

Hebrew Syntax and Reading, 131  
 Instructor: R. V. McCabe, Th.D.  
 Course Outline

Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary  
 Fall Semester  
 2009

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

A course designed to integrate Hebrew reading and syntax. This course involves the student in reading selected portions from the book of Exodus. Based on this foundation, Hebrew syntax will be taught. Attention is also given to developing and strengthening the student's Hebrew vocabulary.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

The student should

1. be able to translate the selected portions from the book of Exodus;
2. develop a more informed syntactical knowledge of Hebrew;
3. master a core vocabulary of Hebrew terms (831 words); and
4. have an appreciation for the message and theological framework of the selected portions from the book of Exodus.

### **ASSIGNMENTS:**

1. **Tests:** There will be two major tests. The mid-term will be given on Friday, Oct 23, and it will cover lessons 1–6 of our syntax notes as well as the assigned Hebrew reading. The final exam will be given on Wednesday, Dec 16 and it will cover lessons 7–14 of notes as well as the assigned Hebrew reading—**60% of grade**.

Tests must be taken at the time the exam is formally scheduled, unless a student has an excusable absence. If a student has an excusable absence, he must take the exam no later than 4:00 P.M. on the day he returns to seminary. After this 4:00 P.M. deadline on the day he returns to seminary, a late penalty of 10% per day begins accruing for each day that he goes beyond the 4:00 P.M. deadline. This penalty will be subtracted from the student's earned grade for the exam. If a student has an inexcusable absence, he will receive a 10% penalty for not having an excusable absence. He must take the exam no later than 4:00 P.M. on the exam's scheduled day to avoid any daily late penalties. If he takes the exam after 4:00 P.M. on the exam's scheduled day, his daily late penalties begin accruing after 4:00 P.M. of that same day. For example, if a student misses a scheduled exam with an unexcused absence and if he takes it before the 4:00 P.M. deadline on the same day of the exam, he will lose 10% as a penalty for not having a legitimate excuse. However, if the student takes the exam after 4:00 P.M. on the same day, but no later than 4:00 P.M. on the following day, he will lose 20% from his earned grade. He loses 10% for not having a legitimate excuse and 10% as a daily late penalty for not having taken the exam by 4:00 P.M. on the next day.

In addition, tardiness is unacceptable when a test has been scheduled. A tardy may result in a 10% penalty for the exam.

2. **Quizzes:** A quiz will be administered in every class period, except on the days when a major exam has been assigned—**40% of grade**.  
 The quizzes will be administered and incorporated into the 40% of the grade in the following manner:

*Wednesday*—vocabulary quiz **administered** at the beginning of this class; the vocabulary is cumulative—20%.

*Friday*—a translation, parsing, and syntax quiz may be taken in either a written or oral form. Most quizzes will be written. If the quiz is written, it may be given to each student in a sealed envelope in the preceding class period on Wednesday. The written quiz will then be **turned in** at the beginning of Friday’s class. If the quiz is oral, each student will be called upon to read the Hebrew text, then translate it, and respond to my questions about his translation, parsing, and/or syntax—20%.

The student is permitted to take up to two quizzes of either type on the *following* weekday without penalty and with no questions asked. After this grace period, the same guidelines that govern making up tests will be applied here.

#### DAILY SCHEDULE FOR VOCABULARY QUIZZES:

Wednesday	Sep 2	Lesson 1
	Sep 9	Lesson 2
	Sep 16	Lesson 3
	Sep 23	<b>Day of Prayer</b>
	Sep 30	Lesson 4
	Oct 7	Lesson 5
	Oct 14	Lesson 6
	Oct 21	Review for <b>mid-term on Friday, Oct 23</b>
	Oct 28	Lesson 7
	Nov 4	Lesson 8
	Nov 11	Lesson 9
	Nov 18	Lessons 10–11
	Nov 25	<b>Week of Thanksgiving Vacation</b>
	Dec 2	Lessons 12–13
	Dec 9	Lesson 14

#### DAILY TRANSLATION SCHEDULE:

Friday	Aug 28	<b>Class introduction; no translation</b>
	Sep 4	<b>Exodus</b> 7:1–13
	Sep 11	7:14–27
	Sep 18	7:28–29; 8:1–11
	Sep 25	8:12–25
	Oct 2	8:26–28; 9:1–10
	Oct 9	9:11–24
	Oct 16	<b>No Class: Mid-America Preaching Conference</b>
	Oct 23	9:25–35; 10:1–3
	Oct 30	<b>Mid-term</b>
	Nov 6	<b>Exodus</b> 10:4–16
	Nov 13	10:17–29
	Nov 20	11:1–10; 14:1–4
	Nov 27	<b>Week of Thanksgiving Vacation</b>
	Dec 4	14:5–18
	Dec 11	14:19–31

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE FOR SYNTAX:**

Week with Wednesday on	Aug 26	<b>No class;</b> introduction to class on <b>Aug 28</b>
	Sep 2	Lesson 1
	Sep 9	Lesson 2
	Sep 16	Lesson 3
	Sep 23	<b>Day of Prayer</b>
	Sep 30	Lesson 4
	Oct 7	Lesson 5
	Oct 14	Lesson 6
	Oct 21	Review; <b>mid-term on Friday, Oct 23</b>
	Oct 28	Lesson 7
	Nov 4	Lesson 8
	Nov 11	Lesson 9
	Nov 18	Lessons 10–11
	Nov 25	<b>Week of Thanksgiving Vacation</b>
	Dec 2	Lessons 12–13
	Dec 9	Lesson 14
	Dec 16	<b>Final Exam</b>

**CLASS ABSENCES:**

The policy for absenteeism at Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary is as follows. A student is allowed one week of unexcused absences and three weeks of excused absences. The maximum number of absences is four weeks for a class. Anyone who is absent from class beyond this will receive an “F” for that course, except by vote of the faculty in extenuating circumstances.

When a student has consumed his one week of permissible unexcused absences for a given course, his final grade will be penalized by 1% per hour of class that he has gone beyond this limit and extending until he has missed four full weeks of class. After this, he will receive an “F” for the course.

An excused absence is one where the student’s absence is beyond his control. In order to have his absence excused, the student must submit to the course instructor a **written explanation** for his absence. Based upon this the instructor will then determine whether or not the absence should be excused.

Three periods of tardiness will be counted as one unexcused absence.

**TEXTBOOKS:**

1. Armstrong, Terry A., Douglas L. Busby, and Cyril F. Carr. *Reader’s Hebrew-English Lexicon*. 4 vols. in 1. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1989.
2. Elliger, K. and W. Rudolph. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelstiftung, 1976.
3. Koehler, Ludwig, and Walter Baumgartner. *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. 2 vols. Rev. W. Baumgartner and J. J. Stamm, study ed. Leiden: Brill, 2001.

4. McCabe, Robert V. "Hebrew Syntax and Reading: Hebrew Vocabulary." Unpublished syllabus, Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary, 2007.
5. McCabe, Robert V. "Syntax Notes for Hebrew Syntax and Reading." Unpublished syllabus, Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary, 2009.
6. Williams, Ronald J. and John C. Beckman. *Williams' Hebrew Syntax*. 3rd ed., University of Toronto Press, 2007.

**GRADING SYSTEM:**

96–100	A	86–87	B-	76–77	D+
94–95	A-	84–85	C+	72–75	D
92–93	B+	80–83	C	70–71	D-
88–91	B	78–79	C-	69 & below	F