

Course Outline for 1st Year Hebrew:

Required texts:

1.) Hebrew Old Testament (Trinitarian Bible Society ed. Ginsburg, orig. ed. Ben Chayyim is preferred.

2.) *Introduction to the Ginsburg Edition of the Hebrew Old Testament*, Alfred S. Geden & R. Kilgour. London: British and Foreign Bible Society, 1928 (you should get a bound photocopy of this work unless you can find it used somewhere). If you do not have the Ginsburg edition of the Hebrew OT, then you should get an equivalent work that explains the Massoretic notes and textual notes for your text. The Ginsburg edition is the traditional Hebrew OT (Ben Chayyim, that underneath the KJV + all other, or at least almost all other, versions from 1524 until c. 1938) mentioned above. A PDF version of this work is posted on my website in the Bibliology section. However, you will need to have a physical copy. You will find out that it is very helpful.

3.) *Introduction to Biblical Hebrew*, Thomas O. Lambdin. (L; “Lambdin Lessons 3-4” would be listed as L 3-4)

4.) *Annotated Key to Lambdin’s Introduction to Biblical Hebrew*, H. G. M. Williamson. JSOT Manuals 3. Sheffield, England: Sheffield Academic Press, 2000 (reprint ed.; first published 1987).

5.) Hebrew lexicon: either *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*, Ludwig Koehler and Walter Baumgartner, trans. & ed. M.E.J. Richardson (more up to date and more expensive—also lists words alphabetically—only the unabridged, *not* the abridged K&B lexicon is acceptable for class), or the *Hebrew Lexicon* of Brown-Driver-Briggs (cheaper but less up to date—lists words by trilateral root).

6.) Miscellaneous materials handout: These are resources that you will need at various points in the course of the year.

Notes on the assignments: You are to read and seek to understand the lessons in Lambdin on the day they are listed as due. You are also responsible to memorize vocabulary words by the day the lessons are due, as you may at any time have an unannounced vocabulary quiz. This rule for memorization of vocabulary also applies to central paradigms (Qal, Niphal, Piel, perfect/imperfect/participle forms, and so on.) Unless stated otherwise, you are to do all exercises in writing in Lambdin by the class period after one is to read the lesson. If an exercise says “Give the Hebrew for the following orally,” then you are to write the words out but also pronounce them out loud afterwards. In sections where there are passages to read (starting in lesson 17), you do

NOT have to do those sections. The professor does not want you to read “simplified” “Bible.” When we read the Bible, we will be reading the actual Bible, as listed below. You will have the joy of reading much more of the Bible in the second semester than you will in the first semester of the course. Unless otherwise indicated, you will do all exercises in Lambdin, with the exception that you do not need to write down the answers to every third exercise. In other words, if you have a set of exercises that are numbered from 1-14, you must complete exercises 1-2, 4-5, 7-8, 10-11, 13-14. After you do the exercises, you are to look in the answer key by Williamson and correct whatever you got wrong in RED PEN. You should also see what the correct answers are to the exercises you did not have to do (in the theoretical instance given above with a set of 14, you should see what the correct answers are for #3, 6, 9, 12 as well as the ones you had to write out). You need to make sure you understand how and why the correct answers to exercises are indeed correct. If you cannot figure it out, you should get help from the professor or another student, either in class or outside of class, so that you understand the correct answer. There will be selected, although limited, periods of time in class when we will be able to discuss these matters. Checking your answers with Williamson is part of your assigned homework. Be aware that Williamson’s translation of Hebrew exercises tends, especially as his book progresses, to move away from literal translation and formal equivalence to dynamic “equivalence.” You should not follow the answer key’s example in this but employ a formal equivalence translation methodology. You should also keep the dynamic equivalence factor in mind as you evaluate Williamson’s translation of the Hebrew. Also, when you do English to Hebrew exercises, there will be somewhat rare occasions where more than one Hebrew word may be an appropriate contextual translation of the English exercise. If you choose the word Williamson does not choose, you are not wrong for having done so, but you should, nonetheless, note his answer in your homework with red pen. You can do the exercises that are not required (that is, every third question) as extra credit. If you do this extra credit, you should also check and correct your answers in red pen to receive the extra credit.

It is very important that you keep up with your homework, for a number of reasons. 1.) If you understand how the exercises work, you are very well on your way to having a good grasp of the lesson. If you cannot do the exercises, you almost surely do not have a good grasp of the lesson. The lessons in Lambdin build on each other, so if you miss something, your lack of understanding will continue to show up. This will make the following lessons more difficult to master. 2.) Test questions will, unless otherwise noted, be taken verbatim from the Lambdin textbook examples (as well vocabulary, paradigms, etc.). Thus, by mastering the material and doing all your homework, you are actually also engaged in excellent preparation for your tests. Unannounced quizzes will also with some frequency go over relatively recently assigned vocabulary or examples in Lambdin. The final exam will have questions from previous tests. 3.) If you fall behind, it will be easy to get lost quickly, and it will be hard to catch up. Do whatever you can to avoid this difficulty. The Lord will help you, Philippians 4:13, as you trust in Him.

Note that the exercises are much easier to complete when you know the vocabulary up through the lesson you are completing, as they often include recently learned words.

You are allowed—indeed, you are required—to check your homework using the answer key by Williamson, and doing so after you have worked through the exercises will prove very helpful to you. However, do not use the answer key as a crutch. You are not to simply look at an exercise, determine you don't understand it, give up, look in the answer key, and write the answer in red pen. Doing so will hurt your homework grade substantially and also hinder your performance on tests, as your actual knowledge of the material will be substantially reduced. Furthermore, you are only allowed (and required) to check your work in the answer key after you have completed all the exercises in a particular lesson. The only exception to this rule is that you may look in the answer key after completing a set of exercises if you are not sure that you grasp the fundamental concepts in the lesson and you want to see if you are doing the work correctly. You can only employ this exception at the end of a set within a lesson, and you must indicate on your homework that you have done so. For example, in lesson #13, pgs. 57-58 of Lambdin, there are four sets of exercises (set a, with #1-9; set b, with #1-9; set c, with #1-9, and set d, with #1-6). If you were not sure that you understood the fundamental concepts of the lesson, after completing all nine of the exercises in set a, you could check the answer key and indicate that you had done so on your homework. You could not check the answer key at any point before completing all the exercises in a set.

You are allowed to work with other students, as long as you all seek to actually complete all the work assigned.

Write on the top of your homework the day that you completed it. If your work is late, write in red pen the number of days it is late. It is better, obviously, to do all your work on time, but if you fail to do so, it is still much better to do it late than to get a zero by never doing it at all.

Homework in Lambdin will be handed in after you have taken a test over the lessons in question. That is, after you have been tested over lessons 1-8, you will then turn in the homework for that portion of the book. The teacher will probably not be evaluating the accuracy of your homework before you take the test, so you need to make sure you understand the homework by using the answer key and asking questions.

When you translate, you need to be able to completely parse everything you translate and give the lexical form. You are not required to write on your translation the complete parsing of everything, but you are required to put the parsing and root for each verb or verbal form after the verb. You should record somewhere the complete parsing for words you do not know for study purposes.

The Hebrew lexicon you are likely to have for the course, that by Brown, Driver, and Briggs (BDB), lists words by lexical root, not individually alphabetically. This fact makes the lexicon harder to use at first, although it does have advantages as well. When you translate, if you spend over seven minutes trying to find a word in the lexicon, you are allowed to use the alphabeticalized key to BDB to find out the root form of a given word. You cannot use computer software to find out the root.

You are going to memorize in the first semester the *Shema* as well as Deuteronomy 6:5. You will have to write these verses out as they are found in your Hebrew text, with consonants and vowels. The accents should be learned as well, but as we are not going to learn those until the last weeks of the first semester as we get into the actual Biblical text, and so you will have to work ahead to find out what they are all about before you have to memorize the passage, I will be very lenient in grading the

accents, and will give you extra credit if you get them all correct. On this test, you will also be able to write out, parse the verbs, and translate Numbers 6:24-26 as extra credit.

Note on late work: It is essential that on any late homework or other work, you make it very, very clear to me what was done on time and what was late. For late work, you must put the date it was due and the date it was done on the top of the late assignment. Also, once again, you are strongly encouraged, as required, AFTER doing an assignment, to go back and check your answers in Lambdin by comparing the answer key. You can and should make changes to incorrect answers based on the answer key, but these must be done in red pen and the changes must be very clearly differentiated from what you originally put down as your answer.

Grading scale:

Homework: 25%

Tests: 50% (including pop quizzes—points on a pop quiz= 1/10 of a test's points)

Semester/Final exam: 25%

Assignment list, 1st Semester

(Homework due on days listed. Some dates may change, but hopefully they won't change too much.):

Session #1: Have textbooks. If possible, have consonants, vowels & transliteration memorized before class. I do have material to help you with the pronunciation of everything on my website. You will not be penalized if you do not know these things before class, however. It would be a good idea to get started on the homework for the next class early. Note that, leaving aside the theological modernism, both in higher and lower or textual criticism, Lambdin is a great textbook for learning Hebrew, so that the various lessons are easy to understand and follow reasonably one after the other. There is only one exception. The very beginning of the book—the section on how to learn the consonants, vowels, and transliteration—is, in my opinion, very difficult to follow. If you survive the first part, the rest of the book is well done and so self-explanatory that, with the answer key, you could teach yourself Hebrew through self-study with enough dedication and hard work. Unfortunately, you do have to learn the consonants and vowels somehow. Reading a different grammar, such as Practico or Ross (no, the Ross is no relation) is an option if you want a significantly easier method of learning the Hebrew alphabet. The handouts you have received, as well as the alphabet chart and vowel chart, should also be very helpful.

Session #2: Introduction + consonants, vowels, & transliteration should be mastered. Also do L 1-2. Read the “How to Read the Bible in English and in the Original Languages” handout.

Session #3: L 3-5

Session #4: L 6-8

Session #5: L 9-11

Session #6: L 12-14; Test over L 1-8 due by today.

Session #7: L 15-17. Have Deuteronomy 6:4-5 memorized for a quiz over it in class. Numbers 6:24-26, or a portion of it, may or may not be on the L9-16 and following tests as extra credit. As noted already, exercises such as L17c, the alteration of the inspired Hebrew text for simplicity, are not assigned (Deuteronomy 4:2; Proverbs 30:5-6).

Session #8: L 18-20

Session #9: L 21-22. Test over L 9-16.

Session #10: L 23-25. It would be a good idea to get started learning the prose accents so you are not overwhelmed when they are due.

Session #11: L 26-28. Use pgs. 20-21, *Introduction to the Ginsburg Edition of the Hebrew OT*, and the handouts from Gesenius and Joüon-Muraoka, to learn the accents in the prose books of the Bible, so that you can know what the accents are when you begin translating Genesis for next class.

Session #12: Translate Genesis 1:1-13; L 29-31. You need to write the complete parsing of verbs and participles in your translation. The “Notes on Genesis 1” in your handout packet will help you with material that you do not yet know how to parse.

Session #13: Test over L 17-28. L 32-33. Genesis 1:14-23.
: 136:1) (תהלים) הודו ליהוה בִּיטוֹב כִּי לַעֲוֹלָם חֶסֶד:

Session #14: Genesis 1:24-2:3. Review. Take test over Genesis 1:1-2:3.

After session #14: Final exam over L 1-33.

You are done with first semester Hebrew. **טוֹב מְאֹד!**

A Suggestion to help you for 2nd semester:

There are certain assignments for 2nd semester outside of Lambdin that can be done at any point in the semester—or even before the semester. If you wish to read, and write the assigned 1-2 page summaries, of Ginsburg’s *Introduction*, the paper on the history of the debate over the inspiration of the Hebrew vowels, and the paper on the evidences for their inspiration, ahead of time, you are perfectly free to do so. In fact, if you have the time, it would not be a bad idea, as it will make your 2nd semester easier. Reading the composition on Deuteronomy 22:5 is optional, but as we are translating the verse in class, and it is a ground of controversy in these days, you can write a 1-2 page summary of that work for extra credit. You can also read the portions from Gesenius and Joüon-Muraoka in the handouts ahead of time, and master the prose and poetic

accentuation systems and the significance of the accents and other material discussed in these handouts. You can verify that you understand the accent systems well if you can go through many verses of Biblical text in both the prose and poetic books, identify the accents, know whether they are disjunctive or conjunctive, regular/impositive, prepositive, or postpositive, and know what the significance is of the accents as discussed in the handouts. To learn all of this takes some time, but as it is not intrinsically connected to any particular lesson in Lambdin, it is time that can be spent at any point between the time you read these words and the day such knowledge is required in the second semester. You can also work ahead in Lambdin if you wish—as you know by now, Lambdin simply builds on itself, so you can probably figure the lessons out on your own if you just put the time into them. I do not mind at all if you work ahead in the book between semesters or you get ahead on translations. Go for it. If you do not understand something and need help, go ahead and contact me. I don't mind at all if you e-mail me or call me on the phone. Also, if you go back over Lambdin lessons 1-33 and fill in any "holes" that are still present in your understanding between now and 2nd semester, it will also make the remainder of this course much easier. You would do well to review and make sure that you have down cold all the paradigms of the sort on the first semester final exam, at the bare minimum. Ideally, you could review the homework from the 1st semester and have an excellent grip on everything in Lambdin covered first semester.

2nd Semester

Session #1: Review material from 1st semester+explain class procedure for 2nd semester. You would do well to review and make sure that you have down cold all the paradigms of the sort on the first semester final exam, at the bare minimum. Ideally, you would have gone over the homework from the previous semester and have an excellent grip on all of Lambdin covered first semester. We will also briefly explain how to use computer software and what book resources there are out there to help you translate and read the Bible in Hebrew after the semester is over. However, you do NOT get to use any of these tools during the semester on your translations or for anything else, with any exceptions being specifically and clearly specified. As a reminder, I also want you to use physical copies of BDB, not to have an electronic version where you just type in the lexical form and, caboom, up comes the word. On upcoming tests over Lambdin, you may (or may not) have one or more verses from Psalm (תהלים) 20:2-5 (Heb.; Eng. 1-4), Leviticus (ויקרא) 20:7, and/or Deuteronomy (אֵלֶּה הַדְּבָרִים) 6:4-7 that you can write out from memory for extra credit.

Session #2: L 34-35. Genesis 2:4-7. Read *Introduction to the Ginsburg Edition of the Hebrew OT* (you do not need to read all the Masoretic abbreviations or chapter 8, "Clausulae.") After you read Ginsburg, you should be able to identify the Massoretic and textual notes at the bottom of your Hebrew text. You will not need to write out a translation of them for homework, but you should be able to translate them on sight, just like you should for the Hebrew text itself. Remember that all verb forms and participles must be parsed in your translation.

Session #3: L 36-37. 1-2 page synopsis of Ginsburg due. When you turn in a synopsis, whether of Ginsburg or of the other papers, you should write at the bottom of your synopsis, “I have read the required reading in X by the date assigned,” and sign your name, or if you have not done this, indicate what you did read and when you read it by, and sign your name. Read handout from Gesenius. You do not need to write a summary of Gesenius, for your knowledge of his work, or lack thereof, will show up on future tests.

Session #4: L 38-39; Genesis 2:8-15. Read handout from Joüon-Muraoka. You do not need to write a summary of Joüon-Muraoka for the same reason that you do not need to write one for Gesenius.

Session #5: L 40-41. Read the “History of the Debate Over the Inspiration of the Hebrew Vowel Points” paper. Genesis 2:16-25.

וְהִתְקַדְּשׁוּם וְהִיִּיתֶם קְדָשִׁים כִּי אֲנִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם :

Session #6: L 42-43. Genesis 3:1-10. REMINDER: From L42 onward, the translation sections/readings in the Lambdin lessons will also be required, unless otherwise stated. Note that the readings may take you some extra time, so look ahead for the lessons where they are required so you do not get behind. Readings that are not required can be done as extra credit. Use your actual Hebrew OT, but compare the notes in Lambdin on the verses and Williamson. You do not need to read the footnotes in your Hebrew text for the Lambdin passages, and you should check your Lambdin passage translations like you check your other Lambdin homework. Use BDB as your lexicon; however, you can use whatever else you wish if a word takes you more than 4 minutes to find. You can use whatever computer or other tools whatsoever you wish to check your translations of the Lambdin passages, but you must, as usual, indicate any errors in your translation with red pen, just as you do for the normal Lambdin homework when you check it with answer key. On lessons with readings, when the readings are assigned, you can skip every second homework question instead of every third question. That is, for L42, in exercise “a” you can do #1, 3, 5, 7, 9, etc. instead of #1-2, 4-5, 7-8, etc. This pattern also holds for the rest of the exercises in L42 and in L43. You should still check every exercise with the Williamson answer key. 1-2 page summary of “History of the Debate...” also due.

Session #7: L 44-45. Genesis 3:11-19. Reading for L44 not required.

Session #8: L 46-47. Read “Evidences for the Inspiration of the Hebrew Vowel Points” paper. Reading for L47 not required.

Session #9: Genesis 3:20-4:5. Quiz over L 34-42.

Session #10: L 48-49: 1-2 page summary of “Evidences for the Inspiration...” due. Genesis 4:6-15. Readings for L 48-49 not required.

Session #11: L 50-51. Numbers 6:24-26; Deuteronomy 22:5; 24:1-4. Test over the accents and related material. You should be able to identify all accents in any given verse of Scripture, state whether they are disjunctive or conjunctive, normal, prepositive, or postpositive, and what their functions are, as described in Gesenius & Joüon-Muraoka. Other material from the readings (such as the *raphe*) is also fair game. Readings for L 50-51 not required. Note that you will be translating Isaiah soon. You will find Isaiah more difficult to translate than anything you have yet translated, because up to this point you have only translated standard prose narrative. Therefore, you might want to get an early start on Isaiah.

Do test over Genesis 2-4 before next class. Accents are part of Genesis 2-4. You may also be asked to translate one or more of the Massoretic and textual notes on these chapters also.

Session #12: L 52-53. Isaiah 52:13-53:7. Quiz over L 43-49. Reading for L53 not required.

Session #13: L 54-55.

Session #14: Isaiah 53:8-12; also Quiz over L 50-55.

Session #15: Review.

After class is over: Lambdin final exam; Test over Deuteronomy 22:5; 24:1-4; Isaiah 52:13-53:12. Accents are part of these passages. You may also be asked to translate one or more of the textual notes on these chapters also. Turn in all work not already turned in.

You are done with first year Hebrew! **טוב מאד!!**

DON'T LOSE YOUR HEBREW! Set a goal and read a certain number of verses/spend a certain amount of time in the Hebrew Old Testament every week as part of your devotions!

Numbers 6:24-26:

יְבָרְכֶךָ יְהוָה וְיִשְׂמְרֶךָ :
יְאֵר יְהוָה | פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וְיִתְנֶךָ :
יֵשֵׂא יְהוָה | פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וְיִשֵּׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם :

Psalm (תהילים) 20:2-5 (Heb.; Eng. 1-4):

יַעֲנֶךָ יְהוָה בַּיּוֹם צָרָה | יִשְׁנֹבֶךָ שֵׁם | אֱלֹהֵי יַעֲקֹב :

יִשְׁלַח-עֲזָרָתְךָ מִקֶּדֶשׁ וּמִצִּיּוֹן יִסְעָדְךָ :
יִזְכָּר כָּל-מִנְחֹתֶיךָ וְעוֹלֹתֶיךָ יִדְשָׁנָה סֵלָה :
יִתֵּן-לְךָ כָּל-בִּבְיָ וְכָל-עֲצָתְךָ יִמְלֵא :

Grading scale, 2nd semester:

Lambdin & Translation Homework: 20%

Reading Summaries: 15%

Tests: 40% (including pop quizzes—each pop quiz = 1/20 of a test)

Semester/Final exam: 25%