



Queensland
Theological College



LA003A

Biblical Hebrew A

Unit Outline

About this Unit Outline

This unit outline contains information essential to finding your way around the unit **Biblical Hebrew A**. It provides a structure for your learning, giving details of lecture topics, assessment requirements, and key resources.

SEMESTER 1 2018

Important notice

While every care has been taken to ensure accuracy in the information given below, **it is the personal responsibility of each student to check the current ACT Handbook**, copies of which may be found in the Library or online at the ACT website: www.acttheology.edu.au

It is very important that students plan their time carefully to ensure that reading and especially assignments receive adequate attention and so as to prevent a bottleneck of work at the end of the semester.

It is very important that all quoted material in assignments be properly footnoted and acknowledged. The attention of students is drawn to the ACT **Academic Misconduct Policy**, as well as ACT **Late Penalties Policy** and **Extensions Policy**, all of which are available on the ACT website. Failure to comply with the standards required will incur penalties as outlined in the relevant ACT Policies.

The attention of students is also drawn to the section in the current ACT Handbook, headed **"Guidelines for Essays in Coursework Units"** (see also the QTC Student Handbook). All essays and assignments should comply with these standards.

Information about this unit

Unit description

This unit comprises an introduction to Biblical Hebrew which will be continued in LA003B in Semester 2. The course will be devoted to study of morphology and syntax and completion of approximately half of a first-year Hebrew grammar.

Learning objectives

On completion of the unit, students will:

Know and understand

1. Common terminology and grammatical descriptions used in grammars, lexicons and commentaries
2. Hebrew grammar and syntax up to at least half way through one standard grammar of Biblical Hebrew
3. About 100-200 words of Hebrew vocabulary
4. Essential grammatical issues that influence understanding and translation of the Hebrew text of the Old Testament

Be able to

1. Understand common grammatical terminology and descriptions used in grammars, lexicons and commentaries
2. Utilise foundational paradigms, constructions and vocabulary
3. Use aids to understanding the Hebrew Bible such as lexicons, grammars, concordances, commentaries, software tools

Be in a position to

1. Begin translation of simple Biblical Hebrew texts

How this Unit Contributes to the Course

This course prepares students for a lifetime of studying the Old Testament in its original language. Hebrew is indispensable to a deep understanding and exposition of fully three quarters of our Christian Bible. Consider what Martin Luther once wrote:

“And let us be sure of this: we will not long preserve the gospel without the languages. The languages are the sheath in which this sword of the Spirit [Eph. 6:17] is contained; they are the casket in which this jewel is enshrined; they are the vessel in which this wine is held; they are the larder in which this food is stored; and, as the gospel itself points out [Matt. 14:20], they are the baskets in which are kept these loaves and fishes and fragments.”

Pre-requisites and Co-requisites

This is an elective unit.

Students taking this unit may not also take LA001 with or after this unit.

This unit is delivered at undergraduate degree level, and is equivalent to the Australian College of Theology's 300 level units.

How this unit is organized & what we expect of you

Language Intensive Week

The Intensive for Biblical Hebrew A will be held from Tuesday 06 to Friday 09 February, 2018, from 9.30am to 3.30 pm each day. It will cover Chapters 1-4 of the textbook. A detailed schedule for the week will be provided separately by email and on Moodle.

This Intensive is compulsory for everyone enrolled in LA003A. If you are a part-time student, you should arrange to take leave from your work Tuesday-Friday of that week so that you can attend. You will find this week extremely beneficial as it will prepare you for the semester to come.

Weekly classes

Biblical Hebrew A meets for 3 hours each week for all 13 weeks of the semester. There will be one lecture each Wednesday and two lectures each Thursday. Each week during semester will begin with a brief Question and Answer session on any material covered in the previous week. The Wednesday classes will include a class quiz covering material from the previous weeks. Unless otherwise specified in class, students are expected to complete all of the exercises at the end of the chapter in the text. Supporting material may be made available in class and on Moodle.

Hebrew Language Intensive Week 2018-1

	Tuesday 6 th February	Wednesday 7 th February	Thursday 8 th February	Friday 9 th February
9:30-10:30	<u>Hebrew</u> Welcome and Orientation <i>Multi-Purpose Room</i>	<u>Hebrew</u> On the Alphabet 3 <i>Multi-Purpose Room</i>	<u>Hebrew</u> <i>EBH</i> Ch. 2 <i>Multi-Purpose Room</i>	<u>Hebrew</u> <i>EBH</i> Ch. 4-5 <i>Multi-Purpose Room</i>
10:30-11:00	Morning Tea	Morning Tea	Morning Tea	Morning Tea
11:00-12:30	<u>Hebrew</u> On the Alphabet 1 <i>Multi-Purpose Room</i>	<u>Hebrew</u> On the Alphabet 4 <i>Multi-Purpose Room</i>	<u>Hebrew</u> <i>EBH</i> Ch. 3 <i>Multi-Purpose Room</i>	<u>Hebrew</u> <i>EBH</i> Ch. 5 <i>Multi-Purpose Room</i>
12:30-1:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:30-3:30	<u>Hebrew</u> On the Alphabet 2 <i>Multi-Purpose Room</i>	<u>Hebrew</u> <i>EBH</i> ¹ Ch. 1-2 <i>Multi-Purpose Room</i>	<u>Hebrew</u> <i>EBH</i> Ch. 3-4 <i>Multi-Purpose Room</i>	<i>Meet if needed.</i>

Hebrew Students
Welcome to

Hebrew! I'm so glad you decided to take up the challenge of learning the original language of the OT. It is my hope that your growing skills in Hebrew will both deepen your appreciation for God's word in the Old Testament as well as provide an important tool for exegeting and teaching it. In preparation, you *must* work through *Elementary Biblical Hebrew* chs. 1–3 over the holiday break. Don't worry if you need concepts explained, the most important thing to get started is to memorise the Hebrew alphabet and attempting the homework exercises. It pays to put in the hard yards early and learn the fundamentals like the alphabet so you don't fall behind. Don't worry if you don't catch everything on your own, we'll spend plenty of time during the language intensive week to practice reading and pronouncing.

- Weber Hsu

¹ *Elementary Biblical Hebrew* – your text for the year. Athas, G and Young I. M. *Elementary Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar*. 4th rev. ed./5th ed. Croydon Park, NSW: Ancient Vessel Press.

Teaching staff

LECTURER

Rev. Weber Hsu

E: whsu@qtc.edu.au

Please feel free to contact me if you have any problems or concerns about the unit.

Other Key Contacts

Registrar's office

Contact the Registrar's office for any queries about which unit to enrol in next, if you wish to change your enrolment, defer due to illness, family circumstances etc., or request an extension for your assessment (criteria apply).

E registrar@qtc.edu.au

P 07 3062 6939, option 2

Moodle functions and queries

Contact the Registrar or the Assistant Registrar for help if something on Moodle is not working, if you need help using Moodle etc.

E registrar@qtc.edu.au

P 07 3062 6939, option 2

Library/Resources

Contact the Librarian for help with finding resources for your assessment, finding full-text database articles, for help with logging into the library databases and catalogue, and for help with how to renew a book for longer or place a hold on a book currently out to another person.

E library@qtc.edu.au

P 07 3062 6939, option 3

Unit timetable: topics & teaching and learning activities

Pre-work

In preparation before Intensive Language Week, it is ideal to work through *Elementary Biblical Hebrew** Chaps. 1–3. Don't worry if you need concepts explained, the most important thing to get started is to memorise the Hebrew alphabet and to attempt the homework exercises. It pays to 'put in the hard yards' early and learn the fundamentals like the alphabet, so you don't fall behind.

Week	Topic and Homework	Quizzes
Language Intensive Week 06 -09 February 2018	Chs. 1–4	No Quiz
Week 1	Ch. 5	No Quiz
Week 2	Ch. 6	Quiz 1: Chs. 1-5 21 Feb
Week 3	Ch. 7	Quiz 2: Ch. 6 28 Feb
Week 4	Chs. 8-9 and Review	Quiz 3: Ch. 7 07 Mar
Week 5	Ch. 10	Quiz 4: Chs. 8-9 14 Mar
Week 6	Ch. 11 and Review	Quiz 5: Ch. 10 21 Mar
Week 7	Ch. 12	Review Test Chs 1-11 28 Mar
Easter Break and QTC Mission	No classes	
Week 8	Ch. 13	Quiz 6: Ch. 12 18 Apr
Week 9 – <i>please note the Wednesday class will be held on Friday 27 April, due to ANZAC Day holiday</i>	Chs. 14-15	Quiz 7: Ch. 13 Fri 27 Apr
Week 10	Ch. 16	Quiz 8: Chs. 14-15 02 May
Week 11	Ch. 17	NO QUIZ 09 May
Week 12	Chs. 18-19	Quiz 9: Chs. 16-17 16 May
Week 13	Review and Practice	Quiz 10: Chs. 18-19 23 May
Assessment Block [3 wks]	No classes	

* Athas, G and Young I. M. *Elementary Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar*. 5th ed. Croydon Park, NSW: Ancient Vessel Press.

LA003A Assessments

In order to pass the unit, you must submit all assessment pieces and attain a mark of at least 50% for the unit as a whole.

Unless an extension has been applied for and granted in accordance with the Late Penalty Policy found in the QTC Handbook, where a student submits an assessment past its due date, the assessment marks will be reduced at the rate of 3% of the total possible marks for the Assessment item per calendar day, up to 14 days late.

ASSESSMENT TASK	DESCRIPTION
10 Quizzes 27% of final grade	Ten grammar and vocabulary quizzes, with the best nine results to count (3% each). So these tests will be worth 27% of the total marks for the semester. The dates and examinable content are listed in this outline. These quizzes will be administered on Wednesday mornings.
Review Test 13% of final grade	A 45-minute test conducted at 8:00am on Wednesday 28 March, testing topics covered in Chapters 1-11 of Athas and Young. This test will be worth 13% of the total marks for the semester.
Workbook Audits 10% of final grade	Five Random Audits of Student Hebrew Exercise Workbooks (2% for each). Students will be required to hand in their Hebrew Exercise Workbooks without prior notice on five occasions during the semester, at the end of a regular lecture. The dates of these audits will not be disclosed beforehand. Exercises set since the preceding audit will be checked for completion, not accuracy. The previous weeks' exercises will be checked and the workbooks will be returned to students by lunch time. There will be no opportunity to complete previously missed homework. One A4 ruled workbook is to be used for the exercises at the end of each chapter.
Final Exam 50% of final grade	Two-hour examination with questions covering Chapters 1-19 of Athas and Young. The exam will include Vocabulary, Grammar and Translation, and will be similar in style but different in content from that in the weekly quizzes and the Review Test. This exam will be worth 50% of the total marks for the semester. Within this final examination, the allocation of marks will be 15% for Vocabulary, 40% for General Grammar and Morphology, and 45% for Translation and Integration.

Guide to Assessments

Weekly Quiz

The weekly quiz will aim to test your understanding of the material covered in the past week, with a small section testing material from the week(s) prior to that. The purpose is in to diagnose potential areas of misunderstanding and to flag material that requires more work.

Homework

The weekly homework will consist of exercises at the end of each chapter of the textbook covered that week.

Final Exam

The exam at the end of Semester 1 will assess vocabulary, paradigms, grammar, syntax, and some translation. It will cover all the chapters studied in the semester (i.e. up to Chapter 19 of the textbook, including all the vocabulary covered).

Learning Resources

Essential References – Textbook/s

The student will require a copy of the textbook:

Athas, G and Young I. M. *Elementary Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar*. 5th ed. Croydon Park, NSW: Ancient Vessel Press.

Reference works

Brown, F., G. A. Driver and S. Briggs, *A Hebrew & English Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1974, 1996 repr).

Clines, D. J. A., *The Dictionary of Classical Hebrew* (8 Vols; Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix, 1993–) [Vols. 7-8 forthcoming].

Joüon, P. and T. Muraoka, *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew* (rev. ed.; Rome: Editrice Pontificio Instituto Biblico, 2006).

Koehler, L. and W. Baumgartner, (Rev. by Baumgartner, W. & J. J. Stamm *et al*), *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Leiden: Brill, 1994–2000).

Scott, W. R., *A Simplified Guide to BHS*, with H. P. Ruger, *An English Key to the Latin Words & Abbreviations and Symbols of BHS* (North Richland Hills, TX: Bibal, 1987).

Wonneberger, R., *Understanding BHS: A Manual for the Users of Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* (Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1990).

Recommended readings

Chisholm, R. B. Jr, *From Exegesis to Exposition: A Practical Guide to Using Biblical Hebrew* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998).

Cook, J. A., and R. D. Holmstedt, *Ancient Hebrew. A Student Grammar* (Toronto: University of Toronto, 2007).

Kelley, P. H., *Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996).

Martin, J. D. (ed.), *Davidson's Introductory Hebrew Grammar* (27th ed.; Sheffield: Continuum, 1993).

Practico, G. D. and M. V. Van Pelt, *Basics of Biblical Hebrew and Workbook* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001).

Ross, A. P., *Introducing Biblical Hebrew* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001).

Seow, C. L., *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew* (Rev. ed.; Nashville: Abingdon, 1995).

ACT Standards: Grades

Grades in assessment instruments are awarded in the following categories-

Grade	Score	GPA
Fail (F)	0-49%	0
Pass (P)	50-57%	1
Pass+ (P+)	58-64%	1.5
Credit (C)	65-74%	2
Distinction (D)	75-84%	3
High Distinction (HD)	85+%	4