

4OT506: HEBREW EXEGESIS

Course Syllabus

Reformed Theological Seminary, Atlanta
Fall 2010
Wednesdays, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Instructor: John J. Yeo, Ph.D.
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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 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/stems.
- 4) Know how to apply the basic syntactical 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 25-** *Syllabus Review*
Prolegomena: An Introduction to the Hebrew Bible
READ Brotzman, pp. 97-132 BEFORE class on 8/25/10
- September 01-** 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 08-** Hebrew: Ruth 1:7-14 (*Chisholm/Workbook*: pp. 111-122)
Quiz #1
Vocabulary Review: *Pratico/Van Pelt*: pp. 46-47 and 57
Verbs: Qal Regular, Perfect and Imperfect
Chisholm: “How Words Work and Play,” pp. 31-56
Brotzman, pp. 135-138
- September 15-** 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 22-** 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 29-** 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 06-** 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 13- **Fall Break, No Class**

October 20- **Midterm Examination**

October 27- 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

November 03- 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

November 10- 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 17- 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 24- **Happy Thanksgiving, No Class**

December 01- 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
Final Examination Review

December 14* - (Tuesday) Final Examination

Exegetical Paper Due*: Thursday, December 9, 2010

*The due dates for the final exam and the exegetical papers are not on Wednesday due to the academic calendar. The final exam is on Tuesday because Wednesday, Dec. 15 is officially the first day of Christmas break.

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 10-12 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 is not on the course books list 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., Jr. *A Workbook for Intermediate Hebrew*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2006.

Chisholm, Robert B., Jr. *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)

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*)