Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Boston Campus

OT626/551 Genesis: Exegesis/In-Depth

Preliminary Syllabus

Thursday, 6:30-9:30 pm, Fall, 2012
CUME 116

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I. Course Description & Objectives
Students will take this course either as an in-depth study (OT551) or an exegesis (OT626) of the book of Genesis. Through a combination of both lectures and hands-on projects, students will acquire skills to read and interpret Genesis, with a view to its application in the ministry of the church (GCTS Mission Statement #1-2).

By the end of the term, the students who have successfully completed the course will have gained an extensive training on the inductive reading and exegetical skills for the interpretation of the narrative texts in Genesis (in Hebrew, for OT626), with a strong emphasis on its grammar, semantics, context, and the narrative strategy. Students will also explore some of the major theological themes that arise from reading Genesis.

- In order to take the course as OT626 (Exegesis), the student must have successfully completed OL502 and pass the Hebrew Competency Exam which will be administered during the second class session.
- There is no pre-requisite for taking the course as OT551 (In-Depth).

OT626 meets the requirement for the MDiv, MAOT, MABL and MABS at Gordon-Conwell.

II. Course Work & Evaluation

- **Weekly preparation (30%).** Students should come to the class having read and prepared as indicated in the weekly schedule (V. Course Schedule). For the class of Oct 18, for instance, students should come to the class having read Stuart (2009: 52-55), Genesis 25:19-35:29 (in one translation) in conjunction with Mathews (2005: 365-630), and studied Genesis 32:1-32 (in Hebrew, for OT626; in various translations, for OT551).
- **Exegetical exam (30%) and paper (40%).** On Nov 22, students will be tested on their learned exegetical skills by completing an exegetical draft on a passage from the Genesis chapters that they would have read/studied by Nov 8 (i.e., Genesis 10-50). After that, the students will have
one week to develop the draft into a full-fledged exegetical paper, to be submitted in print, in class on Nov 29. The paper should be double-spaced, with font-size 12, and 12-15 pages long.

III. Course Policies

- **Attendance is required.** No more than two absences are allowed, if taking the course for credit.
- **Web-surfing is not allowed.** No web-surfing allowed during the class session.
- **Due-dates are strict.** Late penalties will apply for the papers turned in late.
- **Plagiarism is fatal.** Plagiarism will result in failing the course. For a detailed information on the issue, refer to [http://isites.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k70847&tabgroupid=icb.tabgroup106849](http://isites.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k70847&tabgroupid=icb.tabgroup106849).
- **Audio-recording of the class session can be allowed under special circumstances, with prior permission.** One such circumstance would be recording for a classmate who cannot attend the session.

IV. Textbooks & References

**Required Textbooks**


**Required Bibles**

For OT626, students can choose between BHS and RHB (see below).

Additional References

Commentaries


Concordances in English


Concordances in Hebrew


Electronic Resources

While not a need, the electronic resources, such as *BibleWorks*, *Logos Bible Software*, or *Accordance* make the textual study easier by placing the original texts, translations, dictionaries, parsing-gudes and concordances in one place. Several desktops in CUME’s Library have *BibleWorks 8* installed.

Hebrew Language


**Textual Criticism**

**Other**

## V. Course Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Exegetical Methods</th>
<th>Genesis Study</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09/13</td>
<td>Exegesis: Overview</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Biblical Hebrew: Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>09/20</td>
<td>Hebrew Exam; Text &amp; Translation</td>
<td>&quot;of Terah&quot; - A (Gen 11:27-15:21)</td>
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<tr>
<td>09/27</td>
<td>Grammatical &amp; Lexical Data</td>
<td>&quot;of Terah&quot; - B (Gen 16:1-25:11)</td>
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<td>10/04</td>
<td>Form &amp; Structure</td>
<td>&quot;of... Ishmael&quot; (Gen 25:12-18); &quot;of Esau&quot; (Gen 36:1-37:1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/11</td>
<td>Reading Week 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/18</td>
<td>Literary-Historical Context</td>
<td>&quot;of... Isaac&quot; (Gen 25:19-35:29)</td>
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<td>Stuart (2009), pp. 52-55</td>
<td>Prepare Gen 32:1-32; Mathews (2005), pp. 365-630</td>
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<td>10/25</td>
<td>Biblical and Theological Context</td>
<td>&quot;of Jacob&quot; - A (Gen 37:2-41:57)</td>
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<td>11/01</td>
<td>Application</td>
<td>&quot;of Jacob&quot; - B (Gen 42:1-50:26)</td>
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<td>11/08</td>
<td>From Exegesis to Sermon</td>
<td>&quot;of... Noah's sons&quot; (Gen 10:1-11:9); &quot;of Shem&quot; (Gen 11:10-26)</td>
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<td>11/15</td>
<td>Reading Week 2</td>
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<td>11/22</td>
<td>Exegesis Exam</td>
<td>Exam text to be given in class</td>
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<td>11/29</td>
<td>Exegesis Paper Due &amp; Review in Class</td>
<td>Exam text from 11/22</td>
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<td>12/06</td>
<td>Textual Criticism A</td>
<td>&quot;of Adam&quot; (Gen 5:1-6:8); &quot;of Noah&quot; (Gen 6:9-29)</td>
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<td>12/13</td>
<td>Textual Criticism B</td>
<td>&quot;of the heavens and the earth&quot; (Gen 2:4-226)</td>
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<td>12/20</td>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td>&quot;In the beginning&quot; (Gen 1:1-2:3)</td>
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<td>Prepare Gen 1:1-2:3; Mathews (1996), pp. 21-181</td>
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