

4OT506: Hebrew Exegesis
Course Syllabus

Reformed Theological Seminary, Atlanta
 Fall 2009

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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

- August 27-** *Syllabus Review*
Prolegomena: An Introduction to the Hebrew Bible
- September 03-** Hebrew: Ruth 1:1-6 (*Chisholm/Workbook*: pp. 103-110)
 Vocabulary Review: *Pratico/Van Pelt*: pp. 25 and 36
 Verbs: Qal Regular (i.e., Strong): Perfect (Chapter 13), Imperfect (Chapter 15)
Chisholm: Nouns, pp. 58-66; Qal, p.79
Brotzman, pp. 97-135
- September 03-** Hebrew: Ruth 1:7-14 (*Chisholm/Workbook*: pp. 111-122)
Quiz #1
 Vocabulary Review: *Pratico/Van Pelt*: pp. 46-47 and 57
Chisholm: “How Words Work and Play,” pp. 31-56
Brotzman, pp. 135-138
- September 10-** Hebrew: Ruth 1:15-19a (*Chisholm/Workbook*: pp. 123-129)
Quiz #2
 Vocabulary Review: *Pratico/Van Pelt*: pp. 65 and 77-78
 Verbs: Niphal Regular- Perfect and Imperfect
Chisholm: Niphal, p. 79; Perfect, pp.86-89
Brotzman, pp. 138-142
- September 17-** Hebrew: Ruth 1:19b-22 (*Chisholm/Workbook*: pp. 129-136)
Quiz #3
 Vocabulary Review: *Pratico/Van Pelt*: pp. 91 and 105
 Verbs: Piel Regular- Perfect and Imperfect
Chisholm: Piel, pp. 80-81; Imperfect (Objective [Indicative]), pp. 89-92
Chisholm: Old Testament Narrative, pp. 149-159
- September 24-** Hebrew: Ruth 2:1-7 (*Chisholm/Workbook*: pp. 137-147)
Quiz #4
 Vocabulary Review: *Pratico/Van Pelt*: pp. 119 and 135
 Verbs: Hithpael Regular- Perfect and Imperfect
Chisholm: Hithpael, p.82; Imperfect (Subjective [Subjunctive]), pp. 92-94
Chisholm: Literary Features of Hebrew Narrative, pp.159-169
Brotzman, pp. 142-145
Exegetical Paper Topic Due
- October 01-** Hebrew: Ruth 2:8-13 (*Chisholm/Workbook*: pp. 147-157)
Quiz #5
 Vocabulary Review: *Pratico/Van Pelt*: pp. 148-149 and 161-162

Verbs: Hiphil Regular- Perfect and Imperfect
Chisholm: Hiphil, pp. 82-83; Waw-relative Imperfect,
 pp. 94-99
Chisholm: An Exegetical Method, pp. 187-200
Midterm Examination Review

October 08-

Midterm Examination

Vocabulary: *Pratico/Van Pelt*: pp. 172 and 191
 (Words for Quiz #6)

October 15-

Hebrew: Ruth 2:14-23 (*Chisholm/Workbook*: pp. 158-172)

Quiz #6

Vocabulary Review: *Pratico/Van Pelt*: pp. 172 and 191
 Verbs: Jussives- All Patterns (Jussive forms for the Qal, Niphal,
 Piel, Hiphil, and Hithpael [Will be discussed in class])
Chisholm: Waw-relative Perfect, pp. 99-103
Chisholm: Exegesis of Isaiah 1:2-20, pp. 200-213
Brotzman, pp. 145-149

October 22-

Hebrew: Ruth 3:1-7 (*Chisholm/Workbook*: pp. 173-183)

Quiz #7

Vocabulary Review: *Pratico/Van Pelt*: pp. 205-206 and 222
 Verbs: Imperatives- All Patterns (Look up all Imperative forms
 for the Qal, Niphal, Piel, Hiphil, and Hithpael)
Chisholm: Volitives, pp. 103-107
Brotzman, pp. 149-152

October 29-

Hebrew: Ruth 3:8-18 (*Chisholm/Workbook*: pp. 183-199)

Quiz #8

Vocabulary Review: *Pratico/Van Pelt*: pp. 269-270; 285; and 296
 Verbs: Cohortatives- All Patterns (Look up all Cohortative forms
 for the Qal, Niphal, Piel, Hiphil, and Hithpael)
Chisholm: Volitives in sequence, pp. 108-112
Brotzman, pp. 152-157

November 05-

Hebrew: Ruth 4:1-12 (*Chisholm/Workbook*: pp. 201-215)

Quiz #9

Vocabulary Review: *Pratico/Van Pelt*: pp. 306-307; 315-316; 325-
 326
 Verbs: Perfect and Imperfect: Qal, Niphal, Piel, Hiphil
Chisholm: Narrative Frame, pp. 119-123
Brotzman, pp. 157-162

November 12-

Hebrew: Ruth 4:13-22 (*Chisholm/Workbook*: pp. 215-223)

Quiz #10

Vocabulary Review: 333-334; 341; 352-353; 364; 372; 383; 392;
398 (**Words for Final Exam only)

Chisholm: Nonstandard Constructions, pp. 123-128

Brotzman, pp. 163-166

November 19- No Class

November 26- Happy Thanksgiving, No Class

December 03- Hebrew: Psalm 1
Chisholm: Poetic Literature, pp. 142-7; pp. 169-186; sample
exegetical of Psalm 23, pp. 213-220
Final Examination Review

December 10- Final Examination

Exegetical Paper Due: December 9, 2009

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 25% of the course grade.

C. Examinations

- a. There will be two examinations: one midterm and one final.
- b. Each of the exams will contain: 1) vocabulary, 2) Hebrew to English translations, 3) parsing, and 4) syntax questions.
- c. Each exam is worth 100 points and will together be worth 50% of the course grade.

D. Exegetical Paper

- a. Write a 10-15 page exegetical paper on an approved narrative passage from the Hebrew Old Testament. More specifics will be provided on a separate handout.
- b. It is worth 100 points and will be 25% of the course grade.

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

B. Basis for computation

Midterm Examination	25%
Final Examination	25%
Exegetical Paper	25%
+ Quizzes	25%
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Total	100%

V. BOOK LIST

Required (N.B.: * denotes that each student will need to borrow or purchase a commentary on the Book of Ruth; ** denotes that Pratico and Van Pelt's grammar is not on the list of course books because it is assumed that you already own it.)

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.

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

**Pratico, Gary & Miles V. Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew: Grammar*. Second Edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007.

**Choose one of the commentaries below:*

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

Bush, Frederick. *Ruth-Esther: Word Biblical Commentary*, v. 9. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1996. (Moderately 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)

Duguid, Iain M. *Esther & Ruth*. Reformed Expository Commentary. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2005. (Evangelical, Reformed)

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 (**denotes that these items are considered helpful for the course)-

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

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)

**Fields, Lee M. *Hebrew for the Rest of Us: Using Hebrew Tools without Mastering Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008.

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

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)

Van Pelt, Miles V. & G.D. Pratico. *Graded Reader of Biblical Hebrew: A Guide
to Reading the Hebrew Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.

Waltke, Bruce K. & M. O'Connor. *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*.
Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbrauns, 1990. (IBHS)