

Course ID:	Course Title:	Fall 2023
BL 511	The Language of the Old Testament	Prerequisite: None
		Credits: 3

Class Information		Instructor Information		Important Dates	
Delivery:	Blended	Instructor:	Heather McKinnon, MCS	First Day of Classes:	Sept 6, 2023
Days:	Monday	Email:	heather.mckinnon@ambrose.edu	Last Day to Add/Drop:	Sept 17, 2023
Time:	8:15-11:15 am	Phone:	403 850-7579	Last Day to Withdraw:	Nov 20, 2023
Room:	L2100	Office:	N/A		
Lab/Tutorial:	N/A	Office Hours:	Please contact the instructor by email or phone for out-of-class meetings via Zoom or in person.	Last Day to Apply for Extension:	Nov 23, 2023
Final Exam:	Take-home Final Exam				

Important Dates and Information

For a list of all important dates and information regarding participating in classes at Ambrose University, please refer to the Academic Calendar at <https://ambrose.edu/academic-calendar>.

Course Description

An introductory course in the study of biblical Hebrew and its grammatical structure. Some attention is given to the oral reading of Hebrew. Students will be introduced to the hard copy and electronic resources available to assist their study of biblical Hebrew.

Expected Learning Outcomes

In this course, the student will:

1. Learn fundamental aspects of biblical Hebrew phonology, morphology, and syntax.
2. Acquire a basic biblical Hebrew vocabulary.
3. Integrate the vocabulary and grammar learned in order to read short, simple biblical Hebrew texts.
4. Learn to use basic tools to assist in reading more complex biblical Hebrew texts.
5. Gain an appreciation for biblical Hebrew study in the understanding of the biblical text.

Required and Recommended Textbooks and Readings

Textbook/Workbook

Required:

1. Pratico, Gary D. and Miles V. VanPelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 2019.
2. Pratico, Gary D. and Miles V. VanPelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Workbook*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 2019.

This course, BL511, will cover the first half of these textbooks. The following course, BL512, will cover the second half of the textbooks. It is necessary to have the 3rd edition of these books for this course. Please bring these textbooks to class, as they will be used regularly in class work.

Bible Software

In section 4 of this class (see course schedule below), students will be required to use Bible software to complete their workbook assignments. STEP Bible is a free software program which may be used. More details regarding Bible software will be discussed in class.

Course Schedule

The semester is divided into 4 sections of 3 weeks each, as indicated by the shading on the chart. Please see the notes following the chart for further information regarding the workbook submissions and other assignments.

Date	Class Material Textbook Chapters	Workbook/ Assignments	Date Due	Vocabulary Audio Files
Sept 11	Alphabet Ch 1	Wb Ch 1	Sept 18	Vocabulary List 1 Audio: Vocabulary 1 Irregular Nouns Proper Names
Sept 18	Vowels & Syllables Chs 2 & 3	Wb Ch 2 & 3	Sept 25	
Sept 25	Nouns, Definite Article & Conjunction ך Chs 4 & 5	Wb Ch 4 Wb Ch 5: I, II & IV Prepare for Quiz	Oct 2	
Oct 2	In-class Quiz (Chs 1-5) Prepositions Ch 6 Adjectives Ch 7	Wb Ch 6: I, II, & IV ¹ Wb Ch 7: I, II, III & IV	Oct 16 ²	Vocabulary List 2 Audio: Vocabulary 2 Pronouns
Oct 16	Pronouns Ch 8	Wb Ch 8: I, II, III & V ³	Oct 23	
Oct 23	Review	Take-home exam (Chs 1-8)	Oct 30	

¹ Workbook questions 6.IV & 7.IV have additional assigned requirements. See Moodle for details.

² Class is cancelled on Oct 9 (Thanksgiving). Chapters 6 and 7 contain a large amount of information. Students are encouraged to spread their work out over the two weeks.

³ Workbook question 8.V has an additional assigned requirement. See Moodle for details.

Date	Class Material Textbook Chapters	Workbook/ Assignments	Date Due	Vocabulary Audio Files
Oct 30	Pronominal Suffixes Ch 9	Wb Ch 9: I, II, & III	Nov 13 ⁴	Vocabulary List 3
Nov 13	Construct Chains & Numbers Chs 10 & 11	Wb Ch 10: I, II, III & V Wb Ch 11 PRS (see details below)	Nov 20	Audio: Vocabulary 3
Nov 20	Review	Read Ch 12 (Textbook)	Nov 27	
Nov 27	Introduction to Verbs Qal Perfect Paradigm Chs 12, 13 & 14	Wb Ch 13: I, II, III & V ⁵ Wb Ch 14: I, II & IV	Dec 4	Vocabulary List 4
Dec 4	Introduction to Verbs Qal Imperfect Paradigm Chs 12, 15 & 16	Wb Ch 15: I, II, III & V Wb Ch 16a Wb Ch 16b	Dec 11	Audio: Vocabulary 4 Qal Perfect & Imperfect Paradigm
Dec 11	Final Review	Take-home exam (Chs 9-16)	TBD	

Requirements:

Class Participation: 15%

Due to the nature of language learning (repeated practice, community interaction) a percentage of the class grade is assigned to class participation. To earn this percentage, the student is required to show up to class and engage in small group practice and class work for the day. If you must be absent from class, please contact the instructor prior to class by either email or phone to request an excused absence. Only one excused absence will be given in the semester. Any other absences will affect this portion of the grade.

Workbook Submissions: 40% Due: as per chart above

There are 10 weeks of workbook submissions. Each week counts 4% towards this grade. The student is required to do questions, check the answer key (links to the keys are provided on Moodle), and correct their answers in a different coloured pen. The sheet should be either: a) scanned and submitted on Moodle or b) submitted as a paper copy in person. Workbook submissions are due at the beginning of class. The instructor will not do additional marking on these sheets; they are handed in as evidence that each student has done the work. Worksheets that are late will be "graded" at 3%. Worksheets will not be accepted that are more than 3 weeks past their due date. Worksheets in section 4 of the course must be submitted by Dec 18. Students may skip handing in a set of worksheets once in the semester without penalty.

In-Class Quiz (Section 1): 5% In-Class: Oct 2

The material covered in the first 5 chapters is so basic to learning Hebrew language that it must be learned well. An in-class quiz will test students on their knowledge of this material after the first three weeks of study. Although the percentage of the grade is small, the quiz is meant to be an encouragement to learn the basics of the language at the start of the semester.

⁴ Class is cancelled on Nov 7 (Reading week/Fall Modules).

⁵ Workbook questions in Chapters 13-16 have additional assigned requirements. See Moodle for details.

Personal Reference Sheet (PRS) (Section 3): 5% Due: end of day: Nov 20

Key material in sections 2-3 will be summarized on reference sheets for the student's use. The reference sheet will be provided for section 2. Students will create their own reference sheet for section 3. The information should take up no more than a single sided sheet of 8-1/2 x 11 paper and should be easy to read. It may be handwritten or typed. It should include the following:

- chart(s) of all pronominal suffixes
- an example of a construct chain, with parts labelled
- masculine singular forms of numbers 1-10

Scan and submit the sheet on Moodle.

Mid-term exam: 15% Posted: Oct 23, after class Due: beginning of class, Oct 30

The mid-term exam covers sections 1-2 of the class. It will be posted on Moodle after class Oct 23. This is an open book exam; class reference sheets may be used. The completed exam may be scanned and submitted on Moodle OR submitted as a paper copy. In either case, it is due at the beginning of class on Oct 30. Please do this work on your own and do not share answers with classmates. Late exams will lose 10% of their grade per day. This exam will not be accepted more than one week late. Extensions must be cleared with the instructor, in the case of unusual extenuating circumstances.

Final exam: 20% Posted: Dec 13, 8am Due: Midnight, Dec 18

The final exam covers sections 3-4 of the class. It will be posted on Moodle Dec 13. It must be scanned and submitted on Moodle. This is an open book exam; class reference sheets may be used. Please do this work on your own, and do not share answers with classmates. Late exams will lose 10% of their grade per day. This exam will not be accepted more than two days late.

Vocabulary and Audio Files: Vocabulary lists and audio files are part of the required work for this course. It is expected that students will diligently learn the vocabulary and listen to the assigned audio files. They are designed to support the student's graded work.

Vocabulary

Vocabulary lists have been created for this class and do NOT follow the vocabulary lists given in the textbook. Each class section (1-4) has a set of vocabulary, which students are encouraged to learn at the start of each section. This vocabulary has been chosen both for frequency of use and to correspond to the workbook translations. It will be used in classroom examples and small group work. Knowing the vocabulary will assist the student's work in classroom participation and workbook assignments, which will contribute to their grades in these areas. Vocabulary lists will be posted on Moodle.

Audio Files

This class promotes Hebrew pronunciation as an aid to learning the language. Audio files will be posted on Moodle for the vocabulary lists, as well as other word lists. Students are encouraged to set up a regular time to listen to Hebrew audio files (for eg., 10-15 minutes, 5-6 days a week) as part of their Hebrew study. Throughout the semester, particular YouTube videos/audio chapters will be assigned. Links will be posted on Moodle, primarily from the following:

Aleph with Beth: <https://www.youtube.com/@AlephwithBeth>

Ted Hildebrandt Biblicalearning: https://www.youtube.com/@tedhildebrandt_Bel

Attendance:

Class attendance is an important part of the language learning process. This is reflected in the graded requirements for the class, as defined above. See above for details.

Grade Summary:

Grade	Interpretation	Grade Points
A+	Mastery: Complete Understanding of Subject Matter	4.00
A		4.00
A-		3.70
B+	Proficient: Well-Developed Understanding of Subject Matter	3.30
B		3.00
B-		2.70
C+	Basic: Developing Understanding of Subject Matter	2.30
C		2.00
C-		1.70
D+	Minimal Pass: Limited Understanding of Subject	1.30
D		1.0
F	Failure: Failure to Meet Course Requirements	0.00
P	Pass	No Grade Points

Percentage/Letter Grade Chart

Percentage	Letter Grade
97-100	A+
93-96	A
87-92	A-
83-88	B+
77-82	B
71-76	B-
64-70	C+
57-63	C
50-56	C-
50	D+
45	D

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.

Other:

Ambrose University Important Policies & Procedures:

Registration

Registration is the process of selecting and enrolling in classes for upcoming semesters. Only students who are registered will be permitted to attend class and receive a grade for the course. You are responsible for ensuring that the courses you take are appropriate for your program, that they do not have any scheduling conflicts, that they have the necessary prerequisites and that they meet all degree requirements.

Withdrawal From A Course

Prior to the Add/Drop deadline: through the student registration system whereby course(s) will be removed with no academic or financial penalty. After the Add/Drop deadline and until the Withdrawal deadline: through submission of the 'Withdrawal from Course' form whereby course(s) will remain on the permanent academic record/transcript with the symbol 'W'. (See ambrose.edu/registrar/request-forms.) Students who withdraw from more than 30 credits attempted at Ambrose University will be required to withdraw from their program. Students considering withdrawing from courses are encouraged to discuss with their Faculty Advisor and/or the Office of the Registrar questions relating to their withdrawal decision specifically relating to financial assistance, study permit requirements, prerequisites for subsequent courses, readmission, and/or graduation timeline. Students who do not formally withdraw from a course are still considered registered in the course, even if they are no longer attending classes. In this case, students will be assigned a grade based on coursework completed as per the course syllabus and are responsible to pay the tuition and fees assessed for the course. Under extenuating circumstances, students may request from the Office of the Registrar a course(s) withdrawal after the Withdrawal deadline and until the last day of classes. Extenuating circumstances typically consider situations such as medical emergencies, compassionate grounds, or unforeseen conditions/situations beyond the students' control that arise after the start of the semester and are considered on a case-by-case basis. Supporting documentation from a physician or Registered Health Professional must accompany this request.

Coursework Extensions

Should a request for a time extension on coursework exceed the end of the term, a *Coursework Extension Application* must be completed and submitted to the Office of the Registrar. The extension (if granted) will be recorded on the student record. Extensions are granted at the discretion of the instructor and registrar. If granted, time extensions do not excuse you from a final examination where one has been scheduled for the course. More conditions apply.

Exam Scheduling

Students who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a *Revised Final Exam Time Application* to the Office of the Registrar by the deadline noted in the Academic Calendar. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; or 2) the scheduled final examination slot results in three consecutive examination periods. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

Communication

Your Ambrose email account is the University's primary and official mode of communication with you. Information delivered to your Ambrose email is considered official notification. Ambrose University is not responsible for your failure to receive important information delivered to your Ambrose email.

Lecture Recording

The recording of lectures or any other classroom academic activity, other than an audio recording as an accommodation, is prohibited except at the discretion of the instructor. Any use other than that agreed upon with the instructor constitutes academic misconduct and may result in suspension or expulsion. Permission to allow a lecture recording is not a transfer of any copyrights, so such recordings may be used only for individual or group study with other students enrolled in the same class and may not be reproduced, transferred, distributed or displayed in any public or commercial manner. Student must destroy recordings in any, and all formats at the end of the semester in which they are enrolled in the class. All students recording lectures, must sign the Permission Form to audio record lectures which is available through the Office of the Registrar.

Standards of Behaviour in the Classroom Setting

Learning is an active and interactive process, a joint venture between student and instructor and between student and student. Some topics covered within a class may lead to strong reactions and opinions. It is important that Students understand that they are entitled to hold contradictory beliefs and that they should be encouraged to engage with these topics in a critical manner. Committing to this type of "active learning" significantly increases the learning experience for both teacher and student, and reflects the Christian imperative to pursue truth, which lies at the heart of the Ambrose educational experience. However, active discussion of controversial topics will be undertaken with respect and empathy, which are the foundations of civil discourse in the Classroom Setting. Primary responsibility for managing the classroom rests with the instructor. The instructor may direct a student to leave the class if the student engages in any behaviour that disrupts the classroom setting. If necessary, Ambrose security will be contacted to escort the student from class.

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.

Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Academic Calendar. The academic calendar can be found at <https://ambrose.edu/academics/academic-calendar>

Privacy

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.

Academic Success and Supports

Accessibility Services

Academic accommodation is provided to Ambrose students with disabilities in accordance with the Alberta Human Rights Act and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Provision of academic accommodation does not lower the academic standards of the university nor remove the need for evaluation and the need to meet essential learning outcomes. Reasonable accommodations are tailored to the individual student, are flexible, and are determined by considering the barriers within the unique environment of a postsecondary institution. It can take time to organize academic accommodations and funding for disability-related services. Students with a disability who wish to have an academic accommodation are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services as early as possible to ensure appropriate planning for any needs that may include accommodations. Staff can then meet with students to determine areas to facilitate success, and if accommodations are required, ensure those accommodations are put in place by working with faculty.

Learning Services

Learning Services provides support with

- **research and communication skills** (e.g., writing a paper, researching, giving a presentation), and
- **subject-specific skills** (e.g., solving a chemistry problem, reconciling a general ledger, understanding a philosophical argument).

We offer workshops, one-to-one tutoring, and more, and all of our services are **free** to students currently enrolled at Ambrose University. To learn more, please visit <https://ambrose.edu/sas/learning-services>.

Mental Health Support

All of us need a support system. We encourage students to build mental health supports and to reach out when help is needed.

On Campus:

- Counselling Services: ambrose.edu/counselling

- For immediate crisis support, there are staff on campus who are trained in Suicide Intervention Skills and can help you access mental health support. See <https://ambrose.edu/student-life/crissupport> for a list of staff members.
- For additional wellness resources go to the Ambrose wellness page: <https://ambrose.edu/wellness>

Off Campus:

- Distress Centre - 403-266-4357
- Alberta Mental Health Helpline - 1-877-303-2642 (Toll free)
- Sheldon Chumir Health Care Centre - 403-955-6200
- Emergency - 911

Sexual Violence Support

We are committed to supporting students who have experienced gender based sexual violence in the past or while at Ambrose. Many of the staff, faculty, and student leaders have received Sexual Violence Response to Disclosure training. We will support you and help you find the resources you need and you can access information about reporting. Information about the Sexual Violence policy and on and off campus supports can be found on our website– ambrose.edu/sexual-violence-response-and-awareness.

Off Campus:

- Alberta's Oneline for Sexual Violence - 1-866-403-8000 call or text
- Clinic: Sheldon Chumir Health Centre - 403-955-6200
- Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse - 403-237-5888
- Chat: www.calgarycasa.com

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