

**BIBLICAL HEBREW 2**  
North Park Theological Seminary  
Spring 2024, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1:15-2:30 pm CST  
Hybrid Format: On campus and live online  
3 Credit Hours

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:**

[J. Nathan Clayton, PhD](#), Assistant Professor of Old Testament

E-mail: [jnclayton@northpark.edu](mailto:jnclayton@northpark.edu) (best method of contact)

Office: Nyvall Hall 321; Office Phone: (773) 244-5236

Cell Phone: (847) 971-4544

- *Email & cell phone:* During the semester, please feel free to email, call, and/or text me M-F, during business hours (8am – 5 pm central time, please confirm your name & class if you text!). I usually respond to email and texts within 1-2 days, M-F.
- *Meeting with professor.* Students are welcome to schedule an appointment to meet in-person, or to speak by phone or Zoom at any point in the semester. This semester, Tuesday/Thursday mornings work especially well for appointments. If you are having any difficulties in the course, I encourage you to be in contact early on so we can problem solve together.

**ZOOM LINK:**

[For online students](#)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

BH 2 is a natural continuation of BH I, which you need to have successfully completed and if you have, congratulations! The main goals of BH 2 are:

- To finish working through the basic Hebrew grammar—which entails the study of the derived verbal stems in both strong and weak verbs (following the Pratico/Van Pelt outline).
- To spend time later in the semester in the Hebrew Bible: working through the book of Ruth.
- To move beyond the basic grammar by working in some more extended Hebrew texts and by reading works in textual criticism and basic OT exegesis.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

BH 2 represents the second semester of study in your Hebrew language and exegesis sequence. The main objectives of the course are:

- To continue developing your core intellectual abilities in Old Testament Hebrew: by taking up careful and serious study of the principal aspects of fundamental Biblical Hebrew grammar—its morphology, phonology, vocabulary, and syntax.
- To continue developing your abilities in critically interacting with, and evaluating, exegetical and theological studies rooted in Biblical Hebrew.
- To continue your growth in your ability to handle the biblical text of the Old Testament with clarity, conviction, and competence—towards the crucial tasks of teaching and preaching Holy Scripture in the church.
- To help you develop spiritually in your ability to study, hear, and meditate on the Old Testament—by bringing you closer to the original Hebrew text.

Learning Hebrew *well* is a great adventure, a worthy challenge, and a central pillar for your fundamental development as a teacher and preacher of Scripture. Be committed to regular, daily study throughout the semester and continue your lifelong journey in learning and using the language of the Old Testament—for the glory of God, for the enrichment of your walk with Him, and for the edification of His church!

## TEXTBOOKS:

*Required:*

New for BH 2:

**Brotzman**, Ellis, and Eric **Tully**. *Old Testament Textual Criticism: A Practical Introduction*. Second edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2016.

Elliger, K., and W. Rudolph, eds. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Fifth Edition. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1997. (= “**BHS**”, the scholarly, critical edition of the Hebrew Bible, large and small hardback, or small paperback versions available; the small paperback version is the cheapest)

**Vance**, Donald R. *A Hebrew Reader for Ruth*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2003.

**Wegner**, Paul D. *Using Old Testament Hebrew in Preaching: A Guide for Students and Pastors*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2009.

Carried over from BH 1:

Pratico, Gary D., and Miles V. Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew: Grammar*. Third edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2019.

Pratico, Gary D., and Miles V. Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew: Workbook*. Third edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2019.

*A short bibliography of some further helpful sources:*

Arnold, Bill T., and John H. Choi. *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Second Edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018.

Brown, Francis, S. R. Driver and Charles A. Briggs. *The Brown-Driver-Briggs-Gesenius Hebrew and English Lexicon*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1979. (Or other versions of “**BDB**”, a standard lexicon)

Futato, Mark D. *Basics of Hebrew Accents*. Zondervan Language Basics. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2020.

Gesenius, Wilhelm, Kautzsch, E. , and A. E. Cowley. *Gesenius’ Hebrew Grammar*. Mineola, NY: Dover, 2006. (Reprint of 1910 edition; this is “**GKC**,” a standard reference grammar)

Kelley, Page H., Mynatt, Daniel S., and Crawford, Timothy G. *The Masorah of Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia: Introduction and Annotated Glossary*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1998.

**Holladay**, W. L. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1988.

Long, Gary A. *Grammatical Concepts 101 for Biblical Hebrew*. Second Edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2013.

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

Murphy, Todd J. *Pocket Dictionary for the Study of Biblical Hebrew*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003.

Sàenz-Badillos, Angel. *A History of the Hebrew Language*. Translated by John Elwode. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993.

Scott, William R. *A Simplified Guide to BHS: Critical Apparatus, Masora, Accents, Unusual Letters & Other Markings*. N. Richland Hills, TX: Bibal, 1987.

Williams, Ronald J. *Williams’ Hebrew Syntax*. Third edition. Revised and expanded by John C. Beckman. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2007.

Gesenius, Wilhelm, Kautzsch, E., and A. E. Cowley. *Gesenius’ Hebrew Grammar*. Mineola, NY: Dover, 2006. (Reprint of 1910 edition; this is “**GKC**,” a standard reference grammar)

**CLASS ROUTINE:**

First half of the semester (finishing grammar: section 4, derived stems), each week:

- Two grammar chapters to read and study.
- Two sections of vocabulary to study from those two grammar chapters.
- Two workbook exercises to complete from the same two grammar chapters.
- Weekly quizzes (on Canvas)

Second half of the semester:

- Work through the book of Ruth: translation, parsing of verbs, analysis of text-critical notes (“TPN”)
- Read the textbooks: Vance, Brotzman & Tully, and Wegner

*Note on reading:*

- Typically, the reading benchmark for a 3-hour NPTS course is 1000 pages. Since this is a language course, with more intensive out-of-class work/preparation (workbook exercises, textual analysis work, quizzes, and exams), the reading requirement is about half of this benchmark. The above reading (section 4 of the grammar, Vance, Brotzman & Tully, and Wegner) amounts to about 530 pages.

**GRADING:**

Homework: Grammar workbook & Ruth work	20%
Reading	20%
Quizzes	20%
Midterm exam	20%
Final exam	20%

*NPTS Grading Scale:*

Note: C- or above is needed for a “Pass” in this class

A	95-100	C	80-83
A-	93-94	C-	78-79
B+	91-92	D+	76-77
B	88-90	D	72-75
B-	86-87	D-	70-71
C+	84-85	F	0-69

**COURSE ASSESSMENTS:**

1. Homework:
  - a. First half of the semester: students will complete the grammar workbook exercises for chapters 24-35 (derived stems).
  - b. Second half of the semester: students will work through the Hebrew text of the four chapters of the book of Ruth: translation, parsing of all verbs, and study of each text-critical note.
  - c. At the end of the semester, students will post a completed **Homework Log** on Canvas, at the Week 16 module. See Appendix 1 at the end of the syllabus for an example of this log.

2. Reading:
  - a. First half of the semester: BBH Grammar, chapters 24-35 (derived stems)
  - b. Second half of the semester: Vance, Brotzman & Tully, and Wegner textbooks
  - c. At the end of the semester, students will post a completed **Reading Log** on Canvas, at the Week 16 module. See Appendix 2 at the end of this syllabus for an example of this log.
  
3. Quizzes:
  - a. First half of the semester: students will take **6 weekly quizzes**, reviewing the grammar & vocabulary of BBH chapters 24-35 (derived stems).
  - b. During the first half of the semester, by Friday 8 am CST of a given week, a quiz will be posted on Canvas (covering the grammar & vocabulary from the 2 chapters covered the previous Tuesday and Thursday). The quiz should be printed, taken “by hand” without helps, scanned as a PDF, and then uploaded to Canvas, by the following Monday, midnight CST.
  
4. Midterm exam:
  - a. **A midterm exam** will be given, which will cover the grammar and vocabulary of BBH chapters 24-35 (derived stems).
  - b. The midterm exam will be posted on Canvas, on Friday 3/8, 8 am CST. The exam should be printed, taken “by hand” without helps, scanned as a PDF, and then uploaded to Canvas, by Monday 3/11 midnight CST.
  
5. Final exam:
  - a. **A final exam** will be given, covering sections of the Hebrew text of the book of Ruth.
  - b. The final exam will be posted on Canvas, on Monday 5/6, 8 am CST. The exam should be printed, taken “by hand” without helps, scanned as a PDF, and then uploaded to Canvas, by Monday 5/8 midnight CST.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE:**

Notes on schedule:

BBH 24	<i>Basics of Biblical Hebrew: Grammar</i> , chapter 24
BBHW 22	<i>Basics of Biblical Hebrew: Workbook</i> , exercise 25
G&V	Grammar & Vocabulary
TPN	Translation, Parsing, Text-Critical Notes
B&T	Brotzman & Tully, <i>Old Testament Textual Criticism</i>
Wegner	Wegner, <i>Using Old Testament Hebrew in Preaching</i>

### **Week 1:**

*Note:* on the first day of class, students will receive a chart limiting what is required for each workbook exercise (that is, not everything in each workbook exercise will always be required for the purposes of the homework log)

Tuesday 1/16

Read BBH 24 Niphal Strong  
Complete BBHW 23

Thursday 1/18

Read BBH 25 Niphal Weak  
Complete BBHW 24

Friday 1/19:

**Quiz 1** on chs. 24 & 25 G&V Niphal

Posted at 8 am CST on Canvas. Due uploaded to Canvas by Monday 1/22 midnight CST

**Week of 1/22-26:** No class during *ECC Midwinter Conference*

**Week 2:**

Tuesday 1/30

Read BBH 26 Piel Strong

Complete BBHW 25a & 25b

Thursday 2/1

Read BBH 27 Piel Weak

Complete BBHW 26

Friday 2/2

**Quiz 2** on chs. 26 & 27 G&V Piel

Posted at 8 am CST on Canvas. Due uploaded to Canvas by Monday 2/5 midnight CST

**Week 3:**

Tuesday 2/6

Read BBH 28 Pual Strong

Complete BBHW 27a & 27b

Thursday 2/8

Read BBH 29 Pual Weak

Complete BBHW 28

Friday 2/9

**Quiz 3** on chs. 28 & 29 G&V Pual

Posted at 8 am CST on Canvas. Due uploaded to Canvas by Monday 2/12 midnight CST

**Week 4:**

Tuesday 2/13

Read BBH 30 Hiphil Strong

Complete BBHW 29a & 29b

Thursday 2/15

Read BBH 31 Hiphil Weak

Complete BBHW 30

Friday 2/16

**Quiz 4** on chs. 30 & 31 G&V Hiphil

Posted at 8 am CST on Canvas. Due uploaded to Canvas by Monday 2/19 midnight CST

**Week 5:**

Tuesday 2/20

Read BBH 32 Hophal Strong

Complete BBHW 31

Thursday 2/22

Read BBH 33 Hophal Weak; Complete BBHW 32

Friday 2/23

**Quiz 5** on chs. 32 & 33 G&V Hophal

Posted at 8 am CST on Canvas. Due uploaded to Canvas by Monday 2/26 midnight CST

**Week 6:**

Tuesday 2/27

Read BBH 34 Hithpael Strong

Complete BBHW 33

Thursday 2/29

Read BBH 35 Hithpael Weak

Complete BBHW 34 & 35

Friday 3/1

**Quiz 6** on chs. 34 & 35 G&V Hithpael

Posted at 8 am CST on Canvas. Due uploaded to Canvas by Monday 3/4 midnight CST

**Week 7:**

Tuesday 3/5

Read BBH 36 Introduction to *BHS*

Read B&T pp. 1-35

Thursday 3/7

Midterm Exam Review Session

Read B&T pp. 36-64

Friday 3/8

**Midterm Exam:** review G&V of chs. 24-35 Derived Stems

Posted at 8 am CST on Canvas. Due uploaded to Canvas by Monday 3/11 midnight CST

**Week 8:** No class on 3/12 & 3/14, *Reading Week*

**Week 9:**

*Note:* for weeks 9-15, when a specific section of Ruth is due (TPN), read (besides the readings in B&T and Wegner listed below): (1) the related section in the **Vance** reader and (2) the related section in **chapter 8** of B&T, which analyzes each text-critical note in the *BHS* text of Ruth

Tuesday 3/19

Ruth 1:1-12 TPN

Read B&T pp. 65-96

Thursday 3/21

Ruth 1:13-22 TPN

Read B&T pp. 97-129

**Week 10:**

Tuesday 3/26

Ruth Chapter 1: Overview

Read B&T pp. 130-141, 189-191, 219-226

Thursday 3/28  
Ruth 2:1-10 TPN

**Week 11:**

Tuesday 4/2  
Ruth 2:11-16 TPN  
Read Wegner, ch. 1

Thursday 4/4  
Ruth 2:17-23 TPN

**Week 12:**

Tuesday 4/9  
Ruth Chapter 2: Overview  
Read Wegner, ch. 2

Thursday 4/11  
Ruth 3:1-11 TPN

**Week 13:**

Tuesday 4/16  
Ruth 3:12-18 TPN  
Read Wegner, ch. 3

Thursday 4/18  
Ruth Chapter 3: Overview

**Week 14:**

Tuesday 4/23  
Ruth 4:1-6 TPN  
Read Wegner, ch. 4

Thursday 4/25  
Ruth 4:7-12 TPN

**Week 15:**

Tuesday 4/30  
Ruth 4:13-22 TPN  
Ruth Chapter 4: Overview  
Read Wegner, ch. 5, appendices C & D; skim appendices A, B, & E

Thursday 5/2  
Ruth Chapter 4: Overview  
**Due: Homework & Reading Logs** (uploaded to Canvas by Thursday 5/2, midnight CST)

**Week 16:**

**Final Exam** on Ruth.  
Posted on Canvas at 8:00 am CST on Monday 5/6. Completed final exam due uploaded on Canvas by Wednesday 5/8, midnight CST.

**APPENDIX 1: Biblical Hebrew 2 Homework Log**

**Student Name:**

**Raw Score:** / 88 pts.

For each day that reading is due from the grammar, report a number between 0-4 (following the scale below) in the "Completion Number" column, based on your honest estimate of the amount of the required you completed.

**4** = 100% completed; **3** = 75-99% completed; **2** = 50-74 % completed; **1** = less than 50% completed  
**0** = none of the readings completed

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Workbook Chapters: Exercises Due</b>	<b>Completion Number:</b>
Th 1/16	Niphal Strong	24	
Th 1/18	Niphal Weak	25a & 25b	
T 1/30	Piel Strong	26	
Th 2/1	Piel Weak	27a & 27b	
T 2/6	Pual Strong	28	
Th 2/8	Pual Weak	29a & 29b	
T 2/13	Hiphil Strong	30	
Th 2/15	Hiphil Weak	31	
T 2/20	Hophal Strong	32	
Th 2/22	Hophal Weak	33	
T 2/27	Hithpael Strong	34	
Th 2/29	Hithpael Weak	35	
T 3/5	--	--	--
Th 3/7	--	--	--
<i>Reading Week</i>			
T 3/19	Ruth 1:1-12	TPN	
Th 3/21	Ruth 1:13-22	TPN	
T 3/26	--	--	--
Th 3/28	Ruth 2:1-10	TPN	
T 4/2	Ruth 2:11-16	TPN	
Th 4/4	Ruth 2:17-23	TPN	
T 4/9	--	--	--
Th 4/11	Ruth 3:1-11	TPN	
T 4/16	Ruth 3:12-18	TPN	
Th 4/18	--	--	--
T 4/23	Ruth 4:1-6	TPN	
Th 4/25	Ruth 4:7-12	TPN	
T 4/30	Ruth 4:13-22	TPN	
Th 5/2	--	--	--



**APPENDIX 2: Biblical Hebrew 2 Reading Log**

**Student Name:**

**Raw Score:** / 104 pts.

For each day that reading is due from the grammar, report a number between 0-4 (following the scale below) in the "Completion Number" column, based on your honest estimate of the amount of the required you completed.

**4** = 100% completed; **3** = 75-99% completed; **2** = 50-74 % completed; **1** = less than 50% completed

**0** = none of the readings completed

<b>Date</b>	<b>Book</b>	<b>Chapter/Section Due</b>	<b>Completion Number:</b>
Th 1/16	BBH	24	
Th 1/18	BBH	25	
T 1/30	BBH	26	
Th 2/1	BBH	27	
T 2/6	BBH	28	
Th 2/8	BBH	29	
T 2/13	BBH	30	
Th 2/15	BBH	31	
T 2/20	BBH	32	
Th 2/22	BBH	33	
T 2/27	BBH	34	
Th 2/29	BBH	35	
T 3/5	BBH B&T	36 pp. 1-35	
Th 3/7	B&T	pp. 36-64	
<i>Reading Week</i>			
T 3/19	Vance B&T	Ruth 1:1-12 pp. 65-96	
Th 3/21	Vance B&T	Ruth 1:13-22 pp. 97-129	
T 3/26	B&T	pp. 130-141 189-191, 219-226	
Th 3/28	Vance	Ruth 2:1-10	
T 4/2	Vance Wegner	Ruth 2:11-16 ch. 1	
Th 4/4	Vance	Ruth 2:17-23	
T 4/9	Wegner	ch. 2	
Th 4/11	Vance	Ruth 3:1-11	
T 4/16	Vance Wegner	Ruth 3:12-18 ch. 3	
Th 4/18	--	--	--
T 4/23	Vance Wegner	Ruth 4:1-6 ch. 4	
Th 4/25	Vance	Ruth 4:7-12	
T 4/30	Vance Wegner (B&T)	Ruth 4:13-22 ch. 5, app. C & D (all of ch. 8 read)	
Th 5/2	--	--	--

## COMPUTER AND TECHNICAL SKILLS REQUIREMENTS

To effectively participate in and successfully complete this course, each participant will need to have access to a computer and a high-speed internet connection. The online Canvas Orientation Course should teach you the skills that you need to successfully complete this course.

## PARTICIPANT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Active/engaged attendance & presence are required for this class, for both online and on campus students. *You cannot successfully complete this course without completing the readings and assignments.*
2. Although I suggest that all issues, questions, and problems be dealt with online first through Canvas, you can feel free to call or e-mail me regarding these issues at any time.
3. Online students, use proper “netiquette”: keep your video camera on, stay engaged in the discussion, etc.

## COURSE FACILITATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The course is designed so students can achieve the learning objectives.
2. The course facilitator will respond to all questions to clarify important ideas and concepts.
3. The course facilitator will provide updated information on relevant resources for the various topics of interest.
4. The course facilitator will read and critically assess students’ assignments and provide feedback weekly throughout the course.
5. The course facilitator will respond to all student e-mails within 1-2 days of receipt (M-F)

## ACADEMIC HONESTY

In keeping with our Christian heritage and commitment, North Park University is committed to the highest possible ethical and moral standards. Just as we will constantly strive to live up to these high standards, we expect our students to do the same. To that end, cheating of any sort will not be tolerated. Students who are discovered cheating will receive a failing grade on the assignment and are subject to discipline up to and including failure of a course and expulsion. Our definition of cheating includes but is not limited to:

1. Plagiarism – the use of another’s work as one’s own without giving credit to the individual. This includes using materials from the internet.
2. Copying another’s answers on an examination.
3. Deliberately allowing another to copy one’s answers or work.
4. Signing an attendance roster for another who is not present.
5. Not accurately reporting the amount of reading completed.
6. *Use of ChatGPT or other AI composition software to impersonate individual assignments.*

For additional information, see the [Seminary Academic Catalog](#), pp. 25–27.

## INCOMPLETE POLICY

If, due to extenuating circumstances (specifically: pregnancy, illness, personal and family issues, or military assignment), a student anticipates she will be unable to complete course work within the allotted time, that student must submit the request form for a grade of incomplete to the course instructor before the last week of class clearly stating the reason(s) for this request. *Overscheduling and/or lack of self-discipline are not considered extenuating circumstances.* If the request is timely and meets the criteria, the grade for that class will be listed as “I” until the last day of the following semester. If coursework is not submitted by the last day of the following semester the listing of “I” will automatically be changed to “F.”

## ACCOMODATIONS

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact their program's office (773-244-5619) as soon as possible to ensure accommodations are implemented in a timely manner. For further information, see [Seminary Catalog](#), p. 17 and “[Disability Resources](#)” provided through North Park’s Office of Student Enrichment Services and Support.

## TITLE IX

Students who believe they have been harassed, discriminated against, or involved in sexual violence should contact the Dean of Students (773-244-5565) or Director of Human Resources (773-244-5599) for information about campus resources and support services, including confidential counseling services. As a member of the North Park faculty, we are concerned about the well-being and development of our students, and are available to discuss any concerns.

Faculty are legally obligated to share information with the University’s Title IX coordinator in certain situations to help ensure that the student’s safety and welfare is being addressed, consistent with the requirements of the law. These disclosures include but are not limited to reports of sexual assault, relational/domestic violence, and stalking.

Please refer to North Park’s [Safe Community site](#) for contact information and further details.