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REFORMED  THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
DISTANCE EDUCATION

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HEBREW I  
DR. MILES VAN PELT

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# Course Overview

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## Course Description:

0HT5100 Hebrew I, 3 hours  
Lecturing Professor: Dr. Miles Van Pelt  
Professor of Record: Dr. William A. Ross

This course constitutes an introduction to the language of Biblical (Classical) Hebrew, including basic phonology, morphology, syntax, and vocabulary.

## Course Objectives:

- To introduce the student to the Hebrew alphabet, including pronunciation, syllabification and vowel symbols
- To introduce basic Hebrew syntax, including conjunctions, prepositions and verbs
- To help the student begin building a significant Hebrew vocabulary
- To teach the student how to translate basic Hebrew sentences and to begin to read Hebrew Bible verses

## Required Textbooks:

Pratico, Gary D., and Miles Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar*, 3rd Ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2019.

Pratico, Gary D., and Miles Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Workbook*, 3rd Ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2019.

Van Pelt, Miles. *English Grammar to Ace Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010.

[These books may also be available in ebook format through various retailers]

## Recommended Resources:

Van Pelt, Miles V. and Gary D. Pratico. *The Vocabulary Guide to Biblical Hebrew and Aramaic*, 2nd edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2019.

Van Pelt, Miles V. and Gary D. Pratico. *Old Testament Hebrew Vocabulary Cards*, 2nd edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2019.

Pratico, Gary D. and Miles V. Van Pelt. *Zondervan Get an A! Study Guides: Biblical Hebrew*, revised edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2019.

### *Hebrew Keyboard:*

In this course, you will be required to input Hebrew letters (without vowels or other pointing) on some of the quizzes and on the exams. We have provided instructions for how to use a Hebrew software keyboard as part of the course materials. The Hebrew text in this class should display on most modern devices, but you will be required to use a PC or Mac to complete this class. Unfortunately, the Canvas app and other mobile devices do not support the input of Hebrew text into Canvas.

Once you have installed your Hebrew keyboard on your computer, please be sure to practice inputting Hebrew text into a word processor so that you become familiar with how it works.

We have also provided an ungraded practice quiz where you can input Hebrew text. You can take this quiz as many times as you would like. Please note that you will be required to take this quiz at least once before you are allowed to take further lesson quizzes for the class.

If you have any questions about Hebrew text input, please contact RTS Global Student Services at [dess@rts.edu](mailto:dess@rts.edu).

### *Online Student Handbook:*

The Online Student Handbook (can be [downloaded here](#)) has been designed to assist you in successfully navigating the Distance Education experience, whether you are taking a single course or pursuing a certificate or degree program. In it you will find valuable information, step-by-step instructions, study helps, and essential forms to guide you through every aspect of your distance education opportunity from registration to graduation. Please use this resource as your first-stop reference manual.

### *Summary of Requirements:*

1. Watch the video lectures contained in the lesson modules in Canvas for each lesson.
2. Complete the homework exercises for each lesson and check your answers with the answer key.
3. Take the quiz for each of the 18 lessons.
4. Respond to the five topical discussion questions, and complete the Student to Student and Student to Professor discussion requirements.
5. Take the midterm exam.
6. Take the final exam.
7. Submit a Mentor Report or Course Application Paper.

# Meet the Professor

## *Lecturing Professor:*



**Miles V. Van Pelt, Ph.D.** is the Alan Hayes Belcher, Jr. Professor of Old Testament and Biblical Languages, Director of the Summer Institute for Biblical Languages, and Academic Dean for the Jackson and Brazil campuses. Miles has a strong commitment to and passion for teaching students the Bible in its original languages and has published extensively in the area of Hebrew and Aramaic language instruction, as well as biblical theology. At the RTS campus in Jackson, Miles teaches Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, Hebrew Exegesis, Joshua-Esther, and courses on the books of Judges and The Song of Songs. Miles is also a competitive CrossFit athlete. He and his wife Laurie have been married for almost 30 years (rock solid and white hot!) and they have four fantastic children.

## *Professor of Record:*



**William A. Ross** (Ph.D., University of Cambridge) is assistant professor of Old Testament at Reformed Theological Seminary in Charlotte, NC. He is co-editor of *Septuaginta: A Reader's Edition* (Hendrickson 2018) and co-author of *A Book-by-Book Guide to Septuagint Vocabulary* (Hendrickson 2019). Ross has published several articles related to the Hebrew Bible, textual criticism, and Koine Greek in leading academic journals. He is also an ordained teaching elder in the PCA and has four children with his wife, Kelli.

# Grades

## *Forum Discussion (15%):*

The student is required to interact in two (2) forums:

1. Student-Professor Posts (15 total posts)
  - A. Personal Introduction Forum: The student is required to post a brief personal introduction to the professor/class. Suggested details include your vocation, where you live, your church background, why you chose RTS, and what you hope to gain through the course (1 required post).
  - B. 5 Topical Discussion Q&A Forums: The student is required to answer each topical discussion question with one (1) response. The professor will acknowledge the student's answer and will follow up with a subsequent question to which the student must also answer with one (1) response. Each topical discussion question, therefore, requires two (2) total posts/responses from the student (Total of 5 forums x 2 posts = 10 total posts).
  - C. Student-Professor Forum: The student is required to post four (4) times in this forum. Posts in this forum should focus on course-related content such as research paper topics, lectures and reading assignments, or other academic issues related to the course.
2. Student-Student Forum (5 total posts)

A post may be either a new topic or a response to an already existing topic.

## *Examination (Midterm 20%, Final 20%):*

There are two exams for the class, a Midterm and a Final. The Midterm will cover lessons 1 through 9. It will contain vocabulary words, grammar questions, parsing, and translation. The Final will be cumulative, but will be more heavily weighted toward Lessons 10 through 18. It will contain vocabulary words, paradigm identification, grammar questions, parsing, and translation. More specific information about the exam formats will be provided in Canvas.

The midterm and final exams for this course are to be taken online in the LMS. Please note that you will need to have a proctor for your exams. Your proctor can be anyone except a relative or current RTS Student. After clicking on the exam link you will be given detailed instructions about the exam. Please read these instructions carefully before entering the exam.

## *Quizzes (30%):*

There will be a quiz for each lesson. The quizzes will cover vocabulary, grammar, and any other material from the corresponding lesson. Throughout the class there will be short exercises that you must complete and upload as part of the quiz for that lesson. Vocabulary words may be included from the chapter vocabulary lists, chapter contents, and workbook exercises. These exercises may be completed in a word processor, or handwritten and scanned. The two lowest quiz scores will be automatically dropped.

### *Homework Exercises (10%):*

You complete the homework exercises for each lesson contained in the Basics of Biblical Hebrew Workbook and check your work with the answer key that is provided in the Canvas online classroom. You must scan your work and upload it to the online classroom for each lesson. This will be graded on completion.

### *Mentor Report OR Course Application Paper (5%):*

If you are enrolled in an **RTS Global** degree program, you are required to submit a mentor report at the end of the course. Every portion of the form (goals, summaries, assessments, and signatures) should be filled out completely by both the student and the mentor to receive full credit. You can download the Mentor Report form in your Canvas classroom.

If you are receiving your degree through another **RTS campus** (Orlando, Jackson, Charlotte, et. al.), or are a certificate student, or special student (e.g. from another seminary), you are asked to write a 200-word summary of how you perceive what you have learned in this course will fit into the objectives you have for your ministry, your educational goals, or other objectives you wish to achieve in life. Course Application Papers (CAP) that fall well-short of 200 words will receive a grade deduction.

### *Assignments:*

Best practice for your time management is for you to submit all assignments at the end of the week in which they fall, using the upload links provided in the LMS. All work must be submitted by midnight of the course end date, per your course start letter. You are responsible for turning in all assignments on time; no late submissions are permitted. Any student who needs an extension must get approval from the Registrar prior to that time.

### *Contact Information:*

Reformed Theological Seminary, Distance Education

2101 Carmel Road

Charlotte, NC 28226

(704) 900-1257

1-855-854-6920

FAX: (704) 366-9295

E-mail: [dess@rts.edu](mailto:dess@rts.edu)

Web site: [www.rts.edu/distance](http://www.rts.edu/distance)

# Lessons

## Lesson One

The Hebrew Alphabet

## Lesson Two

The Hebrew Vowels

## Lesson Three

Syllabification

## Lesson Four

Hebrew Nouns

## Lesson Five

The Hebrew Definite Article and the --  
Conjunction Waw

## Lesson Six

Hebrew Prepositions

## Lesson Seven

Hebrew Adjectives

## Lesson Eight

Hebrew Pronouns

## Lesson Nine

Hebrew Pronominal Suffixes

## Lesson Ten

Hebrew Construct Chain

## Lesson Eleven

Hebrew Numbers

## Lesson Twelve

Introduction to Hebrew Verbs

## Lesson Thirteen

Qal Perfect Strong Verbs

## Lesson Fourteen

Qal Perfect Weak Verbs

## Lesson Fifteen

Qal Imperfect Strong Verbs

## Lesson Sixteen

Qal Imperfect Weak Verbs

## Lesson Seventeen

The Waw Consecutive and Consecutive  
Verbs

## Lesson Eighteen

Qal Imperative Strong and Weak Verbs

**Course Objectives Related to MDiv\* Student Learning Outcomes**

Course: Hebrew 1  
 Professor: Miles Van Pelt  
 Campus: Jackson

| <b><u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u></b>   |   | <b><u>Rubric</u></b>  | <b><u>Mini-Justification</u></b>  |
|---|---|---|---|
| <p><i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i></p> <p><i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i></p> |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong</li> <li>• Moderate</li> <li>• Minimal</li> <li>• None</li> </ul> |   |
| <b>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</b>  | Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.  | Minimal   | Provides a foundation for biblical and theological studies.                                 |
| <b>Scripture</b>  | Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.) | Strong  | Learning Hebrew is a fundamental skill for understanding the original meaning of Scripture. |
| <b>Reformed Theology</b>  | Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.  | Minimal   | WCF 1.8   |
| <b>Sanctification</b>   | Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.  | Strong  | Studying Hebrew is a way to demonstrate love for God.                                       |
| <b>Worldview</b>  | Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. Includes ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.  | Moderate  | Allows to the better application of Scripture to life.                                      |
| <b>Winsomely Reformed</b>   | Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)   | None  |   |
| <b>Pastoral Ministry</b>  | Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both church and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians.  | Moderate  | Fundamental tool for the pastor/teacher to rightly interpret and apply Scripture            |