

**REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
NEW YORK CITY**

**COURSE SYLLABUS
Hebrew I – 09OT5100**

Fall Semester, 2026

CLASS FORMAT

This is a Distance Education Class supplemented by weekly meetings with the professor.
All video lessons must be watched and assigned homework completed BEFORE the in-person
meetings each week.

In person sessions will be Thursday evenings:
6:00-7:20 PM PM from Sept. 10-Dec. 17 (No class Oct 15, Nov. 19 or 26). Tutoring sessions with
TA's at a time TBD (see below).

INSTRUCTOR: Rev. William Fullilove, Ph.D.
bfullilove@rts.edu
703-581-2015

NOTE: Please do not email or text for questions on assignments or to request extensions. The following
contacts should be via Canvas:

- 1) Extension requests must be made in the individual comment section where the student would
submit that assignment on Canvas.
- 2) Questions about assignments should be made in the general comments section regarding that
assignment (visible to all).
- 3) More general class questions should be made in the Professor/Student discussion forum in Canvas.

If the issue is not covered by these three categories, then please email me. You are welcome to have my
cell phone, but please only text me for emergencies. The three categories above are not emergencies.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An introduction to the Hebrew language of the Old Testament
Scriptures.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To glorify God by and while learning to read the Old Testament in its original language.
2. To enable the student to read and translate from portions of the Hebrew Old Testament.
3. To aid the student in the preparation of teaching the Scriptures.
4. To equip the student to understand lexical aids and commentaries on the Old Testament.

REQUIRED Texts:

- Ellinger and Rudolph (eds.), *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*
- Fullilove, W. *Introduction to Hebrew: a Guide to Learning and Using Biblical Hebrew*.
Philipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2017.
- Holladay, W. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Grand
Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.

REQUIREMENTS:

Online preparation: Students are required to read the textbook chapter, watch all videos, **and complete all homework BEFORE in-person sessions each week.**

Professor Interactions: Students are required to attend class sessions with the professor each Thursday. If you know you cannot make it to a class session, you must notify the instructor **in advance**. Multiple absences will result in a grade reduction. Failure to attend a significant number of classes (*with “significant” being defined at the discretion of the instructor*) may result in failure of the class.

Tutoring Sessions: Course TA’s will meet with the students to continue their practice. While the tutoring sessions are not strictly mandatory, they are **highly** encouraged. If a student’s quiz average falls below 90, tutoring sessions will become mandatory.

Homework: Students are required to complete and hand in all assigned homework **at class in hard copy** on the week a chapter is covered. (i.e.: **The homework for Chapter 1 is due at class on Sept. 10.**) Homework may or may not include all exercises in the textbook, so students should take care each week to note which exercises are assigned. After students have completed the homework working on their own, they should use the key (available at www.introductiontohebrew.com) to self correct the homework. The self-corrections should be in a **DIFFERENT COLOR** from the homework done by the student. So long as the assignment has been reasonably completed and the corrections are all marked, the student will receive full credit for the homework done. Late homework is accepted up until the date of the midterm or final exam but will receive a maximum of half credit.

Pronunciation Exam: Each student will schedule an online pronunciation exam with either the professor or a TA. Students will be asked to read a section of scripture out loud which they do not know in advance. The exams will be scheduled in the fourth week of the course. Students must pass this exam to continue in the course. It may be retaken as many times as necessary but must be passed before the drop/add deadline.

Quizzes: Each week students will be quizzed covering the **cumulative** grammar and vocabulary in the course. There will be **NO** “make up” quizzes if a student is absent. However, the lowest **three** quiz grades will be dropped.

Midterm and Final: The midterm exam and final exam will include the same type of material included in the homework and/or quizzes.

TOTAL GRADE:

The final grade for the course will be the total of each of the required assignments listed above.

Homework (10%)

Thursday Class Performance (15%)

Attendance (10%)

Quizzes (30%)

Midterm Exam (15%)

Final Exam (20%)

The instructor reserves the right to adjust grades based on each student's attendance at class and participation in classroom exercises.

NOTE!!!

- **Don't get behind!** A language course is by necessity cumulative. If you get behind, you will be simultaneously trying to learn old and new material. This is a recipe for disaster!
- **Be consistent!** Studying a language is much more effective if done daily. You did not learn English (or whatever your native tongue may be) by looking at it once per week. Do not expect to learn Hebrew that way either!
- **Take small bites!** Four half hour study sessions are noticeably more effective than one two hour session.
- **Ask questions!** Class time is meant to serve the students. Take advantage of the time you have. Don't just keep your head down and try to fake your way through if something does not make sense.
- **Contact the professor or teaching assistant for one-on-one help!** Do not hire an outside tutor, and don't merely look up the answer. Get help if you need it.
- **Trust in the Lord!** Generations of seminarians have successfully learned Hebrew. You can, too.

OFFICE HOURS:

Thursdays 4:30-5:30. I am always also available by appointment, including before or after class or by phone.

I enjoy sharing thoughts with students, so do not hesitate to contact me

SCHEDULE:

Sept. 10

- Chapter 1 – Learning to Speak, Part 1
- Read in Advance: Orthographic Mapping and Phoneme Awareness (avail. on Canvas)

Sept. 17

- Chapter 2 – Learning to Speak, Part 2; Adjectives

Sept. 24

- Chapter 3 – Qal Perfect

Oct. 1

- Chapter 4 – Basic Nouns; The Definite Article

Oct. 8

- Chapter 5 – Qal Imperfect

Oct. 15 NO Class – Reading Week

- **Midterm Exam taken on student's own schedule – must be completed by COB Oct. 17**

Oct. 22

- Chapter 6 – Segolate and Geminate Nouns; Prefixed Prepositions

Oct. 29

- Chapter 7 – Qal Volitives

Nov. 5

- Chapter 8 – Particles

Nov. 12

- Chapter 9 – Independent Personal Pronouns, Qal Participles

Nov. 19 – NO Class – ETS/IBR/SBL

Nov. 26 – NO Class – Thanksgiving

Dec. 3

- Chapter 10 – Construct Phrases
- Chapter 11 – Suffixed Pronouns

Dec. 10

- Chapter 12 – Qal Narrative and Converted Perfect

Dec. 17

- Chapter 13 – Qal Infinitives; Demonstratives
- **Final Exam taken on student's own schedule – must be completed by COB Dec. 22**

MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes <i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i> <i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i>		Rubric • Strong • Moderate • Minimal • None	Mini-Justification
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Minimal	Language Class
Scripture	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Strong	Cannot fully understand original meaning without language training
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Minimal	Reformed instructor, so will have some impact
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	Students often struggle with fears, pastoral approach to teaching language
Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. Includes ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	Language Class
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	Moderate	Discussion and evaluation of contributions from other traditions in a respectful and honoring way
Pastoral Ministry	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both church and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians.	Moderate	Exegetical work that forms the backbone of strong preaching; regular discussion of applications for preaching