



**COVENANT BAPTIST
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

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INFORMED SCHOLARSHIP • PASTORAL HEART

OT21 • Hebrew Syntax & Exegesis: Jonah

Prof. Michael Emadi, Adjunct Faculty of Biblical Languages

3 Credit Hours

Contact Information: email: emadi@cbtseminary.org

Course Description

An intermediate study of Hebrew syntax with application to the translation, analysis, and exegesis of the books of Jonah and Genesis 19.

Educational Objectives

Overview/ purpose of the course

The instructor will guide students toward achieving a basic grasp of the Classical Hebrew language through a study of the Hebrew text of Jonah and Genesis 19.

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to demonstrate (through class work, quizzes, and written examinations) the ability to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of nominal and verbal inflectional and derivational morphology of Biblical Hebrew through proper parsing.
2. Demonstrate a basic ability to analyze the grammatical structure of Hebrew phrases and sentences [using critically the following grammars: *Williams' Hebrew Syntax* (Beckman) and *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew* (Waltke-O'Connor)].
3. Demonstrate a basic ability to provide the proper semantic classifications of the grammatical structures encountered in the syntax of Hebrew phrases and sentences.
4. Demonstrate acquisition of vocabulary in the Biblical Hebrew narrative corpus.

Required Course Texts [You may already have a few of these from Hebrew I and II]:

Alt, A., O. Eißfeldt, P. Kahle, and R. Kittel. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. 5th ed. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1997. [BHS]

Beckman, John C., ed. [*Williams' Hebrew Syntax*](#), 3rd ed. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2007.

Chisholm, Robert B., Jr. *A [Workbook for Intermediate Hebrew: Grammar, Exegesis, and Commentary on Jonah and Ruth](#)*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2006. ISBN: 0825423902

Holladay, William L. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991.

Gentry, Peter J. [How to Read and Understand the Biblical Prophets](#), Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017.

Waltke, Bruce K. and M. O'Connor. [An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax](#). Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbrauns, 1990.

Optional Course Texts [not required for class but are helpful]:

Tucker, W. Dennis, Jr. [Jonah: A Handbook on the Hebrew Text](#). Waco, Tex.: Baylor Press, 2006.

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

Brown, Francis, S. R. Driver and Charles A. Briggs. *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1952. (BDB)

Limburg, James. *Jonah*. Old Testament Library. Louisville, Ky.: Westminster/John Knox, 1993.

Long, Gary A. *Grammatical Concepts 101 for Biblical Hebrew*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2002.

Putnam, Frederic Clarke, ed. *A Cumulative Index to the Grammar and Syntax of Biblical Hebrew*. Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbrauns, 1996.

Sasson, Jack M. *Jonah*. Anchor Bible. New York: Doubleday, 1990.

Stuart, Douglas. *Hosea-Jonah*. Word Biblical Commentary. Waco, Tex.: Word Books, 1987.

Wolff, Hans Walter. *Obadiah and Jonah: A Commentary*. Trans. Margaret Kohl. Minneapolis, Minn.: Augsburg, 1986.

Course Requirements

1. Students will take two major exams this term (1 midterms, 1 final) in which they will demonstrate their knowledge of grammar and syntax and their ability to translate Hebrew phrases and sentences. The dates for these examinations are given in the Class Schedule.
2. In addition to these major exams, students will demonstrate their knowledge of Biblical Hebrew vocabulary, grammar, and syntax during regular class participation and occasional quizzes. These opportunities are designed to keep students involved in a regular program of study. (You cannot acquire a second language by “cramming” at the last minute; regular, systematic study is required!)
3. Students taking the course for credit will be required to turn in their translation of the text with extensive notes (per the How to do Notes guide) before each class. Also the student will need to identify the sentence type of each sentence in their translation. We will go over the different sentence types in class before any translation is due.
4. Students are encouraged to spend at least one hour per week practicing their Hebrew skills on a computer utilizing any of the following resources: the Van Pelt/Pratico textbook CD, the website <http://www.animatedhebrew.com> (keyed to the Ross textbook and containing vocab and parsing drills), *Hebrew Tutor* CD (and/or other software programs), and/or Internet resources such as teknia.com for Flashworks (see also hamoreh.org → Resources → Helpful Links → Biblical Languages).

Online Students:

For this class we are going to use Zoom.us as it will allow online students to be able to participate and interact more with the instructor. Learning a new language requires interaction and the ability to ask questions. Hopefully this medium will allow for this.

Grading Plan:

The course grade will be based on the following grading plan (though this may be changed at instructor’s discretion):

- Midterm = 20%

- Final = 20 %
- Quizzes = 20%
- Translations w/notes = 25%
- Reading = 10%
- Participation = 5%

Academic Performance

No student will be deemed to have successfully completed the work in any course who does not achieve a cumulative grade of 75% or above for his course work. The letter equivalents for the percentile grades assigned are as follows:

A -- 95-100%	B+ -- 87-89%	B- -- 80-83%	C -- 74-76%
A- -- 90-94%	B -- 84-86%	C+ -- 77-79%	C- -- 70-73%

Class Schedule:

We will meet every Saturday from 9:00am – 11:30am (central time)

We will discuss questions over the syllabus on the first day of class.

NOTE: WO = Waltke-O'Connor *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*;

PG = Peter Gentry *How to Read and Understand Biblical Prophets*

****The class schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.****

Class Date/ Meeting	Topic	Biblical Text Due	Major Assessments
7 Sept	Go over syllabus; <i>Williams' Syntax</i> ; Review of Hebrew verbs		WO - 1.3 & 1.5
14 Sept	Sentence types		WO - 4.4 - 4.6
21 Sept	Hebrew Literary Structure: How Watching Star Wars Can Help You Understand Biblical Hebrew Narrative	Jonah 1	WO - 11.2.5 - 11.2.9
28 Sept	Chunking and Development	Jonah 2	WO - 11.2.10 - 11.2.14 Quiz 1
5 Oct	Mirativity	Jonah 3	WO - 19; PG - Intro Quiz 1 Due
12 Oct	Information Structure	Jonah 4	PG - ch 1 Quiz 2
19 Oct	What's Jonah about? Pt 1 - "Jonah's (Re)Creation" - Intertextual and Thematic ties to Genesis What's Jonah about? Pt 2 - "YHWH's Surprising $\gamma\delta\eta$ in Jonah" - Intertextual and Thematic ties to other OT texts		PG - ch 2 Quiz 2 Due Midterm
26 Oct	No Class		PG - ch 3 Midterm Due
2 Nov	What is the "sign of Jonah"? - "Jonah and Jesus: More than a fish" - Intertextual and Thematic connections between Jonah and Matthew and Mark	Ex 19:16-25	PG - ch 4
9 Nov	How to Count to 10: A Literary Analysis of the Numbering of the 10 Commandments	Ex 20:1-12	PG - ch 5

16 Nov	Bearing the Name of YHWH	Ex 20:13-26	PG - ch 6
23 Nov	No Class - Happy Thanksgiving		
30 Nov	Intro to Aramaic		PG - ch 7
7 Dec		Dan 4:10-15	PG - Conclusion Final