

REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY – WASHINGTON, D. C. CAMPUS

**HEBREW EXEGESIS: STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF EXODUS
6OT606**

COURSE SYLLABUS¹

Winter Session, 2011 ~ McLean Presbyterian Church
Monday to Wednesday, 9:00am to 5:00pm, January 31-February 2
Instructor: Peter Y. Lee

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 student personal devotions in the Holy Scriptures in the original Hebrew
 2. To apply the principles of Biblical Hebrew as learned in previous courses
 3. To introduce students to the basics of text criticism
 4. To introduce students to the critical edition of the Hebrew Scriptures
 5. To prepare students for grammatico-historical exegesis of the Book of Exodus
 6. To prepare students for historical-redemptive exegesis of the Book of Exodus
 7. To aid in student preparations of the teaching ministry of the Holy Scriptures
 8. To read as much Hebrew as possible!

- **REQUIRED TEXT:**
 - HEBREW BIBLE:
 - *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* (BHS). K. Elliger and W. Rudolph. Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft: Stuttgart. 1980.

 - REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:
 - *Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*. Hendrickson Publishers: Boston. 1906.

 - *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament: Based on the Lexical work of Ludwig Koehler and Walter Baumgartner*. William L. Holladay. Leiden: Brill. 2000.

 - *Old Testament Textual Criticism*. Ellis R. Brotzman. Baker Books: Grand Rapids. 1994.

¹ Syllabus is subject to change by the instructor. Students will be notified on the exact changes as soon as possible.

- Students are required to use at least two commentaries that deal with the philology, text, and language of Exodus. The list provided below is a brief list of suggested commentaries for use during the class.
 - ❑ Brevard Childs. *Exodus*. Westminster Knox Press: Louisville. 1974.
 - ❑ J. I. Durham. *Exodus: Word Biblical Commentary*. Nelson: Paternoster. 1987.
 - ❑ W. H. Gispen. *Exodus: Bible Student's Commentary*. Zondervan: Grand Rapids. 1982.
 - ❑ Nahum M. Sarna. *Exodus: The JPS Torah Commentary*. Jewish Publication Society: Philadelphia. 1991.

➤ RECOMMENDED READINGS:

- *A Simplified Guide to BHS. Fourth Edition*. William R. Scott. BIBAL Press: Berkeley, CA. 1987.
- *Old Testament Exegesis*. Douglas Stuart. Westminster Knox Press: Louisville. 2001.

● REQUIREMENTS:

- *Attendance*: You are required to attend each class. Since this course is offered in an intensive format, there are only three days of class meeting. Attendance, therefore, will be vital to the success of the class. If you know you cannot make it to a class session, notify me in advance.
- *Homework/Class Discussions*: Students will be required to prepare passages from the Hebrew Bible for class discussions. These will not be turned in, but students will be graded on class preparation and in-class discussions. Provided below are the passages that will be discussed with their tentative dates. Part of your homework will be to prepare for class discussions. Part of the preparation will be to practice your Hebrew reading out loud. Part of the Hebrew reading is to demonstrate grammatical comprehension. Due to the intensive format of this course and the dependence of class discussions on student preparation of various passages in Exodus, the expectation is that students will prepare these passages for class before the first day of class.
- *Hebrew Exegetical Paper*: Students will write an exegetical paper on any passage in the Book of Exodus with the exception of those read in class. You are to focus your thoughts on the central theme that you believe was intended by the author and show how the Hebrew is used to support that theme. Students can provide very small portions of the paper to authorship, historical background. The bulk of the paper, however, is to focus on the passage in hand.
 - ❑ The first page of the paper is to be **YOUR** translation of the passage (do not copy the ESV, NASB, or any other English translation). Include any comments on textual variants and uses of the BHS apparatus when/if necessary. You may comment on your translations in the body of the paper if it relevant to your thematic spine.

- Students are free to use Bible software programs as a tool for their papers.
- As much as possible, please use a Hebrew font for your paper. Papers may be emailed to the instructor as a PDF.
- TERM PAPER DUE DATE: **February 14 (Monday)**.
- *Exam:* There is only one exam.
 - 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, and exegetical comments as discussed in class.
 - This will be a take-home exam which will require a proctor.
 - Students are required to provide the name and email address of their proctor by the last day of class.
 - The instructor will email a copy of the exam to the proctor.
 - Once the exam is taken, it is to be mailed to the instructor by no later than February 28.
 - EXAM DUE DATE: **February 28 (Monday)**
- *Total Grade:* Grades will be based on the total of points from above.
 - Class Participation/Preparation/Homework = 20% of total grade.
 - Hebrew Exegetical Paper = 40% of total grade.
 - Final Exam = 40% of total grade.

- **CONTACT INFORMATION ON PETER LEE**

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Students are encouraged to arrange meetings with the instructor if additional help is needed.

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. That is the driving principle for this course. For that reason, the expectation of the instructor is that students will work ahead and come prepared for class discussions, and **NOT FALL BEHIND** in their preparations. Although we may not get to discuss each passage as listed below, the expectation is that students will prepare them before the first day of class nonetheless.

The focus of this semester’s course in Hebrew Reading is in the Book of Exodus. We will begin with some preliminary introductory comments on the nature of the book on the first day of class. We will focus the remainder of the course on selected passages. 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.

	Date:	Discussion Themes	Exodus Passages for preparation
	Monday January 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the Book of Exodus • Introduction to Textual Criticism • Hebrew Reading Assessment 	Exodus 1-4, Exodus 32-34
	Tuesday February 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mosaic Covenant • ANE treaty structures 	Exodus 20:1-17 (20:22-23:33) Exodus 6:1-8 (3:1-14) Exodus 12:1-13:16 Exodus 13:17-15:21
	Wednesday February 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical Redemptive Themes in Exodus 	Exodus 7:8-11:10 Exodus 15:22-18:27 Exodus 19:1-25; 20:18-21 Exodus 40