

4OT506: Hebrew Exegesis
Course Syllabus

Reformed Theological Seminary, Atlanta
 Summer 2008
 Thursdays, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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RTS Catalog Description (2 unit course):

This course introduces basic tools for interpreting the Old Testament. Attention is given to a working knowledge of biblical Hebrew vocabulary, grammar, syntax, and to principles of interpretation.

I. PURPOSE OF THE COURSE

- The purpose of this third and final Hebrew module is to adequately equip the student to translate and interpret the Old Testament from the Hebrew Bible (*MT*). This will give the student an awareness of the grammatical and syntactical nuances present in the Hebrew text that might, otherwise, go unnoticed merely relying on English translations.
- A review of the basic vocabulary, verbal patterns and paradigms, as well as, an introduction to the syntax of the noun and volitives will also be included.

OBJECTIVES:

The successful student will:

- 1) Know the Hebrew vocabulary and verbal forms covered in Hebrew I and II better.
- 2) Be familiar with a basic Hebrew reference grammar by having studied sections in Robert B. Chisholm, Jr.'s, *From Exegesis to Exposition: A Practical Guide to Using Biblical Hebrew* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1999).
- 3) Know how to apply the basic meanings of the verbal patterns.
- 4) Know how to apply the basic uses of nouns and verbs.
- 5) Be able to translate and interpret the Book of Ruth with the aid of Chisholm's *A Workbook for Intermediate Hebrew* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2006).

II. COURSE SCHEDULE

- June 5-** Hebrew: Ruth 1:1-6 (*Chisholm/Workbook*: pp. 103-110)
Quiz #1
 Vocabulary: *Futato*, Lessons 2-5
 Verbs: *Futato*, Qal Regular (i.e., Strong): Perfect (p. 31), Imperfect (p. 63)
Chisholm: Nouns, pp. 58-66; Qal, p.79
Brotzman, pp. 97-135
- June 12-** Hebrew: Ruth 1:7-14 (*Chisholm/Workbook*: pp. 111-122)
Quiz #2
Alter, pp. 88-113
Chisholm: “How Words Work and Play,” pp. 31-56
Brotzman, pp. 135-138
- June 19-** Hebrew: Ruth 1:15-22 (*Chisholm/Workbook*: pp. 123-136)
Quiz #3
 Vocabulary: *Futato*, Lessons 6-9
 Verbs: *Futato*, Niphal Regular- Perfect and Imperfect (p. 226)
Chisholm: Niphal, p. 79; Perfect, pp.86-89
Alter: pp. 114-130
Brotzman, pp. 138-142
- June 26-** Hebrew: Ruth 2:1-7 (*Chisholm/Workbook*: pp. 137-147)
Quiz #4
 Vocabulary: *Futato*, Lessons 10-13
 Verbs: *Futato*, Piel Regular- Perfect and Imperfect (p. 175)
Chisholm: Piel, pp. 80-81; Imperfect (Objective [Indicative]), pp. 89-92
Chisholm: Old Testament Narrative, pp. 149-159
Brotzman, pp. 142-5
- July 3-** Hebrew: Ruth 2:8-13 (*Chisholm/Workbook*: pp. 148-157)
Quiz #5
 Vocabulary: *Futato*, Lessons 14-17
 Verbs: *Futato*, Hithpael Regular- Perfect and Imperfect (p. 244)
Chisholm: Hithpael, p.82; Imperfect (Subjective [Subjunctive]), pp. 92-94
Chisholm: Literary Features of Hebrew Narrative, pp.159-169
- July 10-** **Mid-term Examination (2 hours)**

- July 17-** Hebrew: Ruth 2:14-23 (*Chisholm/Workbook*: pp. 158-172)
Quiz #5
 Vocabulary: *Futato*, Lessons 18-21
 Verbs: *Futato*, Hiphil Regular- Perfect and Imperfect (p. 195)
Chisholm: Hiphil, pp. 82-83; Waw-relative Imperfect, pp. 94-99
Chisholm: An Exegetical Method, pp. 187-200
Brotzman, pp. 145-9
- July 24-** Hebrew: Ruth 3:1-7 (*Chisholm/Workbook*: pp. 173-183)
Quiz #6
 Vocabulary: *Futato*, Lessons 22-25
 Verbs: *Futato*, Jussives- All Patterns (cf. “Lesson 24: The Verb: Qal Volitives” then look up the Jussive forms for the Qal, Niphal, Piel, Hithpael, and Hiphil)
Chisholm: Waw-relative Perfect, pp. 99-103
Chisholm: Exegesis of Isaiah 1:2-20, pp. 200-213
Brotzman, pp. 149-152
- July 31-** Hebrew: Ruth 3:8-18 (*Chisholm/Workbook*: pp. 183-199)
Quiz #7
 Vocabulary: *Futato*, Lessons 26-29
 Verbs: *Futato*, Imperatives- All Patterns (Look up all Imperative forms for the Qal, Niphal, Piel, Hithpael, and Hiphil)
Chisholm: Volitives, pp. 103-107
Brotzman, pp. 152-7
- August 7-** Hebrew: Ruth 4:1-12 (*Chisholm/Workbook*: pp. 201-215)
Quiz #8
 Vocabulary: *Futato*, Lesson 30-33
 Verbs: *Futato*, Cohortatives- All Patterns (Look up all Cohortative forms for the Qal, Niphal, Piel, Hithpael, and Hiphil)
Chisholm: Volitives in sequence, pp. 108-112
Brotzman, pp. 157-162
- August 14-** Hebrew: Ruth 4:13-22 (*Chisholm/Workbook*: pp. 215-223)
Quiz #9
 Vocabulary: *Futato*, Lessons 34-37
 Verbs: *Futato*, Perfect: Qal, Niphal, Piel, Hiphil
Chisholm: Narrative Frame, pp. 119-123
Brotzman, pp. 163-6
- August 21-** Hebrew: Psalm 1
Quiz #10
 Vocabulary: *Futato*, Lessons 38-40
 Verb: *Futato*, Imperfect: Qal, Niphal, Piel, Hiphil

Chisholm: Nonstandard Constructions, pp. 123-128
Chisholm: Poetic Literature, pp. 142-7; pp. 169-186; sample
 exegesis of Psalm 23, pp. 213-220 (not required reading)

August 28- Final Examination (2 hours)

III. ASSIGNMENTS

A. Exegesis of the Book of Ruth

- a. Answer the preparatory questions (to be given the week before each assigned passage).
- b. Read any commentary of your choice on the assigned text in Ruth.
- c. Study and memorize the assigned vocabulary and verbal paradigms.
- d. Complete the assigned reading in Chisholm, Alter, or Brotzman.

B. Quizzes

- a. There will be ten quizzes.
- b. They will be based on the following: 1) vocabulary, 2) verbal forms, 3) the assigned reading sections, and 4) class preparation.
- c. Each quiz is worth 10 points and is equivalent to 50% of the course grade.

C. Mid-term and Final Examinations

- a. There will be mid-term and final exams based on the readings and syntax of Ruth.
- b. Each exam is worth 100 points and is equivalent to 25% of the course grade (or 50% total).

D. Attendance

- a. Although attendance will not be figured into the final course grade, your participation will be required in order to take the weekly quizzes as well as the exams.
- b. Please notify the instructor prior to the scheduled class session if you will not be present.

IV. GRADING

A. Scale. The standard RTS grading scale will be used.

- A (97-100)
- A- (94-96)
- B+ (91-93)
- B (88-90)
- B- (86-87)
- C+ (83-85)
- C (80-82)
- C- (78-79)
- D+ (75-77)
- D (72-74)
- D- (70-71)
- F (below 70)

B. Basis for computation

Midterm Examination	25%
Final Examination	25%
+ Quizzes	50%
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Total	100%

V. BOOK LIST

Required (N.B.: each student will need to borrow or purchase a commentary on the Book of Ruth [see below*]):

Alter, Robert. *The Art of Biblical Narrative*. New York: Basic Books, 1981.

Brotzman, Ellis R. *Old Testament Textual Criticism: A Practical Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994.

Chisholm, Robert B. *From Exegesis to Exposition: A Practical Guide to Using Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.

Elliger K. & W. Rudolph. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* (BHS). Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1980.

Futato, Mark D. *Beginning Biblical Hebrew*. Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbrauns, 2003.

Holladay, W. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.

*Choose one of the commentaries below:

Block, Daniel I. *Judges, Ruth: The New American Commentary 6*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2002. (Evangelical)

Campbell, Edward F., Jr. *Ruth: The Anchor Bible Commentary 7*. New York: Doubleday, 1975.

Cundall, Arthur E. & Leon Morris. *Judges & Ruth: Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries*. Downers Grove, Illinois: IVP, 1968. (Evangelical)

Hubbard, Robert L., Jr. *The Book of Ruth: The New International Commentary on the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998. (Evangelical)

Younger, K. Lawson, Jr. *Judges/Ruth: The NIV Application Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002. (Evangelical)

Highly Recommended-

Brown Francis, S.R. Driver, & C.H. Briggs. *The New Hebrew and English Lexicon*. Reprinted. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1979. (BDB)

- Clines, David J.A., ed. *The Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*. 8 vols. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1993-. (*DCH*)
- Kelly, Page H., D.S. Mynatt, & T.G. Crawford. *The Masorah of Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.
- Koehler L. & W.Baumgartner. *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament: Volumes 1 & 2*. Leiden: Brill, 2001. (*HALOT*)
- Mathewson, Steven D. *The Art of Preaching Old Testament Narrative*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2002.
- Scott, William R. *A Simplified Guide to BHS*. Berkeley: Bibal Press, 1987.
- Van der Merwe, H.J. Chrido, et al. *A Biblical Hebrew Reference Grammar*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1999.
- Van Gemeren, Willem A., ed. *New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis*. 5 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997. (*NIDOTTE*)
- Waltke, Bruce K. & M. O'Connor. *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbrauns, 1990. (*IBHS*)