



School of Theology and Christian Ministry

**BIB 4090- Readings in Biblical Hebrew**

1 unit

*Fall 2024*

**Meeting days/times: 1 hour per week (day/time TBD)**

**Meeting location: Smee Hall**

**Final Exam: Day and time TBD**

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Instructor title and name:</b> | The Rev. Dr. Brad E. Kelle, Ph.D.<br>Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew |
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| <b>Office location and hours:</b> | Smee Hall 201 (Office Hours: TBD)  |

**PLNU Mission**

**To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send**

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

## 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.

## Program and Course Learning Outcomes

1. possess a more advanced knowledge of Biblical Hebrew **grammar, syntax, and vocabulary**;
2. demonstrate ongoing competency in **reading and translating** the Hebrew Bible's prose and poetry;
3. expand the use various **research resources and reference works** for biblical exegesis;
4. appreciate the **significance** of Hebrew language study for theological **exegesis/interpretation**.

## Required Texts

1. *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*
3. A standard introductory grammar to biblical Hebrew that you can reference as needed.

## Course Credit Hour Information

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a **1-unit** class delivered over 16 weeks. It is anticipated that students will spend a minimum of 37.5 participation hours per credit hour on their coursework. For this course, students will spend an estimated 37.5 total hours meeting the course learning outcomes.

## Assessment and Grading

### 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 “guide” sheet, which notes vocabulary, parsing, etc. as needed by the individual student. The student will work from the Hebrew text and his or her guide 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 guide 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:**

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   | 200 points |
| Final Celebration of Learning      | 100 points |
| *Total Possible Points: 300        |            |

**Grading Scale:**

| A        | B        | C        | D        | F              |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------------|
| A 93-100 | B+ 87-89 | C+ 77-79 | D+ 67-69 | F Less than 59 |
| A- 90-92 | B 83-86  | C 73-76  | D 63-66  |                |
|          | B- 80-82 | C- 70-72 | D- 60-62 |                |

## **Final Examination Policy**

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination on its scheduled day. The final examination schedule is posted on the [Class Schedules](#) site. If you find yourself scheduled for three (3) or more final examinations on the same day, you are authorized to contact each professor to arrange a different time for one of those exams. However, unless you have three (3) or more exams on the same day, no requests for alternative final examinations will be granted.

## **Incompletes and Late Assignments**

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due—including assignments posted in Canvas. No assignment will be accepted for credit more than one week beyond the original due date. An assignment may be turned in for no more than half credit within one week after the original due date.

## **State Authorization**

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on [State Authorization](#) to view which states allow online (distance education) outside of California.

## **PLNU Copyright Policy**

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

## **PLNU Academic Honesty Policy**

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing

grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

### **PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy**

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities. Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center ([EAC@pointloma.edu](mailto:EAC@pointloma.edu) or 619-849-2486). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will issue an academic accommodation plan ("AP") to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not wish to utilize some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC.

### **Language and Belonging**

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe and hospitable learning environment for all students. As Christian scholars we are keenly aware of the power of language and believe in treating others with dignity. As such, it is important that our language be equitable, inclusive, and prejudice free. Inclusive/Bias-free language is the standard outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and it is the expected norm in university-level work. Good writing and speaking do not use unsubstantiated or irrelevant generalizations about personal qualities such as age, disability, economic class, ethnicity, marital status, parentage, political or religious beliefs, race, gender, sex, or sexual orientation. Inclusive language also avoids using stereotypes or terminology that demeans persons or groups based on age, disability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, language, or national origin. Respectful use of language is particularly important when referring to those outside of the religious and lifestyle commitments of those in the PLNU community. By working toward precision and clarity of language, we mark ourselves as serious and respectful scholars, and we model the Christ-like quality of hospitality.

You may report an incident(s) using the [Bias Incident Reporting Form](#).

## PLNU Attendance and Participation Policy

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive an “F” grade.

### Assignments At-A-Glance

**Course Schedule:** Each week of the course, the student will be assigned a passage from the Old Testament (usually between 5 to 10 verses in length) to translate from Hebrew into English using their Hebrew Bible. 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. *The passages for each week will be provided in class.*

*Instructions:* 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 “guide” sheet, which notes vocabulary, parsing, etc. as needed by the individual student. The student will work from the Hebrew text and his or her guide 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 guide 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.*

A *Take-Home Final “Celebration of Learning”* (final exam) will occur at the end of the course. The exam will consist of an extended passage to translate and analyze. Instructions and the passage will be provided in class.