Description:

(Prerequisites: Intermediate Hebrew Grammar; or 600-level exegesis or equivalent, e.g., Independent reading in Biblical Hebrew)

In addition to solidifying components of grammar learned in first and second-year Biblical Hebrew instruction, the course introduces students to advanced principles of grammar and to some of the current debates in the field. By the end of the course, students should have developed competence in addressing complex grammatical issues in the text. Throughout the course emphasis is placed on building skills to assess the import of a particular grammatical inquiry in the exegetical process. Subjects include the following:

- Reading, parsing and analyzing about 500 verses of BH (from narrative and poetry). Developing Hebrew compositional skills will be introduced as well as reading Hebrew in transliteration.
- Vocabulary development (from readings and the “common root” frequency list in The Vocabulary Guide to Biblical Hebrew (M.V. Van Pelt and G.D. Pratico).
- Situating BH within its linguistic environment (West Semitic, later forms of the language)
- Dating BH (diachronic features)
- Verbal system (tense and aspect)
- Word order variations
- Syntax above clause level

Requirements:

- Review essay on problems in Hebrew grammar (10-15 pages). Choice of topics are: tense and aspect in the verbal system; diachronic features of BH (40%). Further instructions will be given in class.

- Mid-term exam on required Hebrew texts, lecture topics and vocabulary (25%). Note: for the mid-term, there will be a transliteration exercise.
• Final exam on required Hebrew texts, lecture topics, readings and vocabulary (25%). Note: for the final, students will be required to produce (or recite) a text of their choice in Hebrew (minimum 10 verses).

• Readings (5%)

• In keeping with an interactive/seminar format, active student participation is expected (5%)
Assignment: learn Hebrew consonants and vowels in transliteration (cf. *SBL Handbook of Style*)
Recommended reading: ch. 2 in Young, *Diversity in Pre-Exilic Hebrew*

**Week 2 (8, 10 Feb)**
Topic: Diachrony (part 1)
Text: Ex 12 (51 verses)
Readings: SB chs 3, 4; chs. 1, 3 in Young, *Diversity*

**Week 3 (15, 17 Feb)**
Topic: Diachrony (part 2)
Texts: Ex 15:1-21; Lev 16 (34 verses)
Reading: Ch. 5 in Young, *Diversity*
(continue reading SB until completed by end of reading week)
Assignments: Select paper topic during reading week; begin preparing for midterm on March 1

**READING WEEK (22, 24 Feb)**

**Week 4 (1, 3 March)**
Topic: Hebrew verb: tense and aspect (part 1)
Texts: Deut 8-9 (49 verses)

**MIDTERM EXAM ON TUESDAY 1 MARCH (90 minutes)**
(includes Van Pelt vocabulary list p 91-112)

**Week 5 (8, 10 March)**
Topic: Hebrew verb: tense and aspect (part 2): other solutions
Texts: 1 Kgs 12-13 (67 verses)

**Week 6 (15, 17 March)**
Topic: Word order
Texts: Neh 8-9 (56 verses)
Readings: chs 1-3, in A. Moshavi, *Word Order in the Biblical Hebrew Finite Clause*

**READING WEEK (22, 24 March)**
Week 7 (March 29, 31)
Topic: Derived conjugations
Texts: Neh 10, 13 (70 verses)

Week 8 (5, 7 April)
Topic: Syntax of Hebrew poetry
Text: Isa 56-57 (33 verses)
Reading: A. Nicacci, specific article TBD

Week 9 (12, 14 April)
Topic: Relationship between syntax and structure in poetry (and prose)
Texts: Isa 58-59 (35 verses)

Week 10 (19, 21 April)
Topic: How to integrate advanced concepts of grammar in preaching and teaching
Texts: Isa 60-61 (33 verses)

Final exam: Thursday 28 April (90 minutes)
Includes: Hebrew composition; Van Pelt vocabulary list p 113-137
Paper: Monday May 9
Paper (for May 2011 Graduates): Friday April 29

Bibliography (preliminary)


Peckham, B. “Tense and Mood in Biblical Hebrew” *ZAH* 1997

