

COURSE SYLLABUS

Hebrew Exegesis 6OT503

Spring Session, 2008

Monday and Thursday Evenings, 5:30pm to 7:00pm, April 28 – June 5
McLean Presbyterian Church

הַלְלוּ יְהוָה הַלְלוּ-אֱלֹהֵי בְּקִדְשׁוֹ הַלְלוּהוּ בְּרִקְיעַ עֲזָו:

PSALM 150:1

- **PURPOSE:**
 - To glorify God and enjoy Him! (1 CORINTHIANS 10:31)

- **GOALS:**
 1. To enhance your personal devotions in the Holy Scriptures from their original languages
 2. To apply the principles of Biblical Hebrew as learned in previous courses
 3. To read as much Hebrew as possible!
 4. To introduce students to the critical edition of the Hebrew Scriptures
 5. To aid in your preparations of the teaching ministry of the Holy Scriptures

- **REQUIRED TEXT:**
 - HEBREW BIBLE:
 - *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* (BHS). K. Elliger and W. Rudolph. Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft: Stuttgart. 1980.
This is the fourth edition of the Biblia Hebraica series. The work of the fifth edition (*Biblia Hebraica Quinta*) continues at a slow rate. This edition is standard use in all academic settings in the study of Biblical Hebrew and Old Testament.

 - HEBREW DICTIONARIES:
 - *Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*. Hendrickson Publishers: Boston. 1906.
This lexicon remains the standard use for studies in Biblical Hebrew. Although it is generally agreed that BDB is sadly out of date, there remains no single lexicon that has risen as its replacement. Thus, it remains to be cited and used by scholars and students in Biblical Hebrew.

 - *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament: Volumes 1 & 2*. Ludwig Koehler and Walter Baumgartner. Leiden: Brill. 2001.
The recent edition of this lexicon (HALOT) has offered up to date information on comparative semitic evidence with Hebrew. The Aramaic portion of the Biblical text is by far superior to that found in BDB. Although costly, students have generally appreciated the lexical insights found in it as well as its user-friendly organization.

➤ OTHER READINGS:

- *A Simplified Guide to BHS. Fourth Edition.* William R. Scott. BIBAL Press: Berkeley, CA. 1987.
This is the most useful guide that shows students how to navigate through BHS and to understand the complex system of siglas found within it.
- *Old Testament Textual Criticism.* Ellis R. Brotzman. Baker Books: Grand Rapids. 1994.
Many books are written on the subject of textual criticism, but this remains one of the simplest yet accurate descriptions on the writing system, process of transmission, and introduction to BHS. This does not replace the monumental work of Emanuel Tov on text criticism, but it offers an easier version of the factors involved in lower text critical work.

● REQUIREMENTS:

- Attendance:
 - ✓ You are required to attend each class.
 - ✓ If you know you cannot make it to a class session, notify me in advance.
 - Homework: Students will be required to prepare passages from the Hebrew Bible for class discussions, which will be turned in to the instructor. Provided below are the passages that will be discussed with their tentative dates.
 - Read Report: Students will turn in a Reading Report on *From Exegesis to Exposition* by Robert Chisholm. The details of the report will be provided on the first day of class.
 - ✓ Due Date: **June 5**
 - Exam: There is only one exam, which will be take-home.
 - ✓ The exam will be based on the readings which were covered during the class period.
 - ✓ Questions will pertain to translation, verb parsing, syntax, grammar and the textual apparatus of BHS.
 - ✓ Exam Date:
 - *Distributed to students*: **June 5**
 - *Placed in the mail*: **June 23 (Monday)**
 - Total Grade: Grades will be based on the total of points from above.
 - ✓ Class Participation/Preparation/Homework = 25% of total grade.
 - ✓ Read Report = 25% of total grade.
 - ✓ Final Exam = 50% of total grade.
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● INFORMATION ON PETER LEE

Address: 6414 Allview Dr.
Columbia, MD 21046
Home #: (410) 884-4419
Cell #: (443) 812-3775
Email: vossian1@hotmail.com

READING LIST FOR HEBREW EXEGESIS

A quick glance at the reading list below can be overwhelming. The principle that drives this course is the adage “read more, learn more.” In other words, students will gain a better grasp and appreciation for Biblical Hebrew by reading large amounts of the Hebrew Scriptures. It is that principle that drives this course. For that reason, students are highly encouraged to work ahead and not fall behind in their preparations.

The focus of this semester’s course in Hebrew Reading is in the Old Testament books of Genesis and Exodus. Although the principles of exegesis, grammar, and philology remains the same each time this course is offered, the focus of the readings may vary (e.g. Genesis & Exodus, Deuteronomy, Samuel and Kings, etc.). The purpose of such variance is to potentially make this a course that can be taken again by students with a different area of focus within the Hebrew Scriptures.

Although the bulk of the required readings will be from the period of “Classical Biblical Hebrew,” one cannot responsibly teach a course like this without exposing students to later dialects of Biblical Hebrew as well as the challenging world of Hebrew poetry. Such factors are brought into consideration in this course as well.

	5:30pm to 6:15pm	6:15pm to 7:00pm
Monday April 28	Introduction to Hebrew Exegesis	Introduction to BHS
Thursday May 1	Exodus 1-4	Exodus 1-4
Monday May 5	Exodus 1-4	Exodus 1-4
Thursday May 8	Exodus 1-4	Exodus 1-4
Monday May 12	Hebrew Verbal System	Genesis 6:1-4
Thursday May 15	Hebrew Verbal System	Exodus 17:1-7
Monday May 19	Introduction to Hebrew Poetry	Genesis 49:8-12
Thursday May 22	Psalm 27:1-14, Part 1	Psalm 27:1-14, Part 2
Monday May 26	Exodus 12:12-30, Part 1	Exodus 12:12-30, Part 2
Thursday May 29	Psalm 73:1-28, Part 1	Psalm 73:1-28, Part 2
Monday June 2	Genesis 22:1-14, Part 1	Genesis 22:1-14, Part 2
Thursday June 5	Hosea 1:2-2:1, Part 1	Hosea 1:2-2:1, Part 2

RESOURCES FOR BIBLICAL HEBREW

Lexica

- Brown, Francis, S. R. Driver, and C. A. Briggs. *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1907. (BDB)
- Koehler, Ludwig and Walter Baumgartner. *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Translated and edited by M. E. J. Richardson. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1994. (Translated from German. Referred to as 'Koehler-Baumgartner' or HALOT. Available in 5 and 2 volume printings.)

Grammars

- Gesenius, Wilhelm and Emil Kautzsch. *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar*. Translated by A. E. Cowley. Oxford: Clarendon, 1910. (Still in print.)
- Joüon, Paul. *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew*. Translated and revised by T. Muraoka. 2 vols. Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1996. (Translated from French.)
- Waltke, Bruce K. and M. O'Connor. *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Winona Lake, Indiana: Eisenbrauns, 1990.

Text and Text Criticism

- Kelley, Page H., Daniel S. Mynatt and Timothy G. Crawford. *The Masorah of Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 1998.
- Tov, Emanuel. *Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible*. Second revised edition. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2001.
- Würthwein, Ernst. *The Text of the Old Testament*. Translated by Erroll F. Rhodes. Second edition. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 1995.
- Brotzman, Ellis R., *Old Testament Textual Criticism*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House. 1994.

Others

- Mark Fututo . *Pocket Paradigms*. Self-published.
- Beall, Todd and Banks, William. *Old Testament Parsing Guide: Volumes 1 & 2*. Moody Press: Chicago. 1986.
- Robert R. Chisholm. *From Exegesis to Exposition: A Practical Guide to Using Biblical Hebrew*. Baker Books: Grand Rapids, MI. 1998.