

**BI 213-VT-2021 SU2– Biblical Hebrew
Summer, 2021
6 credit hours**

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"Reading the Bible in translation is like kissing your new bride through a veil."

--Haim Nachman Bialik (Jewish Poet, 1873-1934)

Course Description: BI-213 Biblical Hebrew. Intensive Grammar, vocabulary and thought forms of Biblical Hebrew language. 6 credit hours (from the 2018-19 Wesley Seminary Catalog, p. 136)

This course does not assume a prior knowledge of Hebrew. It runs for 6 weeks and is the equivalent of one year (two semesters) of introductory biblical Hebrew. The pace is rapid.

We will be using the **inductive method**, which means that instead of memorizing rules first and then applying them to biblical texts (**deductive method**), we will read the texts first and draw rules of grammar from our reading. Once you learn the alphabet and the vowels, **we move immediately to reading and translating Gen 22 and the other texts in Van Hunter's Workbook** (see required texts below). The emphasis will be upon narrative; poetry is reserved for Intermediate Hebrew.

- This course is being taught in a Virtual OL format. This means that we will meet for 2 hours on Monday and Tuesday evenings each week on Zoom from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Eastern time. These sessions are required.
- Wednesday-Friday each week will be asynchronous (on line/OL), and include short Kaltura videos that I post for you to view.
- For the first 5 weeks of class, on-line (OL) work will be required on Wed., Thurs., and Friday. For the last week of class, OL work will be required on Tues., Wed., and Thurs.

- You will work in teams OL to translate and critique one another's translations and to read assigned verses in Hebrew. The teams will change each week.

In order to complete OL work, you must view the Online and Hybrid Orientation Module found under Daily Modules. It includes a section on posting videos on BB as well as a brief Kaltura tutorial. Kaltura is built into BB so there is no need to download an app.

Kaltura allows you to record/videocam your reading of the Hebrew texts we are translating in class, as well as your critique of your partner's translation. Please complete the brief Kaltura tutorial before class begins on July 5 and play with recording something to get used to using it. My Media on BB will store all of your videos.

Student Learning Outcomes: upon the conclusion of this course, the student will be able to:

- analyze basic biblical Hebrew grammar and syntax
- build up a reservoir of Hebrew vocabulary
- translate and explain/defend the translation of selected passages in the Hebrew Bible
- pronounce Hebrew words in biblical texts
- identify issues in textual criticism and translation important for the interpretation, teaching, and preaching of HB texts
- use Hebrew language resources such as a lexicon and concordance
- identify aspects of literary artistry in biblical texts
 - recognize and describe the aspects of trauma in Gen 22, the sacrifice of Isaac, and the textual clues pointing to that trauma

MASTER OF DIVINITY DEGREE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of Wesley Theological Seminary is to equip persons for Christian ministry and leadership in the church and the world, to advance theological scholarship, and to model a prophetic voice in the public square.

The MDiv curriculum strives toward greater educational excellence in the following areas:

I. Religious Heritage Goal: Students will cultivate deep roots in the foundational biblical and theological traditions of the Christian faith.

Objectives: Students will demonstrate: A. knowledge of biblical and historical foundations of Christian theology and practice; B. critical understanding of methodological issues in interpreting these traditions for contemporary faith and practice; C. engagement with the diversity of the Christian heritage and imaginative expression in liturgy, writing and the arts.

II. Cultural Context Goal: Students will engage diverse cultural contexts sensitively, critically and constructively.

Objectives: Students will demonstrate: A. ability to enter into diverse cultural communities with an openness to encountering, contributing to, and learning from different cultural perspectives; B. critical use of methods for identifying and analyzing cultural patterns, social structures, and economic forces impacting human communities and their lived faith; C. constructive engagement in collaborative ministry with others in ways that are culturally informed.

III. Ministerial and Public Leadership Goal: Students will hone their own skills for ministry and enable the ministry and leadership of others.

Objectives: Students will demonstrate: A. skill in practicing the arts of ministry and church leadership; B. ability to work effectively with others to facilitate their gifts for service and leadership in the church, in community organization, and in the public square; C. fruitful approaches toward innovation to help others face new challenges and opportunities for creative and faithful ministry and mission.

IV. Personal and Spiritual Formation Goal: Students will strive toward deeper integration intellectually, morally, emotionally and spiritually.

Objectives: Students will demonstrate: A. committed discipleship as faithful individuals and as persons of moral character within community; B. responsibility for directing their learning for more effective engagement; C. self-awareness, especially of their own emotional processes in interaction with others.

Course objectives (and seminary curricular objectives)	Class Discussion	Quizzes	Written Translation, Analysis	Webcam	Final Exam	Critique of Teammate	
1) Analyze grammar, syntax, artistry (I. A, B; II B)	X	X	X	X	X	X	
(2) Recognize, define vocabulary (I. A, C)	X	X	X	X	X	X	
(3) Translate/defend translation of texts (I. A, B, C; II. A, B, C; III. A)	X	X	X	X	X	X	
(4) Pronounce Hebrew words (I. A, B, C; II. A)	X			X			
(5) Use Hebrew language resources (I. A, B; III. A)	X	X	X	X	X	X	

Course Requirements:

- a. This course will require at least 2-3 hours of work outside of class per day. I do not exaggerate.
- b. Regular attendance at all required Zoom sessions; missing more than 1 Zoom class without permission will result in a reduction of grade or loss of credit.
- c. Prepared written translations with notes/parsing for all class assignments. You are expected to self-correct these assignments when in a Zoom class. For OL classes each week, you will critique a teammate's translation by using Kaltura video capture, and also view Kaltura videos made by the instructor.
- d. Grading:
 - OL participation (you demonstrate that you have prepared for each Zoom class), 40%
 - Oral vocab quizzes on Zoom/OL quizzes, 20% (you may drop your lowest grade)
 - Oral grammar/syntax quizzes on Zoom/OL quizzes, 20% (you may drop your lowest grade)
 - Final exegetical paper on a text you have not seen that demonstrates your

ability to articulate both the range and the contextual meaning of key words in the text and the historical/cultural context of the text itself (20%)

We will follow the 5 steps for exegesis outlined in *Biblical Interpretation: A Road Map* by Frederick Tiffany and Sharon Ringe. This is the template Wesley Theological Seminary uses for exegesis. No need to purchase the book. I have powerpoint slides that outline the 5 steps.

Course Textbooks:

Vanlier Hunter, *Biblical Hebrew Workbook*

William Holladay, *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon* (Hunter's Workbook it linked to Holladay)

OR

The New Brown-Driver-Briggs-Gesenius Hebrew and English Lexicon (if you plan to continue biblical Hebrew study; it is more difficult to use than Holladay)

BHS (Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia) for those going on in Hebrew

Course Outline:

Language study requires flexibility. Specific assignments and quiz times will be announced daily, depending upon class progress.

Viewing grades

Assignment grades will be on Blackboard and can be accessed by clicking [MyGrades](#) in the course menu.

Grade schema

93 – 100 = A (Excellent/Outstanding)

90 – 92 = A- (Outstanding)

88 – 89 = B+ (Very Good)

83 – 87 = B (Good)

80 – 82 = B- (Adequate)

78 – 79 = C+ (Adequate)

73 – 77 = C (Adequate)

70 – 72 = C- (Substandard)

Disability:

If you have a physical, psychological, or learning disability and might require accommodations in this course, please contact the Office of the Associate Dean of Community Life immediately regarding Wesley's policies and procedures for documenting and accommodating disabilities, x8612.

Office Hours:

By appointment. Contact me at the email address above. I am happy to provide extra help at mutually agreeable times.

Blackboard Administration

Blackboard Learn automatically records all student and faculty activities including: the first and last access to the course, the pages accessed, the number of discussion messages read and sent, chat room discussion text, and posted discussion topics. This data can be accessed by the instructor to evaluate class participation and to identify participants having difficulty, or to verify academic honesty.

Courses will be unavailable to students two months after the course has ended. Please be sure to save any course material, content, or readings prior to the course completion. If you need the course after it has become unavailable, you must contact the instructor.

Technical Support

Students must attempt to solve technical problems and contact their instructor when technical problems do arise.

If you experience technical problems, please exercise one or all of the following options:

- [Blackboard Training Materials](#)
- Call Blackboard Support at (202) 885-6091
- Email Blackboard Support at edtech@wesleyseminary.edu

If you have lost your password, or have a problem that is not specifically Blackboard related, please contact Solutionworx at support@solutionworx.com or by phone at (703) 961-1840

Technical Requirements: see Orientation Module

Academic Honesty & Integrity

Wesley Theological Seminary considers plagiarism as a serious offense which will result in substantial penalties, including the possibility of academic dismissal. Students are expected to comply with all standards for academic honesty and integrity, both of the seminary and of the classes in which students are enrolled. The seminary regards the following as forms of plagiarism or academic dishonesty:

- copying from another student's work;
- giving or receiving unauthorized assistance to or from another student during an examination;
- using unauthorized material during an examination;
- presenting as one's own (i.e., without proper attribution) the composition or ideas of another;
- copying material from any sources, whether print or online.

All work submitted must be the work of the student submitting. Work from other sources must be thoroughly paraphrased or indicated as a direct quotation. In either case, the source of the material must be cited. Students are referred to the most current edition of Kate Turabian's *Manual for Writers of Research Papers* for instructions on source citations.

Furthermore, the mutilation, defacement, or stealing of library materials are also considered forms of academic dishonesty and a violation of the seminary's *Covenant of Professional Ethics and Behavior* (see "Use of Property") and are also subject to disciplinary action.

In questions of academic dishonesty, the professor will report the circumstances of the case to the Dean. In first instances of proven plagiarism or dishonesty, the student will receive a "Fail" grade for the course. Second instances will result in automatic separation from the Seminary. Please see the Wesley Theological Seminary Catalog for further details.

BI 213: Biblical Hebrew, Discussion Board Assignment, Summer 2021

Gen 22 and Trauma

There are 3 steps to this assignment:

1) Please take this brief survey before you watch the assigned video:



[Science for Seminaries Pre-Course Survey Web survey powered by SurveyMonkey.com. Create your own online survey now with SurveyMonkey's expert certified FREE templates.](#)

2) Watch the video "Interview with Dr. Ur Bergmann on Trauma" found in the Week 4, Day 1 Module and then answer this question:

Do you look at the sacrifice of Isaac differently now than you did before? Why or why not? What did you learn from Dr. Bergmann about trauma?

3) Please take this brief concluding survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Sci4SemPostCourseSurvey>

Due Wed., July 28 by 1 p.m.