

Studying the Biblical Languages at MTSO

To: All Incoming Students
From: MTSO Biblical Faculty

Welcome to MTSO. You will have many significant learning experiences while here, and though biblical languages are not required, we want to strongly encourage you to take one or both of the languages as a way to enhance your understanding of the texts, to prepare you for further study should you choose that, and to prepare you for a deep level of engagement with the sacred texts.

Scheduling biblical languages

Each Spring Semester, MTSO offers Introduction to Hebrew or Introduction to Greek. This arrangement allows you to have taken the Introduction to HB/OT course and have a sense of how you will approach the language. It is essential that you begin studying the biblical languages in the Spring Semester of your first year if you plan to study one or both of them while you are enrolled at MTSO. Early enrollment in biblical language courses permits you to use them when you come to your senior classes in Bible thereby gaining some fluency and facility with the language before you graduate. If you only study them for one year and don't use them again while you are enrolled here, it will be very difficult for you to continue to use them after you graduate.

Biblical languages for further study

We cannot stress enough that if you plan further graduate study in bible after you complete for master's degree, you need the biblical languages, especially in the area of your study, but often in both testaments. Graduate schools typically require at least two years in each of the biblical languages for you to prepare a credible graduate application. This really means that you have to begin at least one of them the first spring semester of your program of study. If you even wonder or have an inkling as to whether you might want further study, we strongly encourage you to take the languages.

Biblical languages for ministry

Learning biblical languages is equally important for pastors who want to include serious Bible study in their ministries. You will want to get on board with the use of the language while you are in seminary, so that you have some experience with the texts in the original languages before you enter into your full-time pastorate. The same could be said for persons going into teaching ministries with the same objective.

Biblical language study can be fun. Most of you will have some experience in learning a second language before you enroll. You know that it is demanding. However, the rewards offered in the study of texts are great. You don't have to rely on translators to guess at the word usage of a text. We anticipate many of you will want to give this a try. We look forward to seeing you in the spring.

Semester / Year	Biblical Hebrew	Biblical Greek
Spring 2018	HB720 Exegesis of the Hebrew Bible	NT520 Elementary Biblical Greek I
Fall 2018		NT620 Elementary Biblical Greek II
Spring 2019	HB520 Elementary Biblical Hebrew	NT720 Exegesis of Greek New Testament
Fall 2019	HB620 Intermediate Biblical Hebrew	
Spring 2020	HB720 Exegesis of the Hebrew Bible	NT520 Elementary Biblical Greek I
Fall 2020		NT620 Elementary Biblical Greek II
Spring 2021	HB520 Elementary Biblical Hebrew	NT720 Exegesis of Greek New Testament