



HB 501 CO: HEBREW I

Fall 2010

Columbia Campus: Tuesdays, 6:00-9:00 p.m., beginning August 31

Professor: Max Rogland

(Syllabus revised August 2010)

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OFFICE HOURS FOR FALL TERM 2010:

During Fall Term 2010 my 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 METHOD:

This class will be highly participatory in nature, and this is reflected in the grade requirements given later in this syllabus. 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 Biblical Hebrew aloud. The unnecessary use of English in the classroom will most likely be met with derision, if not corporal punishment.

ERSKINE DISTANCE EDUCATION NETWORK (EDEN):

This course utilizes Erskine's EDEN website as a place to make class resources available to you as well as the means for completing and submitting various assignments. Thus, you will need frequent access to a computer with a reliable internet connection. If you have never used the EDEN site before then see the directions below on how to set up an account (Appendix A). After you have set up an account you will need an enrollment key in order to access the HB 501 CO online classroom (available from the instructor). Students should have their EDEN accounts set up by the first class session.

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

REQUIRED 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.

Karl Elliger and Willhelm 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.

William L Holladay, *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*, 1971, Eerdmans Publishing Company.

The following textbooks are available from the Ashland University Bookstore (phone 419-289-5301 [university]; 419-289-5861 [seminary]; www.ashlandbookstore.com):

Paul Overland, *Hebrew Out Loud*, interactive CD tutorial; contact Ashland University Bookstore, \$25.00.

NOTE: It is essential that you have the *Hebrew Out Loud* CD by the first class session!

Paul Overland, *Words for Conversation (Millim le-sichah)*, ca. \$10.00 (same as above).

NOTE: This resource is being reprinted and might not be available by the start of the course.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS, GRADING, AND COURSE SCHEDULE:

Your final grade will be based upon the following factors:

1. Classroom attendance and participation: 25%
2. Quizzes: 20%
3. Final exam: 15%
4. Assignments: 35%

More details on these will be provided in class.

5. Hebrew Bible Oral Reading: 5%

Acquisition of any language is aided by the ability to read and pronounce that language well. For this reason you are required to spend a minimum of 30 minutes per week read-

ing aloud in the Hebrew Bible (this includes the week of Thanksgiving Break). The goal is not comprehension but simply gaining proficiency in reading and pronunciation. You may read from anywhere in the Hebrew Bible, but you must record your time spent each week on the reading report below (Appendix B) and submit it at the final exam on **December 7**.

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		

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS AND SEMINARY POLICIES:

Registration: Once a student has completed, signed, and submitted his/her registration to the Registrar for this class, it is a binding contract, and billing will be based on this registration. If the student decides not to take this class, he/she must complete a “drop/add” form and secure the appropriate signatures prior to the drop/add deadline during the second week of the semester or term. If one wishes to withdraw from the course after the drop/add deadline, one must complete a withdrawal form, and tuition will be refunded on a pro rated basis. Failure to withdraw from the class properly will result in the student’s receiving a grade of “F” for the course, and full tuition charges will apply. No exceptions will be made to this policy.

Official Seminary Class Attendance Policy and Policy on Absences: Class participation is considered an important part of the total educational experience at Erskine Seminary. Students are expected to attend classes on a regular basis and are responsible for the mastery of all materials required in the course. In general, students are allowed up to three hours of unexcused absence without penalty. Students taking a class that meets four times over a semester/term must attend the first meeting of the class. Students who cannot attend the first course meeting should not register for the course or, if already registered, should drop the course and complete the drop/add form. (If the drop/add form is not completed and turned in to the Registrar, the student will still be charged for the course and will receive an “F” grade.) If students have to be absent for part or all of another class meeting day, they are still responsible for all work missed and all work due. A student who misses as much as one full class day or its equivalent in late arrival or early departure should consult with the professor to see whether it is still possible to pass the course. Sleeping in class is counted as an absence. If you are aware of any conflicts that will prevent you from attending one of the class sessions, you should register for a different section or take the course at another time.

Late and/or Incomplete Work: Any work not submitted by the due date will be assessed a late penalty. Students should review the Seminary policy on “Incompletes” in the Seminary catalog. The grade of “I” or incomplete is given at the discretion of the professor. A grade of “I” is normally given when a student has substantially completed the requirements for a course but has been prevented by extraordinary circumstances from completing the remainder of the course requirements. A student who wishes to request an incomplete should normally complete an incomplete form prior to the end of the semester and ask the professor to grant the request. (Under unusual circumstances, the student may communicate with the professor by phone or email rather than in person, and the professor may then agree to fill out the form at the stu-

dent's request. Under exceptional circumstances, the professor may initiate the process by filling out the form on the student's behalf.) If the professor grants the request, he/she will sign the incomplete form and turn it in with his/her final grade report. An "I" in any course must be removed by March 1 for the Fall Term, April 1 for the January Term, August 1 for the Spring Term, and November 1 for the Summer Term. Only the Dean may grant extensions of incompletes beyond the established completion date. Otherwise, these grades automatically become "F."

Plagiarism: Any student who commits plagiarism is in violation of Seminary policy and is liable for dismissal. See the academic section of the Catalog for complete information.

Language about God and Humanity: Although God transcends the distinction between male and female, the Bible and the Church's historic creeds and confessions use masculine language in reference to God. Thus, the Seminary encourages all students to retain this masculine usage when speaking and writing about God. Furthermore, the Seminary recognizes that all human beings, male and female, are created equally in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27), and believers of both sexes are fellow heirs of the grace of life (1 Pet. 3:7). Accordingly, whenever students are speaking and writing about males and females, they should use language that clearly includes both men and women (for example, by saying/writing "humanity" rather than "man" or "people" rather than "men").

Conduct in Theological Discussions: Erskine Seminary is committed to the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, and it expects its students to show respect for all who identify with that one Church. In all written work, oral presentations, and discussions both inside and outside the classroom, the Seminary expects students to conduct discussions of controversial issues in a context of respect for those with whom one disagrees. Please see the Community Life Statement in the Catalog for more information.

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_Files/PdfDownloads.html

IMPORTANT DATES/CLASS SCHEDULE:

Details regarding assignments, exam dates, etc., will be provided in class. Make sure to take note of the following:

- **The first class session meets on August 31.**
- The final exam is scheduled for Tuesday, December 7.

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.

Appendix B: Weekly Hebrew Bible Oral Reading Report (30 minutes/week)

Below please record the amount of completed minutes for each week and give the total at the bottom. This form is to be submitted at the final exam on **December 7**.

Week of:	Minutes Read:
8/30	
9/6	
9/13	
9/20	
9/27	
10/4	
10/11	
10/18	
10/25	
11/1	
11/8	
11/15	
11/22	
11/29	
Total	/420

The above record is an accurate reflection of my reading in the Hebrew Bible.

Name _____

Signature _____