OL 910  Intermediate Hebrew Grammar

Syllabus        Fall, 2013     Mondays 2-5 PM        Prof. Stuart     Office: Library, Rm. 122

[office hours M through Th 9:45-11:00; quick questions anytime; office 978-646-4095; home: 372-7411; drdstuart@gmail.com]

Syllabus subject to adjustment. When adjustments are made to this syllabus they will be announced as early as possible to the class.

General purposes: This course features a systematic and historical treatment of Hebrew grammar, emphasizing syntax and vocabulary at the intermediate level, while also incorporating a review of some elements of first-year Hebrew and exposure to narrative, poetical and prophetic material. Pre-requisite: OL 502.

The course is designed to be helpful to and not beyond the reach of students who have had no other Hebrew than OL 501-502 or the equivalent, while at the same time offering interest to those students who intend to specialize in biblical studies and perhaps go on for doctoral-level study in Hebrew. In other words, it will not be so advanced as to be incomprehensible to the prospective pastor who takes the course in order to solidify his/her knowledge of Hebrew, and not so elementary that it fails to address difficult Hebrew constructions and idioms as they are encountered.

It is not a rapid-reading course, but an opportunity to look at entire chapters of Hebrew text with a view to understanding the basic grammatical features evidenced in the various passages in order to develop an ability to do grammatical analysis for the purpose of aiding proper interpretation of the text.

Grading: There will be a regular pattern of weekly quizzes. The final quiz will occur during the time set for the “final exam” by the Registration Office. If the class as a whole does well on the first few quizzes you may be offered the opportunity to have your lowest quiz grade ignored for purposes of grade computation. There is no term paper and there is no composition into Hebrew except with regard to writing out forms on quizzes and the final exam. Important: Your Hebrew must be legible enough for the professor to read if credit is to be given for what you write. Grading scale: 0-59.9 F; 60-69.9 D; 70-79.9 C; 80-89.9 B; 90-100 A.

Approximately 120-150 hours of study will be required for the average student in the course to earn a grade of B. Class participation is worth up to 10% of the final grade, regardless of a student’s quiz average.

Special Note on translation: Weekly quizzes contain translation portions in which you must be careful to translate words in context. You cannot merely memorize the English meaning of a word that might be appropriate only in another context and use it in your translation of the context assigned. Proof of grammar accuracy is displayed partly via translation precision. Because you find a meaning for a word in a dictionary does not mean that it can be given credit as the meaning of that word in a selected passage from the OT.

Texts:
Required:

Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia [BHS is the standard for class reference and for quiz texts, and it is the current standard for world-wide Hebrew scholarship. Purchasing a copy is a good investment.]

Recommended [note that several of these are regularly referenced in the required grammar]:
Class assignments: For each class there are three things to prepare: (1) the syntax assignment, using Williams; (2) the vocabulary assignment, which will be provided to you; (3) the Hebrew assignment, using the BHS text. For each class come prepared to translate, parse, and analyze anything in the Hebrew text assignment to the best of your ability. Most classes start with a quiz. The quizzes will typically include three parts: (a) define several vocabulary words; (b) identify syntactical categories of selected Williams terms and examples; (c) translate and parse part of the previous week’s Hebrew reading assignment.

The first three classes are slightly less demanding in order to help allow students to bring back their control of Hebrew. Remaining classes proceed at a somewhat faster, harder pace.

Class Schedule

M, Sept 9   Class #1 Micah 1:1-7; Introduction to course and some Hebrew grammar issues, etc.
M, Sept 16  Class #2 Micah 1:8-16; Vocab list A (see on-line course documents); Williams §1-§30
M, Sept 23  Class #3 Micah 2:1-9; Vocab list B; Williams §31-§60; QUIZ
M, Sept 30  Class #4 Micah 2:10-3:7; Vocab list C; Williams §61-§105; QUIZ
M, Oct  7   Class #5 Micah 3:8-4:5; Vocab list D; Williams §106-§156; QUIZ
[M, Oct 14  READING WEEK ASSIGNMENT; Williams § 238-308]
M, Oct 21  Class #6 Micah 4:6-5:2; Vocab list E; Williams §157-§191; QUIZ
M, Oct 28  Class #7 Micah 5:3-14; Vocab list F; Williams §192-§237; QUIZ
M, Nov  4   Class #8 Micah 6:1-12; Vocab list G; Williams §482-§517; QUIZ
[M, Nov 11  READING WEEK ASSIGNMENT: Williams §309-§481]
M, Nov 18  Class #9 Micah 6:13-7:10; Vocab list H; Williams §518-§555; QUIZ
M, Nov 25  Class #10 Micah 7:11-20; Vocab list I; Williams §556-§598; QUIZ
M, Dec 2    Review Session
M, Dec 9 (?) FINAL EXAM 1:00 PM (see seminary final exam schedule for date and time)
LATE WORK/EXTENSIONS up to 4:00 PM on last day for written work:
Basic concept: fairness to those who make the sacrifices to get their work in on time, not a desire to hurt anyone. Fairness requires that everyone have essentially the same amount of time to complete the assignments.

• True unavoidable emergency, including illness: no penalty as long as simple written request is made and approved and lateness does not exceed actual time lost by reason of the emergency.
• Late work otherwise: 1/2 grade per 1/2 week or portion thereof for a quiz taken late.

Note: There is no automatic right to taking a quiz you have missed as a result of your own choice, and no automatic right to take it at a time of your choosing. You must petition the Registration Office to reschedule the final exam (not always granted).

Late work after the last day for submission of written work cannot be accepted by the professor. You must petition the Registration Office for an extension, and if it is approved, you must then submit your completed late work directly to the Registration Office, which will send it to me. Warning: the Registration Office can assign heavy penalties for unexcused late work.