

# Syllabus for OTL 501 Beginning Hebrew I

*(Introduction to Old Testament Hebrew)*

Front Range Bible Institute

Instructor Peter Wise (Fall 2019)

## I. Course Description

This course gives students a basic working knowledge of the Hebrew language, enabling them to do word studies, to gain access to higher-level tools, and to read words from the Hebrew Bible fluently. Additionally, this class will give students insights into Hebrew culture and even passages of the NT.

This class teaches ancient Hebrew as if it were a modern language. To do this we will hear it, speak it, read it, and write it in class (and at home). The textbook utilizes a modern language-acquisition approach throughout, making the learning more enjoyable and the content easier to retain.

## II. Course Objectives

- A. To give students a level of fluency in reading and understanding Biblical Hebrew
- B. To give students a working knowledge of the basics of Hebrew grammar, with an emphasis on exegesis
- C. To acquaint students with the tools required to do an effective word study
- D. To give students experience working with the actual text of the Hebrew Scriptures. We will focus on some important passages of the OT and demonstrate how an understanding of Hebrew can enhance your understanding of God's Word.

## III. Required Course Materials

- A. *The First Hebrew Primer*, EKS Publishing, 1992, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. This is available with a separate answer key on Amazon, or digitally with Logos or Accordance. For this resource the Accordance version is recommended because it comes with an audio companion, with all relevant Hebrew material read in (modern) Hebrew by Israeli speakers. (Please note that we will be using modern Hebrew pronunciation throughout the course.)
- B. *Gesenius' Lexicon*, as a free online resource, hard copy, or Logos digital edition.
- C. *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar* (free pdf, provided by instructor)

## IV. Course Requirements

- A. Read the first 12 chapters in *The First Hebrew Primer* and complete the exercises for each chapter.
- B. Practice the oral fluency exercises in the textbook to gain facility with pronunciation and reading.
- C. Memorize 2-3 Scripture verses in Hebrew
- D. Complete supplemental readings (word studies, grammar)
- E. Recommended: Listen to the audio for each chapter (available as Accordance module only)

## V. Course Schedule

Week	Textbook Chapter	Key Grammatical Concept(s)
1	Ch. 1	Alphabet, orthography, and history. Introduction to Gesenius lexicon and grammar.
2	Ch. 2	Alphabet and history, continued
3	Ch. 3	Sheva, dagesh and vowels
4	Ch. 4	Nouns and verbs: masculine
5	Ch. 5	Nouns and verbs: feminine
6	Ch. 6	Nouns and verbs: plural
7	Ch. 7	The Hebrew perfect
8	Ch. 8	Direct object
9	Ch. 9	Word pairs: singular
10	Ch. 10	Word pairs: plural
11		Review and Final

### Grading:

30%	Weekly homework
30%	Reading
30%	Assessments & Memory Passages
10%	Class Participation

Grade may be lowered for excessive lateness or absences.