

# 4OT506: HEBREW EXEGESIS

## Course Syllabus

Reformed Theological Seminary, Atlanta  
Fall 2011  
Tuesdays, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Instructor: John J. Yeo, Ph.D.  
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Aug. 30th – Nov. 29th

### 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 30-**

*Syllabus Review*

*Prolegomena: An Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*

**READ Brotzman, pp. 97-132 BEFORE class**

**September 06-**

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 13-** 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 20-** 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 27-** 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
- October 04-** 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 11-** Hebrew: Ruth 2:8-13 (*Chisholm/Workbook*: pp. 147-157)  
**Quiz #5**  
*Midterm Examination Review*
- October 18-** **Midterm Examination (In-Class Exam)**  
 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
- October 25-** 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 01-** 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 08-** **No Class**  
**Quiz #8 (Take-Home Quiz)**  
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 15-** Hebrew: Ruth 3:8-18 (*Chisholm/Workbook*: pp. 183-199)  
**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 22-** **Fall Break – No Class**
- November 29-** Hebrew: Ruth 4:1-22 (*Chisholm/Workbook*: pp. 201-223)  
**Quiz #10**  
Vocabulary Review: 333-334; 341; 352-353; 364; 372; 383; 392; 398  
(\*\*Words are for review only, not on final examination)  
*Chisholm*: Nonstandard Constructions, pp. 123-128  
*Brotzman*, pp. 163-166  
*Final Examination Review*
- December 13 -** **Final Examination**

**\*\*Exegetical Paper Due: Thursday, December 9, 2011**

### **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.

### **Extension Policy**

All assignments and exams are to be completed by the deadlines announced in this syllabus or in class.

Extensions for assignments and exams due within the normal duration of the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. Extensions of two weeks or less beyond the date of the last deadline for the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. A grade penalty may be assessed.

Extensions of greater than two weeks but not more than six weeks beyond the last deadline for the course may be granted in extenuating circumstances (i.e. illness, family emergency). For an extension of more than two weeks the student must request an Extension Request Form from the Student Services Office. The request must be approved by the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed. (RTS Catalog p. 42 and RTS Atlanta Student Handbook p. 14)

Any incompletes not cleared six weeks after the last published due date for course work will be converted to a failing grade. Professors may have the failing grade changed to a passing grade by request. (RTS Catalog p. 42)

#### 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*)

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

\*\*Williams, Ronald J. *Williams' Hebrew Syntax*. Revised and Expanded by John C. Beckman. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2007.