OT 626 Exegesis of Genesis
Spring 2013
Thursdays 2:00pm—5:00pm

Instructor: Carol M. Kaminski
Office hours: TBA

Provisional Course Outline

1. 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 the Old Testament. This will be achieved through weekly translation exercises, word studies and exegetical questions (Gordon-Conwell Mission Statement #1—2).

The secondary objective of this course is to introduce students to the content and theology of the book of Genesis in preparation for teaching and preaching. This will be achieved through a detailed exegetical analysis of key chapters in Genesis. Focus will be given to theological issues arising from the text, with an emphasis on how Genesis contributes to redemptive history (Gordon-Conwell Mission Statement #1—2).

2. Required Textbooks:
   Note: If you do not already have the standard Hebrew Bible, (Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia), you will probably want to purchase it as well since you will need this Bible long term. However, for this class we will be using A Reader’s Hebrew Bible. 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.
2. Pelt, Miles van, and G. Pratico, The Vocabulary Guide to Biblical Hebrew (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003). Another Hebrew Vocabulary book would also be fine, such as Mitchel’s, A Student’s Vocabulary for Biblical Hebrew.

Note: if you do not have a Bible software program such as BibleWorks, Logos, or Gramcord/Accordance, you will need to purchase:

3. **Recommended Genesis Commentary:**
This commentary is not required, but you may want to purchase it since you are required to read 80 pages from it, and it is one of the best commentaries on Gen. 1—11. Two copies of the commentary will also be on the reserve shelf.

4. **Selective Bibliography:**
______, *The Theme of the Pentateuch* (JSOTSup, 10; Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1979).
_______, *From Noah To Israel: Realization of the Primaeval Blessing After the Flood* (JSOTSup 413; T&T Clark, 2004).
CASKET EMPTY: God’s Plan of Redemption through History. Old Testament Timeline (Casket Empty Media, 2010).


Williamson, P. R., Abraham, Israel and the Nations: The Patriarchal Promise and Its Covenantal Development in Genesis (JSOT 315; Sheffield Academic Press, 2000).


4. Hebrew Bible and Language Resources:


Botterweck, Ringgren, and Fabry, Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament
5. Hebrew Competency Exam:
A Hebrew competency exam is scheduled for the first day of class, Jan. 31. The exam will include vocabulary, parsing of verbs, and translation. The best way to prepare for this exam is to review your first year Hebrew grammar. You need to pass the exam in order to take the class for credit.

6. Course Requirements:
Hebrew Translation and In-Class Testing: As a 600-level Hebrew exegesis course, you will be required to translate approximately ten chapters of Hebrew from the book of Genesis, as per the schedule below. Each class will have time set aside for Hebrew translation. Several people will be called upon each week to translate one or two verses from the weekly translation. Please note that you are not allowed to use your computer for in-class Hebrew translation. This means that you will need to translate directly from A Reader’s Hebrew Bible or from a notebook or print-out of your translation, including any translation notes you may have. When you are called upon in class, you will be required to translate the verse(s), parse every verb, and answer basic Hebrew grammar questions. No grade will be assigned for this section; however, a 2-4 point deduction will be taken off your final grade for this course for one of the following reasons:
   a. failure to have completed the assigned translation prior to class.
   b. inadequate Hebrew translation in class.
**Hebrew Vocabulary:** Since you are allowed to make use of the vocabulary provided in RHB for the Hebrew translation exam, you are required to know all Hebrew words occurring at a frequency of 94 times or more (400 words according to van Pelt and Pratico, p. 22). Remember that you have already learnt many of these words in first year Hebrew. You will be tested on this Hebrew vocabulary (400 words) in two quizzes. The first quiz on words 1-200 is scheduled for **Thursday, March 7th**. The second quiz on words 1-400 is scheduled for **Thursday, May 2nd** (it is part of your final exam). The quizzes are worth 10% each.

**Hebrew Translation Exam:** all students are required to take a Hebrew translation exam which will comprise of the Hebrew translations that you have been doing each week (you are required to translate the texts and parse all verbs). No lexicons can be used, but vocabulary is provided which occurs in the footnotes of RHB. The translation exam is worth 30% of your final grade. It is scheduled for **Thursday, April 11**. (There will no lectures after the exam.)

**Final Exam:** all students are required to take a final exam which will entail a) vocabulary test, entailing words from among the list of 400 words (van Pelt, pp. 1—22); and b) one essay question on the theology of Genesis. Please note that two essays will be given in the exam, taken from the list of seven topics below (seven is a good biblical number!). You are permitted to choose which essay topic you would like to answer out of the two options. The final exam is worth 30% of your final grade (vocab quiz 2 worth 10%, essay on Genesis, worth 20%). The exam is scheduled for **Thursday, May 2nd**. Topics for essay questions are as follows:

1) The Fall: Sin and Its Consequences (Gen. 3-4)
2) The Theme of Sin, Judgment and Grace in Genesis
3) The Outworking of the Creation Mandate, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth” (Gen. 1:28; 9:1).
4) The Form and Function of Genealogies in Genesis, and the Toledot Structure
5) God’s Promises to Abraham: Their Content and Significance
6) The Abrahamic Covenant and Circumcision
7) Heir of the Promises to Abraham: Slave or Son?

**Hebrew Competency:** In 600 and 700 level Hebrew exegesis courses, you are required to show competency in the Hebrew language. If you do not demonstrate Hebrew competency (evaluated through in-class translation, Hebrew translation exam, Hebrew vocabulary knowledge, and Hebrew grammar in your paper), you will not be given a passing grade (even if you pass the course according to your grade point average).
See the GCTS Catalog: “At both the OT 600 and OT 700 levels, competency 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” (p. 88).

Word Studies: Students are required to complete the Hebrew word studies (as per the schedule below) before each class. Several students will be called upon in class each week to discuss your word study. Word studies will not be graded (and you do not need to submit them; nor do they need to be written up formally), but failure to have completed the word study when called upon in class will result in a 2-3 point deduction off your final grade.

Commentary and Selected Readings:
Since emphasis has been placed on Hebrew acquisition in this course, only minimal reading requirements on Genesis have been assigned. The following readings are required for the course:
4. Stuart, D., Old Testament Exegesis (not to be read in its entirety, but consulted when writing your exegesis paper).

You will be asked on your final exam to state what percentage of the required readings you have read. Failure to have completed the readings may result in a 1-2 point grade deduction.

Exegetical Paper: all students are required to submit an exegetical paper using the tools and methods taught in class. The exegetical paper is worth 30% of your final grade and is due on Thursday, March 28.

Format for the Exegetical Paper:
Each student is required to write a 15 page (no more than 15 pages is permitted) exegesis paper, double spaced, with footnotes. Sample papers will be on the reserve shelf in the library. You can select any passage from the book of Genesis, provided it is not one that we have discussed in-depth in class. You should choose no more than 5-6 verses. You are required to do a minimum of five Hebrew word studies in your paper, but they are not to be words already done in class.

- Do not make your outline a formal outline with subordinated letters and numbers. Rather, simply label each step with the following headings (consult Stuart, Old Testament Exegesis, pp. 65-76, and the book as a whole):
1) **Text and Translation**: a) Begin with the Hebrew Text at the top of the page using RHB, but include footnotes commenting on the textual variants (you will need to use the critical apparatus in BHS); b) the Hebrew text is to be immediately followed by your own translation, which should include footnotes noting how English Bibles translate the passage (e.g. NIV, NRSV, NASB) and reasons for your translation.

2) **Grammatical and Lexical Data**: Include in this section five Hebrew word studies and a verse-by-verse analysis of the grammar (consult several Hebrew grammars, such as Jouon, Gesenius, Waltke).

3) **Form and Structure**: Identify briefly the genre of your passage (e.g. whether it is narrative, poetic, a wisdom saying, prophetic, etc.), and note any structural elements that are evident in your passage.

4) **Literary-Historical Context**: Locate your passage in the book as a whole, noting where the passage occurs according to its literary context and why this is significant for interpretation. In this section you will also provide information about the historical context of the passage, including providing a date for your text. One paragraph (or two if it is controversial) will also need to be devoted to the authorship of your passage, discussing scholarly views and how they impact issues such as authorship and historical context for your passage. You will want to interact with commentaries and articles, discussing any debated issues and important historical background information.

5) **Biblical-Theological Context**: Make note of important theological issues arising from the text and how your passage contributes theologically to our understanding of key aspects of the faith. Note if the passage is cited elsewhere in the Bible and how this contributes to our understanding of the passage.

6) **Application**: In this section you will provide a description of how the passage is to be applied in a local church context.

7) **Bibliography**: It is expected that you will consult major commentaries and scholarly work on the passage, as well as key articles related to your passage.

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**Plagiarism**: Be aware that the seminary has a strict policy on plagiarism (see the Student Handbook). Be certain to footnote all sources used, giving credit where credit is due. If I find that you have not adequately cited sources, you will automatically receive a Fail grade for the paper and it will be returned to you. For further information on what constitutes plagiarism, see the following website: [www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/plagiarism.html](http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/plagiarism.html)

**Due date**: The paper is due on **Thursday, March 28**. It is to be submitted to the mailroom by 4:00pm (Kaminski Box #255), or it can be placed outside my office (AC#136) in the box provided by 4:00pm. Please note that a **hard copy** of your paper is required (no electronic copies). Late penalties will apply, except in the case of special circumstances (eg. personal illness, bereavement etc.). If you are away (due to Reading Week), you can mail a hard copy to me at the seminary, but it needs to be postmarked by this date.

**Cell Phones**: Please turn off all cell phones before class.

**Internet use**: (whether on a phone or computer) is prohibited during class, but is permissible during breaks.
Provisional Lecture Outline at a Glance:

Thurs. Jan 31  Wk 1: Hebrew Competency Exam
Introduction to the Course and Genesis
Introduction to Hebrew Exegesis

Thurs. Feb 7  Wk 2: The Creation Story
Genesis 1:1—2:3
 отметка  Be prepared to translate Gen. 1:1-5, 26-28; 5:1-3

Thurs. Feb 14  Wk 3: Adam’s disobedience and God’s judgment
Genesis 2—3; Rom. 5
 отметка  Be prepared to translate Gen. 3:1-16

Thurs. Feb 21  Wk 4: Reading Week

Thurs. Feb 28  Wk 5: Sin, Judgment and Divine Grace
Gen. 6—8
 отметка  Be prepared to translate Gen. 3:17-24; 6:1-8

Thurs. March 7  Wk 6: Hebrew vocabulary quiz (words 1—200)
Realization of the Primeval Blessing
Gen. 9—11
 отметка  Be prepared to translate Gen. 9:1, 18-19; 11:1-9

Thurs. March 14  Wk 7: God’s Promises to Abraham and his “seed”
Gen. 12 and Gen 15.
 отметка  Be prepared to translate Gen. 12:1-3; 15:1-6

Thurs. March 21  Wk 8: The Abrahamic Covenant and Circumcision
Gen. 15, 17, and Rom. 4.
 отметка  Be prepared to translate Gen. 17:1-22

Thurs. March 28  Wk 9: Reading Week
 отметка  Exegesis paper due by 4:00pm

Thurs. April 4  Wk 10: Who will be an Heir: A Slave or a Son?
Gen. 16, 18, 21; Rom. 9 and Gal. 4
 отметка  Be prepared to translate Gen. 18:10-15; 21:8-13

Thurs. April 11  Wk11: Hebrew Translation Exam

Thurs. April 18  Wk 12: Divine Grace in the Patriarchal narratives
Gen. 12—50

Thurs. April 25  Wk 13: Overview of other key stories in Genesis.
Review of the major themes of Genesis

Thurs. May 2  отметка Final Exam: two parts:
1. Hebrew vocabulary (words 1—400) . 2. Genesis Essay
Provisional Course Schedule

Week 1: Thursday January 31
- **Hebrew Competency Exam**
- Introduction to the Course
- Introduction to Hebrew Exegesis

Homework to be completed before next class:
- Translate Gen. 1:1-5, 26-28; 5:1-3
- Start learning Hebrew vocabulary.

Week 2: Thursday February 7
- Introduction to Genesis
  - The *Toledot* Structure of Genesis
  - The Creation Story (Gen. 1:1—2:3)

Be prepared to translate Gen. 1:1-5, 26-28; 5:1-3

Homework to be completed before next class:
- Translate Genesis 3:1-16
- Review Hebrew vocabulary.

Week 3: Thursday February 14
- Adam’s disobedience and God’s judgment
- Genesis 2—3; Rom. 5, 7

Be prepared to translate Genesis 3:1-16

Homework to be completed before next class:
- Translate Genesis 3:17-24; 6:1-8
- Closer Look: Do a word study on the Hebrew word הָלַכַּה, “to blot out” (Gen. 6:7).
- Exegetical Question: What does the Hebrew word הָלַכַּה mean? Give concrete examples from the OT that illustrate the meaning of this verb.

Week 4: Thursday February 21
- Reading Week

- Review Hebrew vocabulary.

Week 5: Thursday February 28
- Sin, Judgment and Divine Grace

Be prepared to translate Gen. 3:17-24; 6:1-8
Homework to be completed before next class:
- Translate Genesis 9:1, 18-19; 11:1-9
- Review Hebrew vocabulary.
- Closer Look: Do a word study (in Genesis only) on the term הָרֹאשׁ, ‘to be fruitful’ (Gen. 9:1).

Exegetical Question: How is the verb הָרֹאשׁ being used in Genesis? What do you notice about the different forms of this verb?

Week 6: Thursday March 7

Hebrew vocabulary quiz (words 1—200)
- Realization of the Primeval Blessing
- Genesis 9—11
- Be prepared to translate Genesis 9:1, 18-19; 11:1-9
- Homework to be completed before next class:
  - Translate Genesis 12:1-3; 15:1-6
  - Review Hebrew vocabulary.
  - Closer Look: Do a word study (in Genesis only) on the Hebrew word הָרֹאשׁ, “seed” (Gen. 17:7).
  - Exegetical Question: When God makes promises to Abraham and his “seed”, who is God referring to?

Week 7: Thursday March 14

- God’s Promises to Abraham and his “seed”
- Genesis 12, 15
- Be prepared to translate Gen. 12:1-3; 15:1-6
- Homework to be completed before next class:
  - Translate Genesis 17:1-22
  - Exegetical Question: Given that Ishmael is circumcised (Gen.17:23), does this mean that he is part of the Abrahamic covenant (but see Gen. 17:18-21)? How do you make sense of this?

Week 8: Thursday March 21

- The Abrahamic Covenant and Circumcision
- Genesis 15, 17, and Rom. 4.
- Be prepared to translate Gen. 17:1-22
- Homework to be completed before next class:
  - Translate Genesis 18:10-15; 21:8-13
  - Review Hebrew vocabulary.
Week 9: Thursday March 28

Reading Week

Exegesis paper due by 4:00pm

Week 10: Thursday April 4

- Who will be an Heir: A Slave or a Son?
- Genesis 18, 21, Rom. 9 and Gal. 4.
- Be prepared to translate Gen. 18:10-15; 21:8-13

Week 11: Thursday April 11

Hebrew Translation Exam (No lectures after exam.)

Homework to be completed before next class:

- Review essay topics in preparation for final exam.
- Review Hebrew vocabulary.

Week 12: Thursday April 18

- Divine Grace in the Patriarchal Narratives
- Gen. 12—50

Week 13: Thursday April 25

- Overview of other key stories in Genesis.
- Review of major themes in Genesis.
- Gen. 12—50

Homework to be completed before next class:

- Review for final exam!

Final Exam: Thursday May 2

- Hebrew vocabulary (1—400 words) and essay question.