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**BIBL500**  
**Biblical Language Tools for Exegesis**  
**Fall 2023 Wednesdays 2–5 pm.**  
**Via Zoom**

**Course Description**

**PURPOSE:**

This course is designed to introduce Biblical Hebrew and Koiné Greek (NT) to students who have no background in biblical languages and to provide enough knowledge to use lexicons, Bible software and other tools. The course includes a basic introduction to each language, emphasizing understanding the basic elements of a sentence to be able to analyze how a sentence creates meaning. The use of language resources and tools will be covered so that a student will be able to use these tools in doing exegesis in both languages. Six weeks of classes will be spent on each language, culminating in an open book exam for each language. A demonstration of Bible software will be included.

**PREREQUISITES:** None. Although a healthy curiosity will help.

**COMPETENCE OBJECTIVES:**

In successfully completing this course, a student will have the following competencies in both Biblical Greek and Biblical Hebrew:

- Ability to use language-analysis tools, both print and digital.
- Recognize and identify basic elements of the respective languages.
  - Know the alphabet and a selection of the most common words in each language.
  - Show familiarity with pronunciation of the language.
  - Be able to do word and phrase searches in the original languages.
  - Be able to look words up, especially using computer tools.
  - Identify the part of speech of a word (noun, verb, adjective, adverbs, preposition, conjunction, etc.)
  - Understand the basic principles of morphology (how and why words change their forms to express grammatical information (such as person, number, gender, tense, voice, mood, case/state, etc.)
- Draw conclusions as to the possible meanings of a sentence.
- Demonstrate proficiency in using lexicons and Bible software.

**FORMAT AND CONTENT:**

This is twelve-week course worth 3.0 credit hours. The course will consist of six weeks of instruction in each language—lectures and in-class exercises. Assignments and evaluation include in-class and homework exercises, quizzes, and a final assignment in each language. Both six-week sections must be completed to receive credit for the course.

This course will be taught by zoom, both synchronously at the same time as class, or asynchronously through recordings of class. Expectations for asynchronous students will be spelled out in the syllabus.

**TEXTS:**

[Textbooks have NOT been ordered through UBC and will need to be purchased separately]

**Required:**

Strauss, Mark L. *The Biblical Greek Companion for Bible Software Users: Grammatical Terms Explained for Exegesis*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2016.

Williams, Michael James. *The Biblical Hebrew Companion for Bible Software Users: Grammatical Terms Explained for Exegesis*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2015.

**Highly Recommended:**

Quick reference sheets can be purchased via Chapters (click on link) for \$10.99 each.

- [Biblical Hebrew Laminated Sheet](#)
- [Biblical Greek Laminated Sheet](#)
- Accordance Bible Software: They give a 10% student discount.  
<https://www.accordancebible.com/product/basic-starter-accordance-14/>

**Recommended:**

Holladay, William L. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989

Trenchard, Warren C., *A Concise Dictionary of New Testament Greek*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

**EXPECTATIONS, ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATIVE CRITERIA**

It is expected that students will come prepared by reading the assigned text each week. There will be SHORT quizzes most weeks and a final exam for each language including a recitation of a short, memorized passage.

Date	Topic	Text to Read
13 Sep 2023	Introduction; Hebrew Writing System	
20 Sep 2023	Hebrew Writing System cont.; Basics of Hebrew Nouns	Williams: Introduction, Appendices, Root, Noun, Masculine, Feminine, Common, Singular, Plural, Dual
27 Sep 2023	Basics of Hebrew Nominal System	Williams: Absolute, Construct, Definite Article, Definite Direct Object Marker, Adjective, Pronoun (all 3), Person, Number (both)
4 Oct 2023	Basics of Hebrew Verbs	Williams: Verb, Conjugation, Perfect, Imperfect, Imperative, Cohortative, Jussive, Person, Singular, Plural

11 Oct 2023	Basics of Hebrew Verbs cont.	Williams: Stem, Qal, Niphal, Hiphil, Piel, Pual, Hitpael
18 Oct 2023	Review; Midterm Exam; Recitation of the Shema (Deut 6:4–5) from memory. Times for the recitation will be scheduled for asynchronous students.	Williams: Infinitive Absolute, Infinitive Construct, Participle (both), Waw Consecutive.
25 Oct 2023	Reading Week	
1 Nov 2023	Greek Writing System	Strauss: Introduction, Appendices 1-3,
8 Nov 2023	Basics of Greek Nouns	Strauss: Noun, Masculine, Feminine, Neuter, Singular, Plural, Nominative, Genitive, Dative, Accusative, Vocative
15 Nov 2023	Basics of Greek Nominal System	Strauss: Adjective, Article, Person, Pronoun (6), Numbers (2)
22 Nov 2023	Basics of Greek Verbs	Strauss: Verb, Present, Aorist, Imperfect, Active, Indicative, Imperative, Person, Singular, Plural
29 Nov 2023	Basics of Greek Verbs;	Strauss: Perfect, Pluperfect, Future, Middle, Passive, Subjunctive, Optative, Infinitive, Participle, Adverb
6 Dec 2023	Final Exam; Recitation of the Lord's Prayer (Luke 11:2b–4) from memory. Times for the recitation will be scheduled for asynchronous students.	
13 Dec 2023	Make up date only if a class is canceled during term	