

ST. MARY'S ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE
Fall 2018

Monday and Thursday

Monday

Thursday

6:00 – 7:30 pm (class)

7-8 pm (online)

BS611 Introduction to Biblical Hebrew I

Fr. Paul Maillet

Course Description: Introduction to Biblical Hebrew begins with learning the Hebrew alphabet and vowel system. Next, the course focuses on reading from the Old Testament beginning with the most basic two-word phrases and building up very gradually to whole verses, and eventually (mostly in the second semester course) whole stories from Genesis and Exodus. As the course progresses more and more of the grammatical and syntactical elements of the language are presented. The emphasis of the course is on translating Biblical Hebrew into English.

Course Requirements:

- Learning the Hebrew alphabet and vowels: For the first few lessons the students will use a preliminary workbook to learn both passively and actively the Hebrew alphabet and vowel system. This will be followed by a quiz worth 5% of the grade.
- Reading (in English): Students should expect to read and fill-in 4-5 pages of the main text/workbook per lesson as assigned. This will not be graded, but is essential to understanding how to translate the sentences for Thursday. In addition, students will be graded on class participation based on the lesson in the workbook (5%).
- Memorization: Students will memorize new vocabulary assigned for each lesson. Use of flashcards for study is highly encouraged. Classes will begin with a quiz on the vocabulary. These quizzes together will constitute 35% of the final grade
- Online “discussion”: students will translate 10-15 Old Testament phrases/sentences assigned from the lesson. These phrases or sentences are based on the vocabulary and grammar of the given chapter. These will be worked through and discussed online. They will not be graded. Some of these phrases or sentences may be included in the mid term and final. In addition, students will be graded on participation (5%).
- Two tests, a midterm and a final, that will consist of translating Hebrew into English (25% each).

Required Texts:

1. Ruby Strauss with Ahuva Schuller and Lillian W. Adler, *The Hebrew Primer*, (New York: Behrman House, 1984) ISBN 0-87441-392-3
2. Bonnie Pedrotti, Victoria Hoffer and Rebecca Abts Wright, *Biblical Hebrew: Text and Workbook*, 2nd edition (New Haven: Yale University, 2005) ISBN: 978-0-300-09862-4
3. Victoria Hoffer, *Biblical Hebrew: Supplement for Enhanced Comprehension*, (New Haven: Yale University, 2005). ISBN: 978-0-300-09863-1