OT 626 Exegesis of Genesis
Summer 2012

Course Instructor: Dr. Catherine McDowell
cmcdowell@gordonconwell.edu

Class Meetings: Fri 6:30–9:00 pm & Sat 9:00 am – 4:30 pm on June 15-16, June 20-21, and Aug 10-11

Office: The Cooley Center (Room 152 in the library)

Office Hours: Fridays 4-6 pm before class, Saturdays immediately after class, and by appointment (in person, by phone, Facetime or Skype). Please contact me via email to make an appointment, even if you plan on meeting during office hours.

Syllabus Date: May 11, 2012

Course Description
This course will introduce students to the fundamentals of Old Testament exegesis using the book of Genesis. Special emphasis will be placed on the structure, content, and theology of Genesis as well as its place in the redemptive story.

Course Objectives
The primary objective of this course is to help students develop Hebrew language and exegetical skills in preparation for teaching and preaching from Old Testament narrative generally and Genesis specifically. This will be achieved through class lecture and discussion, demonstrations of exegetical process, assigned reading, and various assignments, detailed below. (GCTS Mission Statement #1-2). Per the GCTS-Charlotte catalog (p.76), competence in Hebrew is required in all aspects of the course. Upon successful completion of the course students will:

1. know all Hebrew vocabulary that occurs in the Old Testament 70x or more
2. have gained a more sophisticated understanding of Hebrew grammar and syntax
3. understand the fundamentals of Old Testament exegesis
4. have a much deeper grasp of the structure, content, and theology of Genesis and its place in the redemptive story

Gordon-Conwell Mission
This course, which seeks to maintain academic excellence in the highest tradition of Christian scholarship (Article 2), helps students to become knowledgeable of God’s word
and competent in its interpretation (GCTS missions statement, Article 1). This will contribute to the students’ ability to develop a vision for God’s redemptive work in the world and to formulate strategies that will lead to effective missions, evangelism, and discipleship (Article 6).

**Relation to Curriculum**
Courses at the 600-level and beyond have OL 502 as a prerequisite and OT 500 & NT 501 (or having passed the Bible competency exams) as a corequisite. OT 626 satisfies the OT exegesis requirement for Hebrew exegesis in a historical narrative for the MABS, MANT, MAOT and MDiv degrees.

**Hebrew Competency Exam:**
*If you did not take Hebrew II (OL 502 or equivalent) in the past 12 months you need to pass (minimum 70%) a Hebrew competency exam in order to take this course for credit. Contact Dr. McDowell immediately at cmcdowell@gordonconwell.edu.*

**Course Requirements and Assignments**
Achievement of the course objectives will be measured through a variety of reading, exegetical assignments, quizzes, and class participation, as described below. The successful completion of these assignments will require each student to spend a minimum of 135 hours devoted to coursework, both in class and out of class. The following chart indicates how these hours are distributed across the various course assignments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Assignment</th>
<th>Expected Time Commitment (hrs)</th>
<th>Student’s actual time on task</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TO BE DONE PRIOR TO THE FIRST WEEKEND</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Read the book of Genesis in English (NIV, ESV, NASB, RSV, NRSV – do not use a paraphrase) according to the following reading plan: Gen 1-11, Gen 12:1-25:28, Gen 25:19-37:1 and Gen 37:2-50:26. <strong>Do each of these four sections in one sitting – that is, read Gen 1-11 in one sitting, Gen 12:1-25:28 in a second sitting, etc., and complete all four sections (the entire book of Genesis in English) within one week.</strong></td>
<td>4-5 hours (?)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TO BE DONE PRIOR TO THE FIRST WEEKEND</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Read Gordon D. Fee and Mark L. Strauss, <em>How to Choose a Translation for All Its Worth</em>, Zondervan, 2007. (you may omit Chpt. 5)</td>
<td>2-3 hrs (?)</td>
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<td><strong>TO BE DONE PRIOR TO THE FIRST WEEKEND</strong></td>
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<td>Read Williams and Beckman, <em>Williams Hebrew Syntax</em>, 3rd edition, p. 1-55 and study all of the examples. Make note of any examples that are unclear and email me your questions. I will post questions and answers in the</td>
<td>3 hrs + 8 hrs (?)</td>
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course Wiki. Then translate Gen 1-3 and parse all verbs. Please type your translation and use the parsing sheet provided in Laniak, p.6 or make an electronic equivalent. **Be sure your translation reflects what you’ve read in Williams and Beckman p. 1-55. Be prepared to discuss your translation, parse verbs, and answer grammar questions in class. Inadequate preparation will result in a grade penalty.**

### TO BE DONE PRIOR TO THE FIRST WEEKEND
Review all paradigms, diagnostics and vocabulary from Pratico and Van Pelt, *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar (BBHG).* There will be three quizzes during the summer (see below). Each quiz will include paradigms, diagnostics and vocabulary from BBHG, vocabulary form VGBH, and translation of a passage from Genesis. The first quiz will be emailed to your proctor one week prior to our first meeting and will be due on Friday June 15 at 6:30 pm. This quiz will also include vocabulary from Van Pelt and Pratico, *The Vocabulary Guide to Biblical Hebrew (VBGH)* p. 2-10 (most if not all of these words you should already know) and a selection from Genesis to translate.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Assignment for Weekend II:</th>
<th>5-10 hrs?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Read D. Clines, “Theme in Genesis 1-11,” <em>CBQ</em> (1976): 483-507 (posted in Sakai under “Resources”)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Read Williams and Beckman p. 56-95. Make note of any examples that are unclear and email me your questions. I will post questions and answers in the course Wiki. Translate Gen 6:5-7:24, re-read Gen 8 in English, translate Gen 9:5-17, translate and parse the verbs in Gen 11:1-9, 27-32, and Gen 12:1-3 Please type your translation and use the parsing sheet provided in Laniak, p.6 or make an electronic equivalent. <strong>Be sure your translation reflects what you’ve read in Williams and Beckman p. 1-95. Be prepared to discuss your translation, parse verbs, and answer grammar questions in class. Inadequate preparation will result in a grade penalty.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Using D. Stuart, <em>Old Testament Exegesis</em> (3rd ed.), supplemented by T. Laniak, <em>Handbook for Hebrew Exegesis,</em> exegete Gen 11:1-9. Follow the steps as they are laid out in Stuart’s <em>OTE,</em> but consult Laniak’s <em>Handbook</em> for each of these steps, as well. Further instruction for this assignment will be posted in Sakai on Monday June 18, and the assignment will be due at our next meeting on Fri July 20 at 7 pm. <strong>Be prepared to</strong></td>
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 assignment for Weekend II: Read D. Clines, “Theme in Genesis 1-11,” *CBQ* (1976): 483-507 (posted in Sakai under “Resources”) Read Williams and Beckman p. 56-95. Make note of any examples that are unclear and email me your questions. I will post questions and answers in the course Wiki. Translate Gen 6:5-7:24, re-read Gen 8 in English, translate Gen 9:5-17, translate and parse the verbs in Gen 11:1-9, 27-32, and Gen 12:1-3 Please type your translation and use the parsing sheet provided in Laniak, p.6 or make an electronic equivalent. **Be sure your translation reflects what you’ve read in Williams and Beckman p. 1-95. Be prepared to discuss your translation, parse verbs, and answer grammar questions in class. Inadequate preparation will result in a grade penalty.** Using D. Stuart, *Old Testament Exegesis* (3rd ed.), supplemented by T. Laniak, *Handbook for Hebrew Exegesis,* exegete Gen 11:1-9. Follow the steps as they are laid out in Stuart’s *OTE,* but consult Laniak’s *Handbook* for each of these steps, as well. Further instruction for this assignment will be posted in Sakai on Monday June 18, and the assignment will be due at our next meeting on Fri July 20 at 7 pm. **Be prepared to**
Discuss your findings in class. Inadequate preparation will result in a grade penalty.

**Assignment for Weekend III:**

Read Williams and Beckman p. 96-171. Make note of any examples that are unclear and email me your questions. I will post questions and answers in the course Wiki. Translate Gen 15, Gen 17:1-14; Gen 22:1-14; translate and parse the verbs in Gen 39; translate Gen 50:19-20. Please type your translation and use the parsing sheet provided in Laniak, p.6 or make an electronic equivalent. *Be sure your translation reflects what you've read in Williams and Beckman p. 1-171. Be prepared to discuss your translation, parse verbs, and answer grammar questions in class. Inadequate preparation will result in a grade penalty.*

Using D. Stuart, *Old Testament Exegesis* (3rd ed.), supplemented by T. Laniak, *Handbook for Hebrew Exegesis*, exegete Gen 17:9-14. Follow the steps as they are laid out in Stuart’s OTE, but consult Laniak’s Handbook for each of these steps, as well. Further instruction for this assignment will be posted in Sakai on Monday July 23, and the assignment will be due at our next meeting on Fri Aug 10 at 7 pm. *Be prepared to discuss your findings in class. Inadequate preparation will result in a grade penalty.*

25 hrs?

**Quizzes (see below)**

10 hrs? (preparation and time spent taking the quiz)

**Additional reading to be completed by Sept 10, 2012:**

Williams and Beckman p. 172-211. Make note of any examples that are unclear and email me your questions. I will post questions and answers in the course Wiki. *Be sure your translation in your exegesis paper reflects what you’ve read in Williams and Beckman.*

2-3 hrs (?)

**Exegesis Paper (15-20 pages)**

Details will be presented in class during Weekend III and posted in Sakai no later than Mon Aug 13. A hard copy of the paper is due in my office on Monday Sept. 17, 2012 no later than 5:00 pm.

30-40 hrs (?)
Quiz #1 (emailed to proctors one week prior to Weekend I, due in class 6/15 at 7 pm): paradigms, diagnostics, and vocabulary from BBHG, vocabulary from VGBH p. 2-10 and a short translation section.

Quiz #2 (emailed to proctors one week prior to Weekend II, due in class 7/20 at 7 pm): paradigms, diagnostics, and vocabulary from BBHG, vocabulary from VGBH p. 2-20 and a short translation section.

Quiz #3 (emailed to proctors one week prior to Weekend III, due in class 8/10 at 7 pm): paradigms, diagnostics, and vocabulary from BBHG, vocabulary from VGBH p. 2-27 (up to and including word #506) and a short translation section.

By the time you take Quiz #3 you will have learned all the Hebrew words that occur 70 times or more in the Old Testament. This will allow you to read your Hebrew Old Testament much more easily from RHB, which footnotes all words that occur less than 70 times.

Required Textbooks and Materials


Note: If you do not already have the standard Hebrew Bible, (Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia, henceforth BHS), you will probably want to purchase it as well since you will need this Bible long term. However, for class translation we will be using A Reader’s Hebrew Bible (henceforth RHB). We will be referring to BHS at various times in class, particularly when we learn about the critical apparatus (which is not in RHB), but the primary Hebrew Bible for translations will be RHB.


4. Fee, Gordon D. and Mark L. Strauss, How to Choose a Translation for All Its Worth, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007. (Chpt. 5 not required)


Recommended Genesis commentaries for your personal library and a selective bibliography for Hebrew language tools and the book of Genesis will be posted in Sakai prior to our first class meeting. You will find it under “Resources”.

For translation work due Weekend I use the following lexicons in the reference section of the GCTS – Clt library (or the electronic version of the same):


Web-Enhanced Features
Course information and communication will be posted in Sakai. This includes a course Wiki where I will post answers to your questions from the reading in Williams and Beckman (and any other course-related questions that would be beneficial to the class as a whole). Feel free to post meaningful insights related to the course, but it is not required that you do so.

Grade Computation
Homework for Weekend I: 10%
Homework for Weekend II: 15%
Homework for Weekend III: 15%
Quizzes: 15% (5% each)
Class participation: 10%
Exegesis paper: 35%

Reading report: You will need to turn in a reading report with your exegesis paper stating what percentage of the reading you completed and if it was done on time. Failure to complete the reading assignments on time will result in a deduction of your final course grade of 1-3 points. Please note that skimming is not the same as reading.

Grading Scale
A+ 100  C- 70-72
A  95-100 C  73-76
A- 92-94  D+ 67-69
B+ 88-91  D  63-66
B  84-87  D- 60-62
B- 80-83  F  below 60
C+ 77-79
Please note the following statement in the GCTS-Charlotte course catalog on p. 76: “At both the OT 600 and OT 700 levels, competence in Hebrew must be demonstrated by the student in all aspects of the course in order for a passing grade to be assigned, regardless of how the course grade is otherwise computed.”

Late Work
Late work will not be accepted except in the event of an emergency, as approved by the professor. For the course extension policy see the syllabus addendum in Sakai under “Syllabus”.

Attendance Policy
Attendance is required. Missing class without prior approval may result in a grade penalty. You may not miss an entire weekend of the course and still take it for credit.

Syllabus Addendum
For other seminary policies refer to the attached Syllabus Addendum.

Course Schedule

Weekend I: Genesis 1-3

Fri  
6:30 – 7:00  Chapel
7:10 – 8:00  Introduction to the course and the book of Genesis
8:00 – 9:00  Text and Translation (*be prepared to translate, parse, and answer grammatical questions on Gen 1-3)

Sat  
9:00 – 10:30  Historical and Cultural Context
10:30 – 10:40  break
10:40 – 12:00  Literary Context, Form and Structure
12:00 – 1:30  lunch
1:30 – 3:00  Form and Structure, cont.; Grammatical and Lexical Data
3:00 – 3:10  break
3:10 – 4:00  Grammatical and Lexical Data, cont.
4:00 – 4:30  Biblical Context, Theology and Application
The format for Weekend II (Genesis 4:1 – 12:3) and Weekend III (Genesis 12:3-50:22) will be similar, however, students will be expected to participate more fully during the 2nd and 3rd weekends as we discuss not only our translations, but also our exegesis of Gen 11:1-9 (Weekend II) and Gen 17:9-14 (Weekend III).
Syllabus Addendum

Academic Standards
Cheating and plagiarism are considered serious breaches of personal and academic integrity. Cheating involves, but is not necessarily limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination or the submission of the same (or substantially same) work for credit in two or more courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors. Plagiarism involves the use of another person’s distinctive ideas or words, whether published or unpublished, and representing them as one’s own instead of giving proper credit to the source. Plagiarism can also involve over dependence on other source material for the scope and substance of one’s writing. Such breaches in academic standards often result in a failing grade as well as other corrective measures. For more information, please consult the Student Handbook.

ADA Policy
The seminary complies with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. A student with a qualifying and authenticated disability who is in need of accommodations, should petition the seminary in accordance with the stated guidelines in the Student Handbook.

Cancellation of Class
In the event the seminary has to cancel a class meeting (impending storm, professor illness, etc.), the Registration Office will send out an email (via the GCTS email account) notification to all students registered in the respective course. If the cancelation occurs the day of the scheduled meeting, the Registration Office will also attempt to contact students via their primary phone contact on record. The professor will contact the students (via GCTS account) regarding make-up. If a weekend class is cancelled, the class will be made up during the scheduled Make-Up weekend (see the academic calendar for the designated dates). For more info, consult your Student Handbook.

Extension Policy
Arrangements for submission of late work at a date on or before the “last day to submit written work,” as noted on the seminary’s Academic Calendar, are made between the student and professor. Formal petition to the Registration Office is not required at this time. This includes arrangements for the rescheduling of final exams.

However, course work (reading and written) to be submitted after the publicized calendar due date, must be approved by the Registration Office. An extension form, available online, must be submitted to the Registration Office prior to the “last day to submit written work.” Requests received after this date will either be denied or incur additional penalty. For a full discussion of this policy, please consult the Student Handbook.

Grades
Faculty have six weeks from the course work due date to submit a final grade. Grades are posted on-line within twenty-four hours of receipt from the professor. Students are expected to check their CAMS student portal in order to access posted grades (unless instructed otherwise). Those individuals who need an official grade report issued to a third party should put their request in writing to the Registration Office.

Returned Work
Submitted hard-copy course work will be returned to the students if they provide a self addressed and postage-paid envelope with their final work. Work submitted without the appropriate envelope will be destroyed after the grade has been assessed and issued.