CANADIAN
THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY

Alliance University College

BL 511 *The Language of the Old Testament* (3)
Fall 2006
Instructor: R. R. Remin

Contacting the Instructor
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    Class Times: TTh 8:15-9:30   **Class Location: TBA**
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Course Description
A beginning course in biblical Hebrew and its grammatical structure. Some attention is given to the oral reading of Hebrew. Students will be introduced to hard copy and electronic resources available to assist their study of biblical Hebrew.

Student Outcomes
Primary Outcomes
1. The student will learn and review the grammatical elements of biblical Hebrew by observation of the Hebrew text so that the student will be able to identify correctly the morphological patterns of the verbs and nouns as well as translate Hebrew text into meaningful English. Students are required to learn the structural markers (morphemes) of the Hebrew language rather than the rote memorization of the same. The emphasis falls soundly on learning to understand the Hebrew text and not necessarily the translation of the text *per se*. The pedagogical methodology of the course presents the student with the opportunity to learn inductively and deductively.

2. From the first lesson the student will be reading Hebrew Biblical text. The student will read in Hebrew the first two chapters of Esther in this semester and in the next semester most of the remainder of Esther and the first chapter of Genesis. As time permits selected portions of Amos, Micah, Hosea and the Psalms will be read.

3. The student will commit to memory in this semester a minimum vocabulary of approximately 250 words of Hebrew vocabulary all of which occur more than forty times in the Old Testament or are of particular theological interest. The student will learn how to use the Hebrew-English dictionary and will be expected and required to use the dictionary constantly.

4. The student will be taught the major reading markers (accents) of Hebrew so that the student can learn to read the texts out loud, discerning the meaningful units in each case.

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5.   The student will be introduced to the major reference grammars for biblical Hebrew (Gesenius-Kautzsche-Cowley, Jouon, Waltke-O'Connor) as well as theological dictionaries such as *TWOT*, *TDOT*, *DOTT*, *DBI*, *ABD*, and *IDB*. Some time will be spent discussing computer and internet resources.

Secondary Objectives

6.   The student will learn how to observe and how to learn by observation.

7.   The student will be introduced to those aspects of Persian culture which are evident in the story of Esther and which are distinct from the Jewish culture of the Old Testament and our modern culture. Thus the need for cross-cultural awareness even within the Old Testament will be demonstrated.

8.   The student will read *Tall Tales* which are children's' stories told in Biblical Hebrew. This reading facilitates learning to read more quickly and to read for amusement and pleasure.

9.   The student will be introduced to the basic principles of the contextual-syntactical-verbal-theological method of exegesis.

Required Texts

Please note the change in the textbook from the last few years. The required texts for this course are:

W.S. LaSor, *Handbook of Biblical Hebrew*, *an Inductive Approach* Based on *the Hebrew Text of Esther*, 2 Vol. (W.B. Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1978).   (Please note that various re-printings of this text have rendered it a one volume text which students will inevitably render a two volume text – the student's first creative act by division among the other less beneficial "creative acts" in a first year Hebrew course which are usually created by assuming incorrect points of division.)

Brown, Francis, Driver, S.R., Briggs, Charles A. *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Clarendon Press, 1907).

Ethelyn Simon, Irene Resnikoff, Linda Motzkin and Susan Noss. *Tall Tales Told in Biblical Hebrew* (EKS Publishing Co., Oakland, CA, 1994).

There are several tools available to help memorize vocabulary.   How to memorize vocabulary will be discussed in class. However you need to choose one of the following.

    a. *FlashWorks* via an internet connection.
    b. R.B. Dillar, *Hebrew Vocabulary Cards* (Vis-Ed, Springfield, 1981).
    c.   A purchased computer program or something off of the internet. E.g. *Biblical Hebrew Vocabulary* produced by Memorization Technology.
    d. Make your own cards. Be accurate!

The following items are highly recommended to those students who wish to begin using their knowledge of Hebrew in Old Testament exegesis immediately.

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Walter Kaiser, *Toward an Exegetical Theology* (Baker, 1981).

Douglas Stuart, *Old Testament Exegesis*: *A Primer for Students and Pastors* (Westminster Press, 1984).

Course Schedule
This course meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:15 to 9:30 a.m. in one of the class rooms of the Canadian Theological Seminary.

Special dates to remember are:

September 26 (Tuesday)	Community Day (no CTS classes)
October 25 (Wednesday)	Community Day -- Missions Emphasis(no CTS classes)
November 7 (Tuesday)	Two Part Test
November 9-10 (Thursday/Friday)	Mid-semester Break (no CTS classes)
November 30 (Thursday)	Word Study / Reference Works Project is due.
December 13 (Wednesday)	Last Day of Lectures
December 15-20	Final Examination as scheduled by the Registrar.
December 20	*The Day* beyond which no professor can grant an extension for incomplete work. This is *the Day* by which you must apply to the Dean and/or Registrar's Office for an extension beyond this *the Day*!

Course Requirements
In addition to the work in preparing each lesson and completing the assignments as directed, each student will:

a.   write weekly quizzes testing vocabulary and points of grammar,
b.   write a two part test (in class closed book and take-home) as scheduled in the semester,
c.   complete "word study / reference works project" which is a study of a Hebrew word in the various selected reference works available for studying Hebrew and write an evaluation of the works used (A list of possible Hebrew words, the selected reference works and criteria for grading this assignment will be made available.),
d.   learn how to read the Hebrew lexicon, *BDB* (Brown-Driver-Briggs),
e.   write the final examination during the scheduled examination week,
f.   Remember The Rules For The Class

   Have fun!

   Make mistakes!

   Ask dumb questions!

   Cheat! (Except on the tests and the final.)

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Consider this classroom a safe zone! There are no dumb questions! There are no topics which are off limit.

Course Grade
The final grade will be determined as follows:

        20% -- weekly vocabulary/grammar quizzes
        20% -- Mid-Term Test
        20% -- Word Study / Reference Works Project
        40% -- Final Examination

Important Notes

1. All hand written tests and examinations must be written in ink. All other assignments must be submitted in electronic form via email. These assignments must be MS Word format and must use Greek and/or Hebrew fonts. The fonts will be made available to students.

2. You may contact your professor by various means.
    a. Office Hours on campus:
        i.   Tuesday   When not in class. Over lunch
        ii.   Wednesday   By Appointment Only
        iii. Thursday   When not in class. Over lunch.
        iv.   Friday   By Appointment Only
    b. Email in the office: rremin@auc-nuc.ca
    c. Voice in the office: 410-2000 ext 7906
    d. Voice at home: 946-4635

3. Absences are intolerable because of the nature of the subject being learned and the manner in which this course is taught, namely the inductive method. If you must miss a class please work through the lesson(s) missed and then come to the instructor with any problems or questions. In the event you cannot be prepared, you are better being in class unprepared than not in class at all.

4. The instructor shall comply with all academic regulations as printed in the current *Catalogue* and *Student Handbook. It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies of CTS as are stated in the Student Handbook and Academic Calendar and Catalogue. Personal information, that is information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as a requirement as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@auc-nuc.ca.*

5. The following academic policies are particularly relevant.

    a. **Add/Drop Policy:** Students wishing to add a course should refer to the current academic calendar for the last day to officially enter the class. Students intending to withdraw from a course must complete the relevant Registration Revision form.

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The dates by which students may voluntarily withdraw from a course without penalty are contained in the Calendar of Events in the academic calendar.

b. **Course Extensions or Alternative Examination Requests:** Students may not turn in course work after the date of the scheduled final examination for the course unless they have received permission for a "Course Extension." Alternative times for final examinations cannot be scheduled without prior approval. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination times must be submitted to the Registrar's Office two weeks prior to examination week (noted as the "Last Day for Alternative Exam or Course Extension Requests" on the academic calendar). Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

c. **Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty.** The seminary maintains a zero tolerant policy on plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Plagiarism and academic dishonesty can result in a failing grade for an assignment for the course, or immediate dismissal from the seminary. Even unintentional plagiarism is to be avoided at all costs. Students are expected to be familiar with the policy statements in the current academic calendar and the student handbook that deal with plagiarism, academic dishonesty (cheating), and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean.

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