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 volitves 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
**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

**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 11-  Hebrew: Ruth 2:8-13 (*Chisholm/Workbook*: pp. 147-157)  
**Quiz #5**  
**Midterm Examination Review**

October 18-  **Midterm Examination (In-Class Exam)**  
Verbs: Hiphil Regular- Perfect and Imperfect  
*Chisholm*: Hiphil, pp. 82-83; Waw-relative Imperfect, pp. 94-99  
*Chisholm*: An Exegetical Method, pp. 187-200

**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])
November 01-
Hebrew: Ruth 3:1-7 (Chisholm/Workbook: pp. 173-183)

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 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
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.

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<th>Percentage</th>
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<td>A-</td>
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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)**


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