



HB 501 CO: HEBREW I

Fall 2011

Columbia Campus: Mondays, 1:00-4:00 p.m., beginning **Aug 29**; Final exam: **Dec 5**

Professor: Max Rogland

[Syllabus revised 6/23/11]

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*****IMPORTANT SCHEDULING INFORMATION*****

Before registering for this Columbia-campus section of HB 501, please be aware that it is intended to continue on with HB 502 in J-term 2012 and, for students taking third semester Hebrew, with HB 601 in Spring 2012. By registering for this section of HB 501, you are committing yourself to taking HB 502 in January 2012, which will involve a more intensive schedule in order to cover the necessary material within a month's time frame. Specifically, in J-term 2012 the Monday class session of HB 502 will add one hour to the meeting time (1:00-5:00 p.m.) and, moreover, one additional weekly class session (3-4 hours long) will be scheduled. This additional class meeting could be held in the morning (e.g. 9:00 a.m.-noon), afternoon (e.g. 1:00-4:00 p.m.), or evening (e.g. 6:00-9:00 p.m.), depending upon students' schedules. The specific day and time of this additional class session will be determined by mutual agreement soon after the Fall term begins. If you are unable to accommodate the more intensive J-term schedule for HB 502 then you should NOT enroll for this Fall 2011 section of HB 501. The Spring 2012 section of HB 601 will return to a schedule of a three-hour meeting once a week (Monday, 1:00-4:00 p.m.). Please contact the instructor if you have any questions regarding these scheduling issues.

There will be many educational benefits to learning Hebrew on this more compressed schedule, not the least of which is the potential to complete the entire Hebrew I-III sequence without interruption in one academic year. It will require, however, that students have the extra flexibility in their schedules to accommodate an additional weekly class session in J-term 2012, a willingness to be available at a time that is convenient for other students, and of course the commitment to finding the extra study time that will be needed in January 2012. It will make for a very intensive J-term, but it will dramatically improve the process of learning Hebrew.

OFFICE HOURS FOR FALL 2011:

During the Fall 2011 semester my Columbia office hours are 1:30-4:00 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday, but it is always advisable to call or email for an appointment first, just in case I have to be away for some unexpected reason. Other times may be available by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A study of the fundamentals of classical Hebrew grammar, syntax and vocabulary, this course prepares the student for Old Testament interpretation.

Students taking the Biblical languages must complete this course and HB 502 prior to taking their Hebrew exegesis course.

COURSE TEXTBOOKS:

Students are expected to secure their own copies of all required textbooks. As a convenience, the seminary has a bookstore portal of the website at:

<http://www.erskineseminary.org/bookstore.html>

There you will find links to familiar vendors (CBD, Amazon, B&N, and Books-A-Million) and can check availability of texts, compare prices, and place orders. The ETS SBA will receive a modest percentage of the profits from students' and professors' purchases through this portal. The Erskine Campus Bookstore will carry a limited number of copies of every required text and orders for books can be placed through the Campus Bookstore.

REQUIRED: [revised 6/23/2011]

Karl Elliger and Wilhelm Rudolph, *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. American Bible Society. Various formats are available: Hardcover Large Format (recommended), Hardcover Small Format, Hardcover Wide Margin Edition, Paperback Small Format.

David J. A. Clines (ed.), *The Concise Dictionary of Classical Hebrew* (Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2009; paperback; ISBN: 978-1-906055-79-0)

Randall Buth, *Living Biblical Hebrew, Part One (MP4 Version)* (Biblical Language Center; ISBN: 978-965-7352-10-6). The current introductory price for this new MP4 version is \$25.00 and can be purchased at <http://www.biblicallanguagecenter.com/new-product/> or <http://www.biblicallanguagecenter.com/books-products/biblical-hebrew/>

N.B. You only need to purchase the MP4 version including PDF files, not the much more expensive MP4 and book/CD combo (listed at \$89.00).

You will also need to download a number of Hebrew songs as MP3 files from Amazon.com. The specific titles and artists can be found under the wish list "Erskine Hebrew 2011-12" at Amazon.

RECOMMENDED:

Paul Overland, *Hebrew Out Loud*, interactive CD tutorial; contact Ashland University Bookstore (phone 419-289-5301 [university]; 419-289-5861 [seminary]; www.ashlandbookstore.com), \$25.00.

LANGUAGE LEARNING EXPECTATIONS AND ASSESSMENT:

Acquisition of a foreign language involves gaining competency on a variety of levels:

1. Pronunciation/oral facility: fluency in forming the range of sounds utilized by the language;
2. Aural comprehension: the ability to recognize and comprehend the language when it is being spoken;
3. Reading ability: recognition of the language's writing system/characters, the ability to form syllables so as to be able to pronounce words properly, and so on;

4. Vocabulary: possessing a sufficient working knowledge of word meanings to enable communication (studies vary, but basic communicative competence involves a vocabulary of somewhere around 3,000 words);
5. Form recognition and analysis: the ability to identify different parts of speech (nouns, verbs, etc.), parse verbs, analyze noun formations, pronoun suffixes, etc.;
6. Translation: the skill of accurately translating passages in the foreign language, which requires the ability to synthesize the various competencies given above;
7. Communicative ability: the ability to express oneself in the foreign language.

All of these factors are vital for language learning and will be taken into account by the instructor when assigning course grades. Because of the unique problems posed by attempting to learn a “dead” language such as Biblical Hebrew, however, some of these competencies (particularly #2 and #7) will not be emphasized as heavily as others in this class, and will be weighted accordingly by the instructor when assigning a course grade. Also, with reference to the student’s Hebrew vocabulary (#4), it is not expected that the student will have attained a 3,000 word vocabulary by the end of Hebrew I-II.

This class will be highly participatory in nature, and this will be reflected in the course requirements. In this course, oral interaction, communication, and worship in Biblical Hebrew will be emphasized. Some quizzes and exams may be oral rather than written. It is important not to feel inhibited in attempting to make some of the peculiar sounds of Biblical Hebrew so that you may quickly become proficient in speaking the language Hebrew aloud.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Details regarding course requirements will be provided in a future revision of this syllabus and/or at the first class session. Please keep checking the seminary website for updates to this syllabus.

OVERALL GRADING SCALE:

100-95	A	85-84	C+	71-70	D-
94-93	A-	83-80	C		
92-91	B+	79-78	C-	69-0	F
90-88	B	77-76	D+		
87-86	B-	75-72	D		

ERSKINE VIRTUAL CAMPUS (EVC):

This course utilizes Erskine’s EVC website as a place to make a number of required class resources available to you. Thus, you will need frequent access to a computer with a reliable internet connection. See Appendix A below for directions on setting up an account. After you have set up an account and are officially registered for the course then you will need an enrollment key in order to access the HB 501 CO online classroom (this key is available from the instructor). Students must have their EVC accounts set up by the first class session. As soon as you have registered for the course you should check the online classroom for important information pertaining to the class. The HB 501 CO course is listed under the “hybrid” classrooms on EVC: <http://hybrid.erskineseminary.net/>

HEBREW FONTS:

SBL Hebrew is the Hebrew font used in the instructor's files and documents. You will need to have this installed on your computer in order to read many resources. This font can be downloaded at: http://www.sbl-site.org/educational/BiblicalFonts_SBLHebrew.aspx

To facilitate your capability to manipulate Hebrew texts in documents, you may also be interested in the Shabboeth software program, a free program offered by Logos software. This user-friendly program may be downloaded at: <http://www.logos.com/shabboeth>

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS AND SEMINARY POLICIES:

For official seminary policies on Course Drop/Add/Withdrawals, Required Textbooks, Language About God and Humanity, Conduct in Theological Discussions, Course Incompletes, Class Attendance, Style and Bibliographic Formatting Requirements, Exegesis Credit for Bible Electives, Chapel Attendance, Portfolio Requirements, and Plagiarism, see the following link:

http://seminary.erskine.edu/content_policies/SeminaryPoliciesforETSSStudents.pdf

In addition to the information provided there, please note the following:

Policy on Absences and Late/Incomplete Work: Sleeping in class is counted as an absence, as is missing more than half of a class session. More than one class absence will result in grade penalties, as will any assignments turned in late.

Taping Class Lectures: If you wish to tape a lecture using your own recording device, you must complete an "Audio Recording Request" form, which can be downloaded from the Seminary website at: <http://www.erskineseminary.org/Academics/PdfDownloads.html>

IMPORTANT DATES/CLASS SCHEDULE:

A full class schedule of topics, assignments, etc. will be provided at the first class session. Make sure to take note of the following:

- The first class session meets on **August 29**.
- No class on **November 21** – Thanksgiving Break
- The final exam is on **December 5**.

Appendix A: First time EDEN users

If you have never created an EDEN account, please complete the following steps to access to the online classroom.

If you have taken an EDEN course previously, go to the web site listed below and enter your user name and password.

1. Go to the online classroom website: <http://eden.erskineseminary.net/>
2. Select the term for which you are enrolled.
3. Read carefully the text under the heading “*Is this your first time here?*” Click on the “*Start now by creating a new account*” button.
4. An email will be immediately sent to the email address you entered in the new account form. When it arrives read the email and click on the web link it contains. Your account will be confirmed and you will be logged in. This must be done in a timely manner – the confirmation will not stay for long in the system.
5. Find the course for which you are enrolled.
6. Enter the **enrollment key** in order to access the online classroom. You will be provided this key upon confirmation by the Registrar’s office.

** Notes:

- The **enrollment key** and your **user name and password** are different. Do not attempt to use one for the other.
- It is recommended that you write down your user name and password so that it won’t be forgotten. The EDEN office cannot provide you with this information.
- Please do not share the enrollment key with other students.