

# BI 400/500 – Introduction to Biblical Hebrew

## University of Dubuque Theological Seminary

### Fall 2017 –Residential & Distance

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#### INSTRUCTOR

Professor: The Rev. Dr. Matthew R. Schlimm  
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#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a basic introduction to the syntax, grammar, and vocabulary of biblical Hebrew. As such, it introduces the linguistic tools that allow students to enter the world of the Old Testament in the original language and hence become better equipped to interpret and proclaim God's Word.

3 credits, letter grade or pass/fail

This is an elective course that is required by certain denominations (please check with your governing body) but it is highly recommended for all students of Scripture.

#### OBJECTIVES

Students who successfully complete this course will:

1. Develop an understanding of many fundamentals of biblical Hebrew grammar.
2. Assimilate basic biblical Hebrew vocabulary.
3. Gain the capacity to hear and recognize Hebrew read aloud.
4. Begin to translate passages from the Hebrew Bible using a lexicon.
5. Demonstrate competence working with Hebrew exegetical tools.
6. Acquire a conceptual framework for further learning.

In keeping with the stated purpose of the M.Div. degree ("to serve the one God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – and prepare women and men for faithful, compassionate, and effective pastoral ministry"), this course meets the following M.Div. curricular objectives:

- Interpret the Christian Scriptures through faithful exegesis and in light of the Christian tradition.
- Preach the Word of God with faithfulness and clarity.

Additionally, this course helps meet the following MAMD curricular objective:

- Articulate and reflect critically and constructively on the biblical and theological foundations of God's mission to the world.

#### TEXTBOOK & SOFTWARE

The following are required for this class:

Pratico, Gary D., and Miles V. Van Pelt. *Zondervan Get an A! Study Guides: Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005. ISBN: 978-0310262954.

*BibleWorks*. Note: BibleWorks 10 is the most recent edition of the software. However, any edition would work. Students may want to coordinate their purchasing of this software with Nicky Story ([semtech1@dbq.edu](mailto:semtech1@dbq.edu)). If we can get a sufficient number of students to buy the software at the same time, we will qualify for a discount.

Futato, Mark D. *Beginning Biblical Hebrew*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2005. ISBN: 978-1575060224. Note: If students wish to purchase an electronic version of this textbook, it is available as a \$25 add-on module for Bibleworks. See <https://store.bibleworks.com/FBHG.html>.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

The final grade for the course is based on quizzes (50%), a final exam (25%), and homework/participation (25%).

**Key Assumption:** This course assumes that students will watch all lectures. Moodle tracks whether they do so. Failure to watch all lectures can result in a significant reduction in grade (a letter grade or more).

**Quizzes (50%):** Students will usually take one quiz per week. The quizzes will usually include a combination of vocabulary and translation. They will tend to focus on the material most recently studied, though knowledge of material from any of the previous lessons may be tested. Unless otherwise specified, all quizzes should be taken closed-book in one sitting. See esp. course objectives 1, 2, & 3.

**Final (25%):** This exam will provide a comprehensive evaluation of all material previously covered. See esp. course objectives 1, 2, 4, & 5.

**Homework/Participation (25%):** Students will be required to do homework on a weekly basis. See esp. course objectives 1, 3, 4, 5, & 6.

## GRADING:

Your final grade will be determined by weighing the above components as follows:

Component	Percent of Final Grade
Quizzes	50%
Final	25%
Homework/Participation	25%

The grading scale is as follows:

93 – 100% A	80 – 82% B-	67 – 69% D+
90 – 92% A-	77 – 79% C+	63 – 66% D
87 – 89% B+	73 – 76% C	0 – 62%
83 – 86% B	70 – 72% C-	