Course Description:

Students who have completed at least one term of Hebrew are introduced to the tools and methods of Old Testament exegesis. It is the counterpart to Interpreting the New Testament (NT 502). In addition, the course serves as a general introduction to Old Testament critical issues.

Course Objectives:

At the end of the course students should be able to:

- Perform individual steps of exegesis in Hebrew narrative. This objective will be met through class lectures, workshops, and weekly exegetical assignments.

- Understand the independent yet dependent nature of interpreting the text. We will strain ourselves to wrestle with meaning (interpretive fruit) by careful observation of the text. In this way the process starts off independently. But we will also see the dependent nature of the process by reading secondary sources (commentaries and articles) and evaluating their contribution to our passage (s).

- Assess and interact with OT critical issues. This objective will be met through assigned readings and class lectures with a view to strengthening one’s commitment to the Scripture as the Word of God.

Course Relationship to the Curriculum

OT 511 is a required course for M.Div. students as well students pursuing an M.A. in Old Testament. This class assumes at least one term of Biblical Hebrew (prerequisite: OL 501/Hebrew I) and should be taken in conjunction with Hebrew II (corequisite: OL 502 /Hebrew II). It further serves as a prerequisite for all Hebrew exegesis classes.

Required Readings:


**Recommended but only on Reserve:**


**Course Evaluation:**

Final Exam: all course readings and lectures (40%)

Seven Exegetical Exercises (60%)

1. big picture of the book assignment (main idea/themes, historical setting)
2. literary context assignment
3. analysis of a text-critical problem (intro. level) + translation
4. lexical and grammatical/syntactical assignment
5. structural and narrative art assignment
6. biblical/cultural/theological assignment
7. application exercise

**NOTE:** I reserve the right to change anything on this syllabus, at any time, should I deem it necessary for the completion of the course goals.
OT 511: Course Schedule: subject to change at my discretion!

**BBHE** = Basics of Biblical Hebrew: An Integrative Approach  
**TOT** = Text of Old Testament  
**OTTC** = Old Testament Textual Criticism (on reserve not assigned)  
**IBI** = Introduction to Biblical Interpretation  
**OROT** = On the Reliability of the Old Testament

**For Sept 10th write out & turn in a burning question(s) you need/want to have answered as it pertains to interpreting the OT (required)!**

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<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings and Assignments</th>
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| 1     | Wed. Sept. 10 | Course introduction & overview  
On the Reliability of the Received Text | For today write out and turn in a burning question(s) you need/want to have answered as it pertains to interpreting the OT (required).  
Read **TOT**: But read in this order  
First read pp. 1-44  
Second read pp. 105-119  
Third read pp. 50-104  
Read **IBI** pp. 120-125 |
| 2     | Wed. Sept. 17 | TC assignment & translation instructions/initial translation/demo | Read **BBHE** section on TC  
Read Chapter 8  
**OTTC** pp.136-166 (on reserve)  
Read Ezra (1x) in English |
| 3     | Wed. Sept. 24 | TC assignment and translation continued          | Read Carson and Blomberg (CAMS)  
Work on TC assignment; to help with this:  
Read **BBHE** section on TC; |
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<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Texts and Assignments</th>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Wed. Oct. 1</td>
<td>Presuppositions about Received Text&lt;br&gt;Attacks on the Text: On the Reliability of the OT&lt;br&gt;TC assignment due&lt;br&gt;Read <em>OROT</em> see attached sheet for what to read</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Wed. Oct. 8</td>
<td>Interpreting a Reliable Text&lt;br&gt;Overview of OT exegetical method&lt;br&gt;Big Picture book/demo &amp; Situating a passage within a book (literary context)&lt;br&gt;Read <em>IBI</em> pp. 169-201&lt;br&gt;Read all of <em>BBHE</em>&lt;br&gt;Read <em>IBI</em> pp. 229-239 &amp; <em>GCTS</em> Article #1/commentary&lt;br&gt;Read <em>IBI</em> pp. 213-229&lt;br&gt;Read <em>BBHE</em> on this section</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Wed. Oct. 15</td>
<td>READING WEEK #1&lt;br&gt;Work on BP and Literary assignments</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Wed. Oct. 22</td>
<td>Structure and Narrative art&lt;br&gt;Features of Hebrew narrative &amp; OT Narrative Genres/Observing the text&lt;br&gt;BP and Literary assignment due&lt;br&gt;Read <em>IBI</em> pp. 323-340</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Wed. Oct. 29</td>
<td>Lexical and key word analysis; Translation issues&lt;br&gt;Grammatical analysis demo&lt;br&gt;Structure and narrative art assignment, and observation list due&lt;br&gt;Read <em>IBI</em> pp. 240-256; 257-272&lt;br&gt;Read <em>BBHE</em> on these sections</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Wed. Nov. 5</td>
<td>The passage in its biblical/cultural/theological&lt;br&gt;Final Translation &amp; Lexical &amp;</td>
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setting:
OT Context (ANE Context)
NT Context
How to make legitimate connections:
Demo

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<td>Wed. Nov. 12</td>
<td>READING WEEK</td>
<td>WORKING WEEK #2</td>
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<td>Wed. Nov. 19</td>
<td>ANE Context Application and Contextualization</td>
<td>Biblical/Theological assignment due</td>
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<td>Wed. Nov. 26</td>
<td>A sample sermon to illustrate/evaluate</td>
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<td>Wed. Dec. 3</td>
<td>Methodological review</td>
<td>Application assignment due</td>
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14. Week of Dec. 8th (Final Exam: Dec 10th)

Helpful Notes:

What Hebrew Texts will we utilize? The book of Ezra will be our laboratory example for most of the exercises pertaining to narrative. We will largely confine ourselves to chapter one, though not exclusively. By confining ourselves to a chapter in one book, we reinforce methodology allowing for a consistent interpretive picture to emerge.

Can I prepare in advance for the final exam? Yes. The most obvious way to do this is making certain you read the books assigned for the class. However, please read according to the class schedule as outlined above, rather than cramming in these readings during the second reading week! You will be robbed of the full value of this course and its intentional design if you do not discipline yourself to read on a weekly basis.

The next way to prepare in advance for the exam is to read intelligently. I will provide you with a list of questions for each textbook that will help you to read intelligently. The questions are a way to make sure you are gleaning what is necessary as you read.