



15800 Calvary Rd
Kansas City, MO 64147

Syllabus

Course: BL610E/EN Hebrew I (blended*)
Credit: 3 Semester Hours
Semester: Fall 2020 (Cycle 2)
Time: 6:00–9:00 P.M. Thursday, August 20–October 8, 2020
Location: Calvary University, EEd 120 and the online classroom
Instructor: Joel T. Williamson, Jr., Th.M.
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I. DESCRIPTION

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

* 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

General 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. 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) (Exams, Quizzes, Homework). You can’t 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 or 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 1, 2, 4) (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.

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.)

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. 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 (35%). 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 (30%). 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 (35%). 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

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

1. **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.
2. **Style.** All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition (with footnotes).
3. **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.
4. **Disabilities.** Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the DSS Director (dss@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.