GORDON-CONWELL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
OT 637 Exegesis in Conquest Narratives
M-F 1pm-4 pm
Summer Session II 2011
Class times: June 20-24; 27-30
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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The primary objective of the course is to foster Hebrew language and exegetical skills necessary for the interpretation of the Old Testament. This will be achieved through translation and exegetical exercises in Hebrew narrative. Lectures will also introduce the theological motifs of conquest texts and provide the historical context in which these events took place. The course covers the following topics:

• Exegetical steps. How to interpret Hebrew narrative texts.
• Historical context. How conquest texts fit within the environment of the Late Bronze Age/Iron I and early Iron II periods.
• Theological context. How Yahweh’s character is revealed in these texts and how this formative period in Israelite history relates to the rest of the Old Testament and the New Testament.
• Practical context. Developing skills to relate OT Hebrew narratives to practical ministry

Additional notes:

• This syllabus may be subject to change upon notice
• Course documents (handouts, Powerpoints, etc.) will be available on Cams. It is the student’s responsibility to check 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.
II. Required Textbooks

- *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*.
- One or two articles to be posted on Cams.

III. Recommended Texts


IV. Hebrew Competency Exam

All 600-Level students are required to take a Hebrew competency exam. This exam will be on the first day of class. No particular preparation is required, except to review your Hebrew (from first-year instruction and 600-level exegesis). It is necessary to pass this exam to continue in the course.

V. Course Requirements

*Mid-Term and Final Tests* (40%):

**Part I:** Translation and parsing (with exegetical comments) of a set text covered in class (no lexicon allowed).

**Part II:** Identification and short essay questions based on the required readings (including the glossary = a list of terms from Murphy) and materials covered in class.

*Mid-Term Test (90 minutes): Monday June 27*

*Final Test (90 minutes): Tuesday July 5*

*Hebrew Exegesis Paper Outline* (50% of course grade): This paper (approx. 25 pages) must be based on the Hebrew text. A choice of passages from the corpus of Joshua/Judges and 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*.

**DUE DATE: July 15, 4pm**
Readings (5%): Students will need to provide a statement with the percentage of readings completed.

Class Participation (5%): Students need to come to class prepared to discuss (= read, parse, comment on exegetical steps) assigned texts.

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.

VI. Preparation Before First Class

- Review First-Year Hebrew
- Read Genesis, Exodus, Numbers, Joshua, Judges, 1, 2 Samuel in translation

VII. Class Schedule

Monday June 20 “Introduction”
- Hebrew competency exam
- The Big Picture
- Exegesis: Text Criticism
- Begin reading Gundry
- Begin reading Brotzman

Tuesday June 21 “Promised Land”
- Gen 15
- Exegesis: Translation
- Discussion: Abraham’s justification

Wednesday June 22 “First Fruit of Conquest”
- Num 21
- Exegesis: Grammar and Syntax
- “Arad” PDF on Cams (in Dict of the OT: Historical Books)
- Van der Merwe PDF on Cams
- Discussion: The meaning of the Bronze Serpent

Thursday June 23 “Deuteronomic Imperative”
- Josh 1
- Exegesis: Lexical data
- Discussion: The demands of Sinaitic Law
Friday June 24 “Salvation”
• Josh 2
• Introduction and ch 1 in Hess
• Exegesis: Structure
• Discussion: Salvation in the Old Testament

NOTE: deadline to choose a pericope is Today!

Monday June 27 “Judgment”
• Mid-Term Test (90 minutes)
• Josh 6 (cf. Hess)
• Exegesis: Old Testament Context
• PDF essay on early Israel in Canaan
• Discussion: The Bible and Archaeology

Tuesday June 28 “Accommodation”
• Judg 2 (cf. Block)
• Exegesis: Cultural Context
• PDF on Ancient Near Eastern Covenants
• Discussion: Canaanization and the Church

Wednesday June 29 “Shifting Identities”
• Judg 11 (cf. Block)
• Exegesis: New Testament Context
• Discussion: Jephthah: hero of the faith (Heb 11:32)

Thursday June 30 “Conquest of Zion”
• 2 Sam 5
• Exegesis: Theological Context
• Discussion: the relationship between exegesis and theology

Friday July 1 NO CLASS

Tuesday July 5
• Final Test (90 minutes)

Exegesis Paper due at 4pm Friday July 15
VIII. BIBLICAL HEBREW SELECT REFERENCE BIBLIOGRAPHY

Dictionaries/Concordances


Hebrew Grammar


**Hebrew Vocabulary**


**Hebrew Text**


**Hebrew Narrative**


**IX. JOSHUA/JUDGES SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY**


Dever, W.G. *Who were the Israelites and Where did they Come from?* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.


----. *Kingdom Prologue.* 1993.


