


U-BS 441
ELEMENTARY HEBREW I
Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
5001 N. Oak Trafficway
Kansas City, MO 64118

<u>Course Number:</u> U-BS 441	<u>Section:</u> 01	<u>Title:</u> Elem. Hebrew I
<u>Term:</u> Fall	<u>Year:</u> 2009	<u>Credit:</u> 3 hours
<u>Class Meetings:</u> Tue/Thur	<u>Time:</u> 8:00-9:15	<u>Location:</u> MBTS Campus

Instructor: Mr. Steve Rives		
<u>Email:</u>	steve.rives@gmail.com	<u>Web:</u> www.mrrives.com
<u>Cell Telephone:</u>	816-415-4621	Click 
<u>Faculty Secretary:</u>	Julie Harrison	to
<u>Secretary Cell:</u>	816-414-3826	access course notes and syllabus

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the fundamentals of Biblical Hebrew grammar and syntax with emphasis on the strong verb (3 semester hours).

COURSE OBJECTIVES

After the first semester of Biblical Hebrew:

1. The student shall recognize the Hebrew alphabet and vocalization of basic Hebrew sounds.
2. The student shall identify Hebrew nouns, adjectives, and other basic parts of speech.
3. The student shall possess an introductory knowledge of the Hebrew Verbal System.
4. The student shall learn vocabulary building and root-finding.
5. The student shall translate simple sentences from the Biblical text.
6. The student shall discover the mysteries and joys of reading the Hebrew Bible.
7. The student, optionally, shall learn how to use electronic Hebrew fonts, keyboards and tools.

We do not seek knowledge for the sake of knowledge, but for the glory of Christ. We do not seek knowledge for the accolades of men, but to feed the sheep of Christ. The goal of learning Hebrew is so that we can search the Scriptures and see our Great God and King, Jesus. Jesus said, "You search the Scriptures [**in Hebrew**] because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me", John 5:39. Again he said, "For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote [**in Hebrew**] about Me", John 5:46.

TEXTBOOKS

Required:

1. Kelley, P. H. *Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992. In the first semester, we will cover roughly 140 pages of this book.
2. Braun, F. X. *English Grammar for Language Students*. Ann Arbor: Ulrich's Bookstore, 1947. This book is only 23 pages in length.

Recommended:

3. Kelley, P. H., Burden, T. L., and T. G. Crawford. *A Handbook to Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994. **This is the answer key to all assigned exercises.**
4. Doukhan, J. B. *Hebrew for Theologians*. Lanham, MD: University Press, 1993.
5. Hagwood, Scott, *Memory Power*
6. A Hebrew Lexicon.
 - a. Koehler, L. and W. Baumgartner. *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Trans. M.E.J. Richardson. Study Edition. Leiden: Brill, 2001
 - b. Brown, F., Driver, S. R., and Briggs, C., *Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1999. (You may be able to find the Oxford edition of BDB for a reasonable price at a used bookstore. There is virtually little difference between the Hendrickson and Oxford edition.
 - c. Holladay, *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*
7. A Hebrew Bible.

Rudolph, W. and Ruger, H. P., ed. *Biblica Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. 2nd ed. Editio Minor. Stuttgart: *Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft*, 1984.
8. Scott, W. R. *A Simplified Guide to BHS*. Berkeley, CA: Bibal Press, 1987
9. Murphy, T. J. *Pocket Dictionary for the Study of Biblical Hebrew*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2003

Recommended Internet Resources:

www.supermemo.com	Memorize more with less effort
www.Teknia.com	Free: Electronic flashcards
www.Logos.com	Hebrew vocabulary builder (works with Kelley)
www.crazyherbshebrewwords.com	Hebrew memory techniques
www.ualberta.ca/~ebenzvi/Hebrew Bible/hebrewbibstudy.html	Listen to modern speakers read the Bible

REQUIREMENTS FOR COURSE CREDIT
GRADED MATERIAL INDICATED BY % VALUES

Every student must:

1. **(5%)** Attend every class session. Email the instructor with the reason for missing any given session (only acceptable reasons will excuse an absence).
2. **(5%)** Read every word of the 23-page book, *English Grammar for Language Students*. Email the instructor or hand him a note when you have completed this assignment.
3. **(5%)** Complete 15 Lessons from Kelley's *Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar*. With some exceptions (see the schedule below), lessons are generally to be completed for the Thursday class meetings.
4. **(10%) Option 1:** Participate in a Hebrew reading based on Simon and Anderson's *Teach Yourself to Read Hebrew*, Rev. ed. Copies of the manual and CD/ tapes will be placed on two hour reserve in the library. The manual and tapes are also available from EKS Publishing Co., 1029A Solano Avenue, Albany, California 94706-1617, (877-743-2739), www.ekspublishing.com. Students will complete the lab by reading a verse out loud in class. **Option 2:** Continually listen to a Modern Hebrew speaker read Psalm 23 (see MrRives.com for links to MP3 files) and master the pronunciation so that you can quickly and publically read it on your own from the Hebrew.
5. **(20%)** Take weekly vocabulary quizzes from Kelley's book. Seven of the best scores will be averaged at the end of the semester. Makeup quizzes will be given only for exceptional health or emergency circumstances. The vocabulary quizzes prepare you for the exams which will use words from Kelley's vocabulary.
6. **(25%)** Take midterm examination.
7. **(30%)** Take final comprehensive exam.
The dates for these exams are listed below. Makeup examinations will be given only upon written request for exceptional cases.
8. **Optionally complete bonus material (up to +5% grade-boost):** There are three optional Saturday labs (see below for details). Participation and attendance in those will boost your grade by +1% for each one you attend. Participation in the computer lab includes bringing a computer and configuring it for Hebrew usage. As an example of how the bonus grading works, if you end up with a graded score of 94% in the class and you also participated in the computer lab, you will have a 1% bonus which will take your grade to 95%. The labs are designed to promote your on-going love of Hebrew and to equip you with more tools for success. Likewise, there is a +1% bonus for reading the first half of *Hebrew for Theologians* and a +1% bonus for reading the first half of *Crazy Herb's Hebrew*.
9. Complete the Student Self Evaluation form online at the end of class.

GRADING

The following numerical grading scale will be employed for this course:

A	97-100	B+	90-93	C+	82-84	D+	73-75
A-	94-96	B	87-89	C	78-81	D	69-72
		B-	85-86	C-	76-77	D-	65-68

BONUS LABS: COMPUTER, MEMORY AND MUSEUM

Three optional labs will be conducted outside of the normal class time on certain Saturdays (see the schedule below). The first is a lab on human memory and techniques for improving memorization abilities; you will be shown ways to instantly increase your memory power. In the second lab, the instructor will assist students in configuring their personal laptops for Hebrew and Greek keyboard and font usage, flashcard software and other tools for Hebrew. The basic instructions are available on my web site. Starting at www.MrRives.com, click on the **Hebrew** link and find the relevant discussion on Hebrew/Greek fonts and electronic tools. The final lab is a trip to the Nelson Atkins Museum for a biblical-theological study tour related to the Old Testament and Semitic language studies.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Disabilities

Students seeking effective auxiliary aids for a current documented disability need to conform to Seminary policies and procedures as listed in the Midwestern *Students with Disabilities Information Brochure* available in the Student Development Office. Students are responsible for contacting the Student Development Office for verification and recommendations for any disability case. The Student Development Office will then recommend to the instructor any necessary effective auxiliary aids.

2. Plagiarism

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Plagiarism in the translation of Biblical Hebrew is the use of interlinear translations and analytical lexicons without the benefit of prior intensive study and critical reflection. **Do not bring English versions, interlinear translations, or photocopies of such translations to class.** Sources of translation must be cited and students must do original work. If plagiarism is determined for any assignment, the student will receive an automatic zero (0) for that assignment without opportunity of make-up. The offending student will be reported to the Dean for disciplinary action.

3. Incomplete Grades

The policy of the school on incompletes will be carefully followed. Unless all work is completed the student will be assigned an incomplete. Consult the 2008-2010 MBTS Academic Catalog.

4. Late Work

All work must be turned on the dates noted under Assignments and Exam Dates. Work turned in late will suffer a one-grade reduction. Unforeseeable circumstances do occur and students may request an extension during the semester. Grace in the matter will be at

the discretion of the instructor. Students who have not turned in work after the final exam, and are not qualified to receive an incomplete, will fail the course.

5. **Make-up Exams**

See below.

6. **Cell Phones, Computers, Internet and Email**

All electronic devices, including Cell phones, should be set to silent during class. Multiple infractions of this request may result in a penalization of grades. During class, computers must not be used to play games, surf the Internet or check email. Two or more infractions of this will result in a penalization of grades.

7. **Taping or Recording Lectures**

The policy of the Trustees of this seminary is to allow students to tape-record the class lectures for their personal use and study. Students who wish to record the lectures by audiotape or other electronic means must submit a dated letter of request to the instructor containing the following statement:

Dear Mr Rives,

I respectfully request to tape or digitally record the class lectures for (Class Title) for the (Term and Year) for my personal study use only. I agree that no part of the lectures may be distributed, reproduced, downloaded or up-loaded to or from any computer-based retrieval system, or translated in any form by print, photo print, microfilm, mimeograph, or any other printed or electronic means, or for presentation on radio, television, film, or the Internet without written permission from you.

Signed by the student

8. **English as a Second Language**

Students whose native language is not English are required to pass the TOEFL exam (see MBTS catalog) with a satisfactory score prior to admission. Students in this class are expected to possess an adequate facility with written and spoken English. Under special circumstances, TOEFL students may request permission to use a language dictionary or device during exams. This request must be made in writing prior to the first sectional test. Permission will be granted only after an interview with the instructor.

ASSIGNMENTS, LABS AND EXAM DATES

Week 1	Aug. 25, 27	Kelley, Lesson 1 (Ex. 1, 2, 3, 9, 10); <i>Simon and Anderson, Lessons 1-3</i>
Optional	Aug 29, Saturday	MEMORY LAB , 1:00-2:00; Classroom: TBD
Week 2	Sept. 1, 3	Kelley, Lesson 2 (Ex. 4, 5, 7, 8) & Lesson 3 (Ex. 1, 2); <i>Simon and Anderson, Lessons 4-6</i>
Optional	Sept 5, Saturday	COMPUTER LAB , 1:00-2:00; Classroom: TBD Bring your laptop.
Week 3	Sept. 8, 10	Vocabulary Quiz 1; Kelley, Lesson 4 (Ex. 2, 3, 5, 6); <i>Simon and Anderson, Lessons 7-8</i>
Week 4	Sept. 15, 17	Kelley, Lesson 5 (2, 4, 6) <i>Simon and Anderson, Lessons 9-10</i>
Week 5	Sept. 22, 24	Vocabulary Quiz 2; Kelley, Lesson 6 (2, 4, 5)
Week 6	Sept. 29, Oct. 1	Vocabulary Quiz 3; Kelley, Lesson 7 (1, 2, 4)
Week 7	Oct. 6, 8	Vocabulary Quiz 4; Kelley, Lesson 8 (1, 5)
Week 8	Oct. 12-17	Fall Break
Week 9	Oct. 20, 22	Vocabulary Quiz 5; Kelley, Lesson 9 (2, 4)
Week 10	Oct. 27, 29	Midterm Exam (24); Kelley, Lesson 10 (2, 4)
Week 11	Nov. 3, 5	Vocabulary Quiz 6; Kelley, Lesson 11 (2, 3, 4)
Optional	Nov 7, Saturday	NELSON ATKINS MUSEUM, 1:00-2:30 Old Testament Biblical Theology Trip at the Nelson Atkins Museum
Week 12	Nov.10,12	Vocabulary Quiz 7; Kelley, Lesson 12 (1, 5, 7) & Lesson 13 (2, 3, 6)
Week 13	Nov. 17, 19	Vocabulary Quiz 8; Kelley, Lesson 14 (2, 3, 7)
Week 14	Nov. 23, 28	Thanksgiving Recess
Week 15	Dec. 1, 3	Vocabulary Quiz 9; Kelley, Lesson 14 (Cont.)

Week 16	Dec. 8, 10	Vocabulary Quiz 10; Kelley, Lesson 15 (1, 4, 5)
Week 17	Dec. 14, 17	Finals Week (comprehensive exam includes all vocabulary for the semester).
	Dec 17 th	Finish reading every word of the 23-page book, <i>English Grammar for Language Students</i> .

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, **rightly dividing** the word of truth, 1 Timothy 2:15

PROCEDURES FOR MAKEUP EXAMS FOR MR. RIVES

Please Read Carefully:

The composition of all make-up exams will be at the discretion of Mr. Rives. The same regularly scheduled exam will not be given as a makeup. Makeup exams are normally essay tests requiring attention to detail. **It is in the best interest of the student to take an exam at the scheduled time.**

- I. If you wish to take an exam at a time other than the date upon which it is officially scheduled you must:**
- A. Send a written request to Mr. Rives indicating why you are unable to take the regularly scheduled test in class. He will decide whether the circumstances warrant an excused makeup test, and will notify you in writing of his decision. Generally, only exceptional cases will be excused. Normally makeup exams requested in this manner will be given prior to the date for the regularly scheduled exam in class.
 - B. Follow the general procedures for taking makeup exams listed below.
- II. If you have missed an exam because of illness or other personal difficulty you must:**
- A. Immediately see the faculty secretary for Mr. Rives to schedule a time to take the exam during the following week and attach a written note to your makeup test indicating why you were unable to take the regularly scheduled test in class. Mr. Rives will decide whether the circumstances warrant an excused makeup test. Makeup tests returned without a signed note of explanation will be automatically penalized 5 points.
 - B. Follow the general procedures for taking makeup exams listed below.

General Procedures:

1. Unexcused makeup tests will be automatically penalized 5 points. Unless otherwise excused, makeup tests will be penalized an additional 5 points for each week late after the date of the scheduled class test. To avoid such a penalty, a signed note must accompany the makeup test explaining why you were late in taking the makeup. Late penalty points will accrue automatically unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor.
2. Makeup tests will be available from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon and from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. from Mr. Rives' faculty secretary. Students may request makeup tests only at the convenience of the faculty secretary.
3. Students will be allowed one hour to complete the makeup test. It is the student's responsibility to return the test on time. Failure to return the test in one hour will result in an additional 5 point penalty. Tests are to be taken in an area so designated by the faculty secretary.
4. Students are reminded that makeup tests are given on the honor system. Failure to comply with this system not only displeases the Lord, but may also result in the loss of makeup privileges for all students.

Revised 7/16/09