

OT5100
Hebrew 1
RTS Atlanta
Fall 2026
Thursday, 1–4 PM

Instructor Information

Rev. Dr. William M. Wood

BA; MDiv; PhD

Associate Professor of Old Testament

Email: wwood@rts.edu

Office Hours: By Appointment, email and we will set up a time.

I. Course Description

This course is designed to help students a working facility with beginning Hebrew Grammar and syntax with a view toward translation and sermon preparation so that students may be equipped to rightly handle God's word.

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.” (2 Tim 2.15)

II. Course Objectives

1. To gain a working knowledge of Hebrew paradigms and grammar of the Hebrew strong verb, nouns, particles, adjectives, pronouns, etc.
2. Become acquainted with the text of the BHS and apparatus
3. Begin developing your Hebrew vocabulary

III. Course Guidelines

1. Languages are learned *slowly* with *a lot* of practice and constant attention. As such, class attendance is mandatory. **Only excused** absences will be allowed and must be approved by the instructor via email prior to the beginning of class (except in case of an emergency). Unexcused absences will result in a reduction of your participation grade.
2. Students must come to class ready to discuss the assigned material. A lack of preparation may result in the reduction of your participation grade.
3. Computers may *not* be used in class.
4. **No bible software (e.g. Bibleworks, Logos, Accordance, etc.) may be used for the content of this course.** While bible software is a terrific tool and aid in study, it drastically hinders language acquisition. As such, it is strictly forbidden. The use of such software will be considered cheating and punishable under the seminary's code of conduct. There are two exceptions to this:

- a. You may use lexicons that you own on bible software. This use must be done *without* accessing the particular text you are looking at.
 - b. You are welcome to copy and paste any text you are working with onto a word document. However, you may not use any of the parsing tools that are present in the software.
5. Recommendations for learning Hebrew:
- a. Review your Hebrew *every day*. As the saying goes, “if you don’t use it, you lose it.” Reviewing your notes and practicing your Hebrew every day will increase your language acquisition.
 - i. Note: cramming for quizzes and exams is quite possibly *the worst* way to study for a language course. You *must* constantly review the material until it is second nature to you!
 - b. Vocab! Vocab! Vocab! One of the first things lost in your study of a new language is the vocabulary. Constant vocabulary review is essential to language acquisition.
 - c. Review your paradigm charts regularly. It is easy to forget paradigms and verb forms; therefore regular effort to reproduce these charts will be helpful for you.
 - d. Have fun! Examining the Hebrew text of the OT can be one of the most fruitful things for your ministry and personal sanctification. The text is often more rich than immediately apparent and so a close examination of it will yield great fruit!
 - e. Let your Hebrew studies lead to worship. In this class we are working to study the holy and inspired word of God in its original language. Do not lose sight of that when you are trudging through paradigms and vocabulary. Your hard work in these months will produce a lifetime of ministry from the OT to the praise of the triune God! So, let your studies be grounded in worshipful dedication to the Lord and praise Him that you are in a place to study this great language!
 - i. Side note: the purpose of this course is not so you can say, “look, I know Hebrew!” It is so that your future ministry will be properly grounded in the word of God. Pride has no place in this course, only faithful work in the service of Christ and His Church.

IV. Assignments

Assignment א (20%):

There will be *weekly* quizzes on the previous week’s material and vocab. Any material from any week is fair game for the quiz, but they will focus on the immediately preceding week’s material.

Assignment ב (20%):

There will be an in-class mid-term exam covering all the material in class up to that point.

Assignment ג (15%):

All of your weekly assignments from Fullilove will be turned in and assessed at the end of the semester. This grade is primarily completion, but if it is clear that you have not thoughtfully done the work your grade will be reduced.

Assignment ט (10%):

Prior to the final there will be a separate *vocabulary exam* given on the final day of class.

Assignment נ (30%):

There will be a comprehensive final exam on the assigned date covering *all* course material.

Participation (5%):

Because language acquisition is a very active endeavor, you are expected to come to class ready to discuss the material for that day. Failure to do so or missing class for unexcused reasons will lead to a reduction of the participation grade.

Summary

Quizzes: 20%

Mid-Term: 20%

Weekly Assignments: 15%

Vocab Exam: 10%

Final: 30%

Participation: 5%

V. Grade Scale

97-100	A	86-87	B-	75-77	D+
94-96	A-	83-85	C+	72-74	D
91-93	B+	80-82	C	70-71	D-
88-90	B	78-79	C-	0-70	F

VI: Required Texts

William Fullilove, *Introduction to Hebrew: A Guide for Learning and Using Hebrew*.
Phillipsburg: P&R, 2017.

-This is our main textbook. You *must* purchase this as all the weekly assignments are contained therein.

Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia (BHS).

-You should get a BHS with the apparatus! NOT A READERS EDITION! We will be using the apparatus in Hebrew Exegesis. You may use a digital copy on Bible software.

Bill T. Arnold and John H. Choi, *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Frederic Putnam. *Hebrew Bible Insert*. (If you can find this it is a great resource to have, but some have had difficulty so if you cannot find it then do not worry about it.)

*You should purchase a lexicon either electronically or in print. A cheap option is to get William Holliday's *Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*, which is generally sufficient for beginning students. We also have a number of lexicons in the library.

Recommended Texts for further or supplemental study

Biblia Hebraica Quinta

This text will provide the most up-to-date text critical work for Old Testament studies. However, since the project is on-going and the resources are expensive it is not a required text. Students should, however, become familiar with it by means of the library.

Christo H.J. van der Merwe, Jacobus A. Naudé, and Jan H. Kroeze, *A Biblical Hebrew Reference Grammar*, 2nd edition (Bloomsbury: T&T Clark, 2017).

This is the top reference grammar currently available. If you have any intention of doing advanced Hebrew work then this resource is a must-have.

Douglas Stuart. *Old Testament Exegesis: A Primer for Students and Pastors*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009. 4th edition. (Pay attention to chapter 2!)

Randall Buth, “Word Order in the Verbless Clause.” **Pages 79-108** in *Verbless Clause in Biblical Hebrew*. Edited by Cynthia Miller. Winona Lake: Eisenbraun, 1999.

_____. “The Hebrew Verb: A Short Syntax.” **Pages 137-64** in *Living Biblical Hebrew: Selected Readings*. Biblical Language Center, 2006.

_____. “Introduction to Accents.” **Pages 115-22** in *Living Biblical Hebrew: Selected Readings*. Biblical Language Center, 2006.

Ronald J. Williams, *Williams’ Hebrew Syntax*, 3rd edition (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2007).

This is a little more basic than Arnold & Choi from the required reading, but it is still a helpful resource if you choose to use it.

Russell T. Fuller and Kyoungwon Choi, *Invitation to Biblical Hebrew Syntax: An Intermediate Grammar* (Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic, 2017).

This is a more advanced and updated syntax than Arnold & Choi from the required reading.

Wilfred G.E. Watson, *Classical Hebrew Poetry: A Guide to its Techniques*, JSOT Supp 26 (Bloomsbury: T&T Clark, 1986).

This is a major work on Hebrew poetry that will be a great resource for any advanced study.

David J.A. Clines. *Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*. 8 Vols.

Benjamin J. Noonan, *Advances in the Study of Biblical Hebrew and Aramaic: New Insights for Reading the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 2020).

VII. Course Calendar

Date	Content/Assignment	Quiz
8/20	Lessons 1-2	na
8/27	Lessons 3-4 Review Lessons 1-2 Activity	Lessons 1-2 and vocab
9/3	Lessons 5-6 Review Lessons 3-4 Activity	Lessons 3-4 and vocab
9/10	Lessons 7-8 Review Lessons 5-6 Activity	Lessons 5-6 and vocab
9/17	Lessons 9-10 Review Lessons 7-8 Activity	Lessons 7-8 and vocab
9/24	Lesson 11 Review Lessons 9-10 Activity Review for Midterm	Lessons 9-10 and vocab
10/1	Midterm Exam!!! Covers through lesson 11!!!!	Midterm Exam!!! Covers through lesson 11
FALL BREAK 10/5–9		
10/15	Lessons 12-13 Review Lesson 11 Activity	No quiz
10/22	Lessons 14-15 Review Lessons 12-13 Activity	Lessons 12-13 and vocab
10/29	Lessons 16-17 Review Lessons 14-15 Activity	Lessons 14-15 and vocab
11/5	Lessons 18-19 Review Lessons 16-17 Activity	Lessons 16-17 and vocab
11/12	Lessons 20-21 Review Lessons 18-19 Activity	Lessons 18-19 and vocab
11/19	Vocab Exam and Review for Final	Vocab Exam
Comprehensive Final Exam on 12/1–12/7 Submitted via CANVAS		

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: 04 OT 5100
 Professor: Rev. Dr. William Wood
 Campus: Atlanta
 Date: Fall 2026

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</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>		<u>Rubric</u> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
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	Focusing on translation
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 to translate the Biblical Text
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	Reformed Theology is founded on the Word.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	Hebrew will definitely sanctify you.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	minimal	
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.)	Minimal	
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-Xns.	Strong	You ministry must be founded on the word, and training in the languages is an essential element of that!

Zoom Policy

Your professor may allow you to Zoom into class or watch Zoom recordings for excused absences based on the professor's discretion and subject to the availability of equipment. Students should contact their professor well in advance of the class meeting. For a third absence the Registrar should be consulted. Your professor may require additional interactive assignments to offset the absence of classroom interaction. Sync or Remote Live courses have priority for the limited Zoom equipment.

Extension Policy

All assignments and exams are to be completed by the deadlines announced in this syllabus or in class.

Extensions for assignments and exams due within the normal duration of the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. Extensions of two weeks or less beyond the date of the last deadline for the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. A grade penalty may be assessed.

Extensions of greater than two weeks but not more than six weeks beyond the last deadline for the course may be granted in extenuating circumstances (i.e. illness, family emergency). For an extension of more than two weeks the student must request an Extension Request Form from the Registrar's Office. The request must be approved by the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed. (RTS Catalog p. 46 and RTS Atlanta Student Handbook p. 18)

Any incompletes not cleared six weeks after the last published due date for course work will be converted to a failing grade. Professors may have the failing grade changed to a passing grade by request. (RTS Catalog p. 49)