Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Boston Campus

OT770: OT Poetical Books

Preliminary Syllabus (12/31/2014)

Seong Hyun Park, PhD <spark4@gordonconwell.edu>
Class Hours (CUME): Tue, 6:30-9:30 pm, Spring, 2015
Office Hours (CUME 100): Tue, 5:00-6:00 pm, Spring, 2015

I. Course Description & Objectives

OT770 builds on the exegetical skills and the Hebrew proficiency acquired in the 600-level courses in OT. Challenges presented in reading and interpreting Psalms in Hebrew are at the heart of the contents covered in each session. The vision of the course is to bring the ensuing discourses to a reflection on their application in the ministry of the church, today (GCTS Mission Statement #1-2).

By the end of the term, the students who have successfully completed the course will have gained a competence in interpreting Psalms in Hebrew, with a balanced coverage of its language, literary forms, intertextuality, historico-cultural context, and history of interpretation.

- Pre-Requisite: a 600-level exegesis course of OT in Hebrew.
- Competency Exam: On the first day of class, students will take the Competency Exam that will test the knowledge of Hebrew. The Exam will consist of translating from Hebrew to English (with parsing) a portion from the following psalms: 78, 105 and 136. Only the students passing the Competency Exam with grade C or higher will be allowed to continue to take OT770.

OT770 meets partial requirement for the MDiv, MAOT, MABL and MABS at Gordon-Conwell.

II. Course Work & Evaluation

- Six Hebrew Quizzes (30 % of grade). There will be six quizzes on the Hebrew text of Psalms (i.e., translation and parsing). The first instance of the tests will constitute the Hebrew Competency Exam.

- Exegetical Paper (70 % of grade). An exegetical paper will be submitted (March 30, 6 PM) on a Psalm that will be designated in class. The paper will be double-spaced, with font-size 12, 1-inch margins around, and about 25 pages in length, including the list of bibliography. All submissions should be done via Sakai, in Word or PDF file format.
• **Extra-Credit.** Students can apply their *Integrative Seminar* project for Spring, 2015, toward extra-credit in the present course. Such application is limited to one course per term per student.

### III. Course Policies

- **Attendance is mandatory.** One excused absence can be accommodated without penalty. Additional absences will result in a penalty of 5% each (or 2.5%, if partially attended).
- **Web-surfing is not allowed.** No web-surfing allowed during the class session.
- **Due-dates are strict.** Penalties (2 points off) will apply for tests/exam/paper taken or turned in after the specified dates and time.
- **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

#### A. Required Textbooks


#### B. References

1. **Hebrew Concordances**

Following are the recommended concordances in print. However, the search function of the electronic resources, such as *BibleWorks, Logos*, or *Accordance*, supersedes that of the printed concordances.


2. Hebrew Grammars


3. Hebrew Lexica


4. Hebrew Textual Criticism


### V. Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/24</td>
<td>Orientation-Convocation-Formation Day (For Boston students only, at León de Judá)</td>
<td>Anderson 2000: Chs. 1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/27</td>
<td>Introduction Competency Exam (Psalms 78, 105, 136)</td>
<td>Berlin 2008: Chs. I-II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>Psalm 22 Text &amp; Grammar</td>
<td>Anderson 2000: Ch. 4*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/17</td>
<td>Reading Week 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/24</td>
<td>Psalm 139 Text &amp; Grammar</td>
<td>Berlin 2008: Ch. III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/3</td>
<td>Psalm 139 Interpretation</td>
<td>Anderson 2000: Ch. 5*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/10</td>
<td>Psalm 103 Text &amp; Grammar</td>
<td>Berlin 2008: Ch. IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/17</td>
<td>Psalm 103 Interpretation</td>
<td>Anderson 2000: Chs. 6-7*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/24</td>
<td>Reading Week 2 (Paper due on 3/30, 6 PM)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/31</td>
<td>Psalm 2 Text &amp; Grammar</td>
<td>Berlin 2008: Ch. V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/7</td>
<td>Psalm 2 Interpretation</td>
<td>Anderson 2000: Ch. 8*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/14</td>
<td>Psalm 1 Text &amp; Grammar</td>
<td>Berlin 2008: Ch. VI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/21</td>
<td>Psalm 1 Interpretation &amp; Conclusion</td>
<td>Anderson 2000: Chs. 9-10*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Additional reading will be assigned in class.*