I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The primary objective of the course is to develop skills to interpret prophetical books from the perspective of the Hebrew text. In addition to building upon exegetical methodology learned at the 600-level, class times will be devoted to an examination of the prophets’ main themes against their historical and biblical-theological backdrop.

- Exegetical steps. How to interpret the Hebrew text of the prophets.
- Biblical-theological context. What overarching principles govern the message/approach of the prophets and how Yahweh’s character is revealed in the prophets.
- Historical context. How the prophets fit within the environment of Iron II Israel and related Near Eastern polities.
- Practical context. Developing skills to preach and teach from OT Hebrew.

Additional notes:
- Course documents (handouts, Powerpoints, etc.) will be available on Sakai. It is the student’s responsibility to check Sakai for announcements, handouts, etc.

INTERNET USAGE

Students are asked to refrain from accessing the internet at any point during class sessions, unless otherwise instructed by the professor. “Surfing the web,” checking email, and other internet-based activities are distracting to other students and to the professor, and prevent the student from fully participating in the class session. Students will need to sign a statement at the end of the course that they didn’t use electronic tools related to personal matters during class time (texting, etc). A penalty of up to 10% of the final grade will be applied if this policy is violated.
REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

- A. Berlin, *The Dynamics of Biblical Parallelism* (Indiana University, 1985)

Please also consult/review these 600-level texts:

- G. Fee and D. Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All its Worth*, 3rd ed. (Zondervan, 2003)

IV. HEBREW COMPETENCY EXAM

If you have followed the sequence and passed OT 511 and 600-level exegesis this academic year, 700-Level students will not need to take a Hebrew competency exam. However, if you skipped a year (or more) and come back to Hebrew to take this course, you will be required to take a competency exam via proctor prior to our first day of class. If you are in this situation, contact me to make arrangements.

*Hebrew competency for the course:*

Hebrew competency must be demonstrated both in terms of the language and exegetical methodology in order to pass the course, regardless of grades on the two tests and exegesis paper. Thus, if a student fails to demonstrate Hebrew and/or exegesis competence in any aspect of the course, he/she will not be able to receive a passing final grade.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Final Exam** (40%):
- **Part I:** Translation and parsing (with exegetical comments) of a set text covered in class (limited use of the lexicon allowed).
- **Part II:** Identification and short essay questions based on the required readings and materials covered in class.

**Note:** The final must be taken within a month of our last class time (by April 27, 2015). Students are responsible to find a suitable proctor (guidelines for qualifications will be given in class)

*Hebrew Exegesis Paper* (range of 30 pages; 60% of course grade): Specific guidelines will be made available in class. Students are expected to abide by the academic policies
as found in the Student Handbook (re: plagiarism, late assignments, etc.). For style consult The SBL Handbook of Style. This is especially important for footnotes and bibliography.

Note: The paper (pdf) must be submitted within a month after our last day of class (April 27, 2015).

**Class Participation:** Students need to come to class prepared to discuss (= read, parse, comment on exegetical steps) the assigned texts. Inability to translate and parse Hebrew texts will result in a grade penalty or a failing grade for the course (see Hebrew competency requirements above). Unexcused absences and absences beyond one class session of 3 hours will result in loss of class participation grade (in fairness to those who attend all the classes). Excuses for absences beyond a three-hour period may result in a failing final grade. Note that overseas outreach trips, weddings, anniversaries, etc. are not considered legitimate excuses.

**Note:** Due to the intensive nature of the week-long schedule, it is strongly recommended to allocate your full time attention to this course for the week. So, if you are a “Night Guard at the Museum” ☺ or have other commitments, it is strongly recommended to take time off during the week we are meeting together. However, if you cannot take time off from your regular responsibilities, it will be especially important for you to translate all the Hebrew texts prior to our first class (more on that below).

**Readings:**
- VanGemeren and Berlin should be read in their entirety. Berlin should be read prior to the first day of class and with great care as she provides great tools to understand the syntax of poetry used by the prophets.
- Select articles on the Suffering Servant (Isaiah 52:13-53:12) (on Sakai)
- Review the message of the prophets in translation (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, etc.). A good reference to review the OT corpus is Carol Kaminski, CASKET
- Regarding Oswalt, the expectation is that students will critically interact (not simply read) with the assigned sections of the commentary.

Students need to submit a written report of the percentage of readings completed with their paper submission.

**DUE DATES:**
- Exegesis paper is due one month from our last class time (April 27, 2015).
- Final exam is due one month from our last class time (April 27, 2015 via proctor).
VI. PREPARATION BEFORE FIRST CLASS

➢ Read Berlin

➢ Translate the following texts from the Hebrew (with parsing information):
  Isaiah 1:1-20
  Isaiah 5:8-30
  Isaiah 13
  Jeremiah 17: 1-14
  Isaiah 2:1-4
  Isaiah 40
  Isaiah 52:13-53:12
  Haggai 2

Note: Because of the intensive week-long format of the course, it is a course requirement that students come prepared for our first day of class. **Students who have done no translation work prior to our first day of class will not be allowed to stay in the course.** There will be time every afternoon of our week together when remaining texts can be translated. However, due to the intensity of the schedule, the experience will be far more enjoyable if all the texts are prepared in advance. Thus, if you have work commitments alongside this course and have not completed the translations prior to the first day of class, it will be virtually impossible for you to participate at the expected level during the week.

Hebrew translation tips:
To translate the prophets is a different experience from narrative. There is a lot of new vocabulary. Please do consult the Accordance/BibleWorks parsing for the obscure vocabulary. However, do parse the verbs with the aid of the Lexicon (Holladay or BDB) without first consulting the electronic parsing guides. If after a while you are not getting at the verbal root, then, by all means do go ahead with finding the answer from Accordance/Bibleworks. Do keep in mind that on occasion these parsing guides are not right so it is always best to do your own work with the parsing. I am available via email to answer any questions you might have as you translate these texts.

VII. CLASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Morning March 21 “Prophetic Playbook”
  • Prophetic Books: the Big Picture
  • Exegetical Method: “The Big Picture of the Book”
  • Hebrew competency exam
  • Oswalt vol. 1, Introduction pp. 3-76
  • Isaiah 1:1-20 (cf. Oswalt)
Saturday Afternoon March 21 “Exile”
- Isaiah 5:8-30 (cf. Oswalt)
- VanGemeren Part 1
- Method: “Text Criticism and Translation”
- Begin Berlin

Saturday Afternoon March 21 “Nations are Accountable”
- Isaiah 13 (cf. Oswalt)
- Begin VanGemeren Part 2

Monday March 23 “Heart Problems”
- Jeremiah 17:1-14
- Finish VanGemeren Part 2

Tuesday March 24 “Promise of Zion”
- Isa 2:1-4 (cf. Oswalt)
- Method: “Structural analysis of Poetry”
- Begin VanGemeren Part 3

Wednesday March 25 “Hope”
- Isaiah 40 (cf. Oswalt, vol. 2 Introduction and related materials)
- Method: “The prophets in OT context”
- Finish VanGemeren Part 3

Thursday March 26 “Substitutionary Sacrifice”
- Isa 52:13 – 53:1-12 (cf. Oswalt)
- Petter (TJ 2011)
- Method: NT and Theological contexts

Friday March 27 “Inaugurated Restoration”
- Haggai 2
- Method: “Contextualization and Application”

VIII. BIBLICAL HEBREW SELECT REFERENCE BIBLIOGRAPHY

Dictionaries/Concordances


**Hebrew Grammar**


**Hebrew Vocabulary**


**Hebrew Text**


**Narrative**


**Poetry**


Hebrew Verse Structure Revisited (II): Conjoint Cola, and Further Suggestions."


