4OT506: HEBREW EXEGESIS
Course Syllabus

Reformed Theological Seminary, Atlanta  Instructor: John J. Yeo, Ph.D.
Fall 2010  E-mail: jyeo@rts.edu
Wednesdays, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

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
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

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

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
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-  
**Quiz #7**  
Verbs: Imperatives- All Patterns (Look up all Imperatival 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-  
**Quiz #9**  
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-  
**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>(97-100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>(94-96)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>(91-93)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>(88-90)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>(86-87)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>(83-85)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>(80-82)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>(78-79)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>(75-77)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>(72-74)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>(70-71)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>(below 70)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Basis for computation

- Midterm Examination: 25%
- Final Examination: 25%
- Exegetical Paper: 25%
- Quizzes: 25%

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.)


*Choose one of the commentaries below:


**Highly Recommended** (**denotes that these items are considered helpful for the course)**—


