

**Special Studies in Biblical Languages:  
Readings in Old Testament Hebrew (BLA 490/690)  
Spring 2012**

Point Loma Nazarene University  
1 credit unit  
Time: TBD (1 hour per week)

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**Prerequisite:** Introductory level course in Old Testament Hebrew or equivalent

**Course Description:** This course is designed to help students develop proficiency in reading Old Testament Hebrew. It consists of readings in Hebrew for the advanced language student. Stress is placed on translation of Hebrew texts with special attention given to lexical and syntactical issues. This course seeks to broaden the student's understanding of Hebrew grammar and vocabulary beyond the fundamentals introduced in the average first-year Hebrew class.

**Required Texts:**

1. A Hebrew lexicon of your choice. Preferred: *The New Brown-Driver-Briggs-Gesenius Hebrew and English Lexicon with an Appendix Containing the Biblical Aramaic* (reprinted; Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1979).
2. The standard critical edition of the Hebrew Bible: *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* or *Biblia Hebraica Leningradensia*
3. A standard introductory grammar to biblical Hebrew that you can reference as needed.

\*Recommended only: W. R. Scott, *A Simplified Guide to BHS\** (Richland Hills, TX: Bibal Press, 1987).

**Course Requirements:**

1. On-time attendance and preparation for each class session.
2. *Assignments:* For each relevant class session, the student is asked NOT to write out a translation of the passage but to prepare the translation with a "crib" sheet, which notes vocabulary, parsing, etc. as needed by the individual student. The student will work from the Hebrew text and his or her crib sheet during the session. The student should be prepared to read the text in class and explain the grammatical formations and syntax.

From time to time, these crib sheets will be collected for review of the student's progress. *The student should refrain from using any "helps" (commentaries, parsing guides, etc.) in preparation and simply rely on the Hebrew text, a lexicon, an index, and a basic grammar textbook.*

3. *Take-Home Final "Celebration of Learning"*: There will be a final exam to be completed outside of class. The exam will consist of an extended passage to translate and analyze.

**Course Grading:**

1. The student's grade will be based on class attendance, preparation of the regular assignments (as evidenced by the student's participation in the class sessions), and the final celebration of learning.

The point breakdown is as follows:

Daily Assignments and Attendance	250 points
Final Celebration of Learning	100 points
*Total Possible Points: 350	

**Tentative Course Schedule:** The readings for the course are designed to sample different parts of the canon (Torah, Prophets, and Writings) and different texts of varying genre, style, and difficulty. *We will aim to move through the biblical passages given but with great flexibility of when we move to the next passage:*

Session 1	Starting Points for the Course & Grammar Rvw Part 1 <i>*Homework Due Next Class: Take-Home Diagnostic Test</i>
Session 2	Diagnostic Test and Grammar Rvw Part 2
Subsequent Sessions:	Genesis 2:1-5  Genesis 12:1-6  Genesis 22:5-12  Exodus 21:28-32  Exodus 21:33-36  2 Kings 14:17-22  Jeremiah 7:1-10  Ezekiel 37:1-8

Micah 6:1-8

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

Job 3:1-10

***\*Final Exam will be a take-home exam during finals week***