375 points
- Total: 1000 points

C. Calculating Final Grade

A	960–1000	C+	840–859
A-	940–959	C	800–839
B+	920–939	C-	780–799
B	880–919	F	0–779
B-	860–879		

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), located in the library building, provides 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.
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.