

Course ID:	Course Title:	Winter 2020
BL 512	Introduction to Hebrew Exegesis	Prerequisite: BL 511
		Credits: 3

Class Information		Instructor Information		Important Dates	
Days:	Thursdays	Instructor:	Beth Stovell, Ph.D.	First day of classes:	Tue, Jan 7
Time:	8:15am-11am	Email:	BStovell@ambrose.edu	Last day to add/drop, or change to audit:	Sun, Jan 19
Room:	L2100	Phone:	403-410-2000 ext. 3995	Last day to request revised final exam:	Mon, Mar 9
Lab/ Tutorial:	n/a	Office:	L2077	Last day to withdraw from course:	Fri, Mar 20
		Office Hours:	By appointment via e-mail	Last day to apply for coursework extension:	Mon, Mar 30
Final Exam:	TBA			Last day of classes:	Thurs, Apr 9

Course Description

In this course, the student reads selected portions of prose and poetry from the Hebrew Old Testament. The grammatical structures learned in the first semester are reviewed and amplified. The basic principles of the exegesis of a Hebrew text are studied.

Expected Learning Outcomes

Expected learning outcomes include the following:

- Each student will continue to advance their knowledge of Hebrew grammar so as to improve their ability to interpret the Hebrew Old Testament faithfully. The emphasis in this class falls on how understanding Hebrew improves one's ability to understand the Old Testament. To this end, the student will add to their knowledge of how the Hebrew language works by:
 - Learning grammar (including, but not limited to the characteristics of derived stems of the strong and weak verbs in the perfect, imperfect, and their participles, imperatives, and infinitives)
 - Reading portions of the Hebrew OT for discussion and translation in class
- Students will learn exegetical methods specific to Hebrew language exegesis including contextual, syntactical, and theological and homiletical analysis, characteristics of Hebrew prose and poetry, basic principles of textual criticism and how to read a critical apparatus as we read portions of the Hebrew OT. Students will also explore how understanding Hebrew language helps with interpreting the Old Testament in meaningful ways for their own lives, for their ministry contexts, and for the world today.

3. Students will learn how to use resources specific to Hebrew language study including theological language resources, commentaries, lexicons, and electronic language software.

Textbooks

Required:

1. Pratico, Gary and Miles Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar* (Third Edition). Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2019. ISBN: 978-0310533498
2. Pratico, Gary and Miles Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Workbook* (Third Edition). Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2019. ISBN: 978-0310533559
3. Brown, Francis, Driver, S.R., Briggs, Charles A. *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Hendrickson, 1996. ISBN: 978-1565632066 (This may be purchased as a hardback from the Ambrose Bookstore or from one of the electronic language software providers such as Accordance or Logos.)

This course will only cover the second half of these two books. These books are also used for BL 511, which will cover the first half of these books.

Students will also learn about other hard copy and electronic resources for Hebrew learning acquisition and may choose to acquire such software as part of their course materials. More information will be provided in class.

Course Schedule

The readings for the “Reading for Session” should be read prior to class for the designated day and “Assignments Due” designates the assignment or quiz/exam due on a given day. All chapter references in “Reading for Session” refer to the *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar*, while all “Wkbook” references refer to the *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Workbook*. “Wkbook” may refer to specific chapters in the workbook or to specific passage of Hebrew Biblical translation (called “Hebrew Reading”) provided in the workbook as noted in the schedule below.

Date	Topic	Reading for Session	Assignments Due
Jan 9	Grammar: -Review from BL 511 and introduction to BL 512; Waw Consecutive Exegesis: Introduction to Hebrew Exegetical Interpretation	Chapters 17	Wkbook for Ch 17
Jan 16	-Qal Imperative -Pronominal Suffixes on Verbs	Chapters 18-19	Quiz #1 (Vocab Plus) Wkbook for Ch 18-19
Jan 23	Grammar: Qal Infinitive Constructs and Absolutes Exegesis: Contextual Analysis	Chapter 20-21	Quiz #2 (Vocab only) Wkbook for Ch 20-21

Jan 30 No Class: Seminary Retreat	Qal Participle and Sentence Syntax	Chapter 22-23	Quiz #3 (Vocab Plus) Wkbook for chapter 22-23
Feb 6	Grammar: Niphal Stem Strong and Weak Verbs Exegesis: Syntactical Analysis	Chapters 24-25	Quiz #4 (Vocab only) -Contextual Analysis Wkbook for Ch 24-25 (half) Hebrew Reading 1 (1 Kings 8:22-26)
Feb 13	Hiphil Stem Strong and Weak Verbs	Chapters 26-27	Quiz #5 (Vocab Plus) Wkbook for 26-27 (half) Hebrew Reading 2 (Genesis 9:8-13)
No class on Feb 20- Reading Week (Remember to review for your midterm)			
Feb 27	Midterm Exam	Review for Midterm Exam	Prep for Midterm Exam
Mar 5	Grammar: Hophal Stem Strong and Weak Verbs Exegesis: Theological and Homiletical Analysis	Chapters 28-29	Quiz #6 (Vocab only) -Syntactical Analysis -Wkbook for Ch 28-29 (half) Hebrew Reading 3 (Deuteronomy 10:12-14)
Mar 12	Piel Stem Strong and Weak Verbs	Chapter 30-31	Quiz #7 (Vocab Plus) Wkbook for Ch 30-31 (half) Hebrew Reading 4 (1 Kings 8:55-58)
Mar 19	Grammar: Pual Stem Strong and Weak Verbs Exegesis: Translating Biblical Hebrew Poetry	Chapters 32-33	Quiz #8 (Vocab only) Wkbook for Ch 32-33 (half) Hebrew Reading 5 (Psalm 96:1-5)
Mar 26	Hithpael Stem Strong and Weak Verbs	Chapters 34-35	Quiz #9 (Vocab Plus) Wkbook for Ch 34-35 (half) Hebrew Reading 6 (Exodus 34:33-35)
Apr 2	Exegesis: Introduction to the Hebrew Bible (History and Textual Apparatus) and Putting It All Together for Hebrew Exegesis	Chapters 36	Quiz #10 (Vocab Only) -Wkbook for Ch 36 -Theological and Homiletical Analysis

Apr 9	Review for Final Exam	Review for Final Exam	Review for Final Exam Final Exam Date: TBA
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Requirements:

1. Workbook (Submitted as hardcopy in class. See “Submission of Assignments” below for more details)

At the beginning of each Thursday class session starting Week 1, students will submit pages from the course workbook. Before submitting each package from the workbook, each student will check his/her answers against the answer key (provided in the online course resources at Zondervan Academic’s website). Where the student has made an error, she/he will correct the error using a different coloured pen/pencil (e.g., red), and provide a brief notation explaining the error. The purpose of this exercise is a) to ensure that students are practicing their skills on a regular basis, b) to provide a regular feedback mechanism in order to ensure that students are learning and incorporating lessons effectively, and c) to help students identify points of difficulty or confusion during the learning process, and thus correct them before they become habits. Failure to submit workbook material on time (beginning of each Thursday class session), or failure to complete any element of the assigned material, will result in forfeiture of that week’s grade. **Due: Weekly, as assigned. Value: 20% (2% per week of workbook packages over 10 weeks of class; no workbook assignments on exam days).**

Note: On weeks in which students are translating both the Chapters and a Hebrew Reading, the workbook chapters will be ½ of their usual coverage. The professor will help designate what sections should be covered and which are unnecessary. All of the Hebrew Reading will be translated each time it is mentioned, unless otherwise designated by the professor.

2. Quizzes

Regular, scheduled, in-class quizzes will be an important part of the learning experience. These quizzes will be associated with specific chapters from the course text. For “Vocab Only” quizzes, the quiz will cover vocabulary up to the chapters the course has already covered. For “Vocab Plus” these quizzes will include questions related to vocabulary as well as phonology/morphology, syntax, and translation, based on material covered in the workbook, textbook, and PowerPoint lectures. **Due: Weekly; Value: 20% (9 quizzes at 2.2% each because lowest quiz score dropped).**

3. Hebrew Exegesis Short Papers: 30% (3 assignments X 10%=30%) Submitted via Moodle monthly starting in Feb (Feb 6, Mar 5, Apr 2).

Students will write three short papers that focus on an aspect of analysis of Hebrew exegesis: a. contextual analysis, b. syntactical analysis, and c. theological and homiletical analysis. These papers will explore more deeply one of the Hebrew Biblical Reading sections from the workbook of the student’s choosing in consultation with the professor. Whatever passage of the Hebrew Bible the student chooses will be used for all three assignments to promote deeper learning and consistency.

Requirements: 3-5 pages in length each (roughly 900-1500 words, including footnotes), will be in Times New Roman, 12 pt font, will use Chicago Manual of Style for formatting, and will include footnotes and bibliography. Submitted via Moodle under “Assignments” and “Hebrew Exegesis Short Papers”

A. Contextual Analysis (Due: Feb 6): Contextual analysis examines the biblical text in its specific contexts of section, chapter, book, and canon.

B. Syntactical Analysis (Due: Mar 5): Syntactical Analysis examines the biblical text by focusing on the syntactical structures of sentences in the passage.

C. Theological and Homiletical Analysis (Due: Apr 2): Theological and Homiletical Analysis builds on contextual and syntactical analysis to discuss theological interpretation of the biblical text and then crafts homiletical responses to the text.

Additional information and rubrics for each of these assignments will be provided.

3. Mid-term Examination

Students will write a mid-term examination, covering all material up to the date of the exam. **Due Date: Feb 27; Value: 10%.**

4. Final Examination

Students will write a cumulative final examination, covering all material from the semester. **Date: TBA. Value: 20%.**

Submission of Assignments:

So that I can properly evaluate your work the following style guide is to be used for papers in this class:

- **Medium for Submission:** All material for this class will be submitted in hard-copy with the exception of the exegesis assignments, which will be submitted via Moodle. All assignments will be due at the beginning of the class-session on the due date unless otherwise specified.

- **Layout:** Workbook assignments should be removed carefully from the workbook, stapled, and submitted with the student's name clearly visible on the front page. Please endeavor to write legibly, as I cannot effectively grade what I cannot effectively read.

- **Gender Inclusive Language:** Ambrose University College uses inclusive language for human beings in student written materials. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected. The NRSV and TNIV are examples of the use of inclusive language for human beings.

Attendance:

1. The goal of this course is to create a learning community. It is, therefore, essential that all students treat one another with respect and dignity both inside and outside of this course in relation to what you are learning in this course. This includes how students conduct themselves regarding their grades, their success or struggles in the course, and their general conduct to one another. In general, the goal should be to lift one another up, however a person is doing in the course.
2. Course sessions will begin in a timely fashion. To receive full points for course participation, you are expected to arrive by the time class begins and stay until class ends. This is particularly important as this course includes regular quizzes and exams that will need timely attendance to complete. If for some valid reason you will be unable to attend class or will be late, please notify me by phone or email in advance of the class session.
3. **Students with three unexcused absences will be dropped a full letter grade from their final grade.** In addition, students will be dropped an additional third of a letter grade for every unexcused absence after the third. This means an A+ student can only receive a B+ after three unexcused absences, a B after four, a B- after five, etc. To excuse an absence, you need to contact

me by e-mail in advance and in some cases a note will be required. If a student's excused or unexcused absence results in missing a quiz or exam, **the student** is responsible for rescheduling the quiz or exam with the professor in order to receive points for the quiz or exam.

4. However, there is a means for redemption in this course. To redeem your tardiness or absence, you may wish to provide a mediating sacrifice in the vein of the *minhah*, or grain offering, of Leviticus 2. In the place of flour and frankincense burned on an altar, Timbits for the class and a *nasek* (drink offering) of coffee (1 cream, 1 sugar) for the Instructor would be acceptable.
5. Due dates for assignments in this class are firm. They are set up for the overall success of the class - that is, for both students and the instructor. Please stay on top of your assignments and do not procrastinate. If you realize that you will be late in turning in an assignment for a legitimate reason, please see the "Extensions" policy below.

If you feel that you are falling behind or getting into trouble, please come see me early. There are things that can be done early on to get things back on track before it is too late.

Grade Summary:

The available letters for course grades are as follows:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>
A+	
A	Excellent
A-	
B+	
B	Good
B-	
C+	
C	Satisfactory
C-	
D+	
D	Minimal Pass
F	Failure

Because of the nature of the Alpha 4.00 system, there can be no uniform University-wide conversion scale. The relationship between raw scores (e.g. percentages) and the resultant letter grade will depend on the nature of the course and the instructor's assessment of the level of each class, compared to similar classes taught previously.

Please note that final grades will be available on student registration system. Printed grade sheets are not mailed out.

Evaluation:

Assignment	Percentage	Due Date
Weekly Workbook Assignments (10 X 2%)	20%	Weekly
Quizzes (9 X 2.2%)	20%	Weekly
Exegesis Assignments (3 x 10%)	30%	Monthly: Feb 6, Mar 5, Apr 2
Midterm Exam	10%	Feb 27
Final Exam	20%	TBA
TOTAL:	100%	

Hebrew Language Resources:**Electronic resources:**

Accordance Electronic Software <https://www.accordancebible.com> (see Moodle for more information on discounts for this option)

Audio and hard copy resources:

Pratico, Gary D. and Miles V. Van Pelt. *Biblical Hebrew Survival Kit 2.0* (Zondervan, 2019). This includes the following resources:

- *Old Testament Hebrew Vocabulary Cards*, including 1,000 vocabulary flashcards for studying.
- *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Vocabulary Audio*, a digital download from Olive Tree Bible Software, available through an access code, of audio pronunciations of the vocabulary from the grammar to help with vocabulary memorization and acquisition. Features both Classical (by Miles V. Van Pelt) and Modern (by Nancy L. Erickson) Hebrew pronunciations.
- *Biblical Hebrew Laminated Sheet*, for a quick reference guide to common language questions.

Ambrose University Academic Policies:

Communication

All students have received an Ambrose e-mail account upon registration. It is the student's responsibility to check this account regularly as the Ambrose email system will be the professor's instrument for notifying students of important matters (cancelled class sessions, extensions, requested appointments, etc.) between class sessions. If students do not wish to use their Ambrose accounts, they will need to forward all messages from the Ambrose account to another personal account.

Registration

During the **Registration Revision Period** students may enter a course without permission, change the designation of any class from credit to audit and /or voluntary withdraw from a course without financial or academic penalty or record. Courses should be added or dropped on the student portal by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees.

Students intending to withdraw from a course after the Registration Revision Period must apply to the Office of the Registrar by submitting a "Request to Withdraw from a Course" form or by sending an email to the Registrar's Office by the **Withdrawal Deadline**; please consult the List of Important Dates on the my.ambrose.edu website. Students will not receive a tuition refund for courses from which they withdraw after the Registration Revision period. A grade of "W" will appear on their transcript.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

Exam Scheduling

Students, who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a Revised Examination Request form to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; 2) the student has three final exams within three consecutive exam time blocks; 3) the scheduled final exam slot conflicts with an exam at another institution; 4) extenuating circumstances. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

Electronic Etiquette

Students are expected to treat their instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students with respect. It is disruptive to the learning goals of a course or seminar and disrespectful to fellow students and the instructor to use electronics for purposes unrelated to the course during a class session. Turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. Do not use iPods, MP3 players, or headphones. Do not text, read, or send personal emails, go on Facebook or other social networks, search the internet, or play computer games during class. Some professors will not allow the use of any electronic devices in class. The professor has the right to disallow the student to use a

laptop in future lectures and/or to ask a student to withdraw from the session if s/he does not comply with this policy. Repeat offenders will be directed to the Dean. If you are expecting communication due to an emergency, please speak with the professor before the class begins.

Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Academic Calendar. Personal information (information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual) may be required 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@ambrose.edu.

Extensions

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a course Extension from the Registrar's Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

Appeal of Grade

An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Registrar's Office in writing and providing the basis for appeal within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

Academic Integrity

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's ideas, words, or work as one's own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to acknowledge to another person's ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student's permanent record.

Note: Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.