

Hebrew 1: Beginning Biblical Hebrew

05OT5100

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Semester: Fall 2026

Start Date: August 27, 2026

Final Exam: December 10, 2026

No Class: November 26, 2026

Days: Thursdays

Times: 6:00p.m. – 9:00 p.m.*

"I now studied much, about 12 hours a day, chiefly Hebrew... [and] committed portions of the Hebrew Old Testament to memory."

-George Mueller, *Autobiography*, 1829

"The original Scriptures well deserve your pain and will richly repay them."

-John Newton, *The Works of*, 1985

"It is certain that unless the languages remain, the Gospel must finally perish."

-Martin Luther, *Luther's Theology*, 1943

This course constitutes an introduction to the language of Biblical (Classical) Hebrew, including basic phonology, vocabulary, and syntax. Hebrew 1 counts for three (3) credit hours. No prerequisites.

Course Protocols

1. **Grading Schedule.** The letter grading scale for this course is summarized below.

97-100%	A	86-87%	B-
94-96%	A-	83-85%	C+
91-93%	B+	80-82%	C
88-90%	B	0-79%	F

2. **Attendance.** Language acquisition can be a difficult task and requires constant vigilance in the beginning stages. Students are required to attend all class and to be on time for every session.
3. **Method of Instruction.** The emphasis in this class is student performance. Students must come to class prepared and ready to participate in the instructional process. This means that all the assigned reading from the grammar and all the assigned Classwork from the workbook must be completed and corrected* by the beginning of the class period for which it is assigned. See class formats under course schedule.
4. **Special Needs.** In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations (e.g. tape recorders, special adaptive equipment) is strongly encouraged to contact the professor at the beginning of the course.
5. **Electronic Aids.** No computers, recording devices, or electronics are permitted in class for non-remote students. Remote students will require access to a computer (or iPad) with video capability (web camera).
6. **Disclaimer.** This syllabus is intended to reflect the learning objectives, instructional format, and other information necessary for students to appraise the course. However, during the course of the semester, the instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as may appear necessary.

Course Requirements

1. **Practice.** Practice will be assigned for every chapter. The Practice is assigned for the benefit of the student and must be completed before the class period for which it is assigned. Practice is not collected or graded.
2. **Quizzes.** Starting the second weekend quizzes will be taken over the lessons taught in the previous class, and the Practice assigned the previous week. A brief time will be given to answer any final questions about the Practice before the block of quizzes. Due to the very nature of learning a language, quizzes are cumulative. There are no make-up quizzes, but the lowest quiz grade of 11 quizzes will be dropped leaving 10 quizzes for a grade. Quizzes constitute 65% of the term grade, that means each quiz is worth 6.5% of your grade.
3. **Tests.** There will be two major exams this fall term (see schedule below). All exams are cumulative and will be taken on or by the given date. Total exam scores constitute 35% of the term grade (Exam 1 = 15%; Exam 2 = 20%).
4. You will memorize three Hebrew Scripture passages this semester. You will learn them in clauses or extended phrase for each quiz following the second class. Portions of the verses will be on each quiz and the whole verse on the Exam. See Calendar.
5. **Class Attendance.** Attendance is required.

Required Resources

Pratico, Gary D. and Miles V. Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew: Grammar*, 3rd edition. Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2019.

Van Pelt, Miles V. *English Grammar to Ace Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2010. Van Pelt,

Van Pelt, Miles V. and Gary D. Pratico. *The Vocabulary Guide to Biblical Hebrew and Aramaic*, 2nd edition. Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2019.

William L. Holladay. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. William B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1988.

Recommended Resources

Miles V. *Biblical Hebrew: A Compact Guide*, 2nd edition. Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2019.

Van Pelt, Miles V. and Gary D. Pratico. *Old Testament Hebrew Vocabulary Cards*, 2nd edition Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2019.

Hardy, H. H., II and McAfee, Matthew, *Going Deeper with Biblical Hebrew: An Intermediate Study of the Grammar and Syntax of the Old Testament*.

Course Schedule

Thursday, August 27	Lecture & Notes 1*	Alphabet and Vowel Points Vocab 1	
Van Pelt BBH Ch 1&2	Practice	Alphabet Wksht	
pp. 1-15	Practice	Vowel Point Wksht	
Thursday, September 3	Quiz 1	From Lecture 1; Vocab 1	Deuteronomy 6:4
Van Pelt Ch 3	Lecture & Notes 2*	Syllabification; Vocab 2	
pp. 16-25	Practice	Syllabification Wksht	
Thursday, September 10	Quiz 2	From Lecture 2; Vocab 1-2	Exodus 3:14a
Van Pelt BBH Ch 12 -14	Lecture & Notes 3*	Verb Intro & Qal Perfect; Vocab 3	
pp. 115-150**	Practice	Qal Perfect Wksht	
Thursday, September 17	Quiz 3	Lecture 3; Vocab 2-3	Exodus 3:14
Van Pelt BBH Ch 15-16	Lecture & Notes 4*	Qal Imperfect Vocab 4	
pp. 155-175**	Practice	Qal Imperfect Wksht	
Thursday, September 24	Quiz 4	Lecture 4; Vocab Lists 3-4	Genesis 1:1a
Van Pelt BBH Ch 5 & 17	Lecture & Notes 5*	Waw Conjunction/Consecutive; Vocab 5	
pp. 40-42; 178-188	Practice	WCj and WCs Wksht	
Thursday, October 1	Quiz 5	Lecture 5; Vocab 4-5	Gen1:1
Van Pelt BBH Ch 4 (5) & 7	Lecture & Notes 6*	Nouns & Adjectives, Vocab 6	
pp. 26-33 (37-40); pp. 56-62	Practice	Nouns and Adjectives Wksht	
Thursday, October 8	Mid-term Exam	Lectures and Vocab 1-5	Deut 6:4; Exod 3:14; Gen 1:1
		Vocab 7	
Thursday, October 22	Quiz 6	Lecture 6; Vocab 6-7	Genesis 1:1-2a
Van Pelt BBH Ch 10	Lecture & Notes 7*	Construct Chain: Vocab 8	
pp. 93-101	Practice	Construct Chain Wksht	
Thursday, October 29	Quiz 7	Lecture 7; Vocab 1, 6-8	Genesis 1:1-2
Van Pelt BBH Ch 8 & 19	Lecture & Notes 8*	Pronouns & Pronominal Suffix (V); Vocab 9	
pp. 67-68; pp. 205-212	Practice	Pronouns & Suffix (V) Wksht	
Thursday, November 5	Quiz 8	Lecture 8; Vocab 2, 7-9	Numbers 6:24
Van Pelt BBH Ch 8 & 9	Lecture & Notes 9*	Pronouns & Pronominal Suffix (N); Vocab 10	
pp. 68-74; pp. 78-84	Practice	Other Pronouns Wksht	
Thursday, November 12	Quiz 9	Lecture 9; Vocab 3, 8-10	Numbers 6:24-25
Van Pelt BBH Ch 6 & 9	Lecture & Notes 10*	Prepositions & Pronominal Suffix (P); Vocab 11	
pp. 47-53; pp. 83-88	Practice	Preposition Wksht	
Thursday, November 29	Quiz 10	Lecture 10; Vocab Lists 4, 9-11	Numbers 6:24-26a
Van Pelt BBH Ch 11	Lecture & Notes 11*	Numbers; Vocab 12	
pp. 106-111	Practice	Numbers Wksht	
Take Home	Quiz 11	Lecture 11; Vocab 5, 10-12	Numbers 6:24-26
Thursday, December 10	Final Exam	Lectures and Vocab 1-12	Gen 1:1-2; Num 6:24-26

*Lecture Notes will be made available to student as a PDF.

** You will not have to read every page. Selected sections will be given to you in class the week prior.

Deuteronomy 6:4	שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֶחָד:
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Exodus 3:14a	וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֶל־מֹשֶׁה אֲשֶׁר אֵהְיָה
Exodus 3:14	וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֶל־מֹשֶׁה אֲשֶׁר אֵהְיָה וַיֹּאמֶר כֹּה תֹאמַר לִבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֵהְיָה שְׁלַחְנִי אֵלֵיכֶם:

Genesis 1:1a	בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים
Genesis 1:1	בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ:
Genesis 1:1-2a	בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ: וְהָאָרֶץ הָיְתָה תְהוֹ וְחָשֶׁךְ עַל־פְּנֵי תְהוֹם
Genesis 1:1-2	בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ: וְהָאָרֶץ הָיְתָה תְהוֹ וְחָשֶׁךְ עַל־פְּנֵי וְרוּחַ אֱלֹהִים מְרַחֶפֶת עַל־פְּנֵי הַמַּיִם: תְהוֹם

Numbers 6:24	יְבָרְכֶךָ יְהוָה וַיְשַׁמְרֶךָ:
Numbers 6:24-25	יְבָרְכֶךָ יְהוָה וַיְשַׁמְרֶךָ: יָאֵר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיְחַנּוּךָ:
Numbers 6:24-26a	יְבָרְכֶךָ יְהוָה וַיְשַׁמְרֶךָ: יָאֵר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיְחַנּוּךָ: יֵשׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ
Numbers 6:24-26	יְבָרְכֶךָ יְהוָה וַיְשַׁמְרֶךָ: יָאֵר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיְחַנּוּךָ: יֵשׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיְשֵׁם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Hebrew 1
 Professor: Markus J. Berger
 Campus: Houston
 Date: Fall 2026

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
<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>		• Strong • Moderate • Minimal • None	
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	Provides a foundation for biblical and theological studies.
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	Learning Hebrew is a fundamental skill for understanding the original meaning of Scripture.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Minimal	WCF 1.8
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	Studying Hebrew is a way to demonstrate love for God.
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.	Moderate	Allows to the better application of Scripture to life and the .
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.)	None	
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	Fundamental tool for the pastor/teacher to rightly interpret and apply Scripture