OT 626 Exegesis of Genesis
Fall 2014
Fridays, 8:00am—11:00am

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 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 RHB. 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 (you may also use BHS).


Note: if you do not have a Bible software program such as BibleWorks, Logos, or Gramcord/Accordance, you will need to purchase: Wigram, G.V., The Englishman’s Hebrew Concordance of the Old Testament (Broadman Press, 1980).
3. Highly 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).
   , Was Noah Good? Finding Favour in the Flood Narrative (2014,
LHBOTS, T&T Clark).

4. **Hebrew Bible and Language Resources:**
Brown, F., S. Driver, C. Briggs eds. *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old*
5. Hebrew Competency Exam:
A Hebrew competency exam is scheduled for the first day of class, Sept. 12. 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), parses the 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 Friday, Oct 24 (followed by class). The second quiz on words 1-400 will take place during the final exam week, along with 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 all the weekly Hebrew translations (you are required to translate the texts and parse all verbs, and make grammatical comments). 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 Friday, November 21. (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. You are permitted to choose which essay topic you would like to answer out of the two options. The essay is worth 20% of your final grade, and the vocabulary quiz (#2) is worth 10% of your final grade. The expectation is that you will discuss the Hebrew text in your essay. The exam is scheduled during final exam week (Dec 15-19). 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).

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 2-3 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 Monday, December 8th.

Format for the Exegetical Paper:

Each student is required to write a 17-20 page exegesis paper (do not exceed 20 pages), double spaced, with footnotes and a bibliography. 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 Analysis: This section entails a verse-by-verse analysis of the grammar (consult several Hebrew grammars, such as Jouon, Gesenius, Waltke).
3) Lexical Analysis: Include in this section five Hebrew word studies.
3) **Form:** Identify in one brief paragraph the genre of your passage (e.g., whether it is narrative, poetic, a wisdom saying, prophetic, etc.).

5) **Structural and Literary analysis:** Provide a brief analysis of the structure of your passage, giving attention to the Hebrew narrative sequence. Locate your passage in the book as a whole, noting where the passage occurs according to its literary context (and toledot structure) and why this is significant for interpretation.

6) **Historical Context:**
   In this section you will provide information about the historical context of the passage, including assigning the time period for your passage, where possible. Several paragraphs will need to be devoted the authorship of your passage, discussing scholarly views and how they impact issues such as authorship and historical context of Genesis. You will want to interact with commentaries and articles, discussing any debated issues and important historical background information.

7) **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.

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

9) **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. The bibliography is to be included in your page limit.

   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 to be submitted **electronically** by **Monday, December 8th** at 6:00pm, sent to kaminski@gordonconwell.edu. When emailing your paper, give your name and the title of the course as the subject line. Please include your box number on the cover page of your essay. Late penalties will apply, except in the case of special circumstances (eg. personal illness, bereavement etc.).

**Mentored Ministry:**
If you are doing Mentored Ministry this semester, I would recommend that you preach on the passage you are working on for your exegesis paper. Alternatively, you could do a Bible study on the book of Genesis, highlighting some of the key themes which we are covering in class.

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Wk</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Translation Required</th>
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| Friday Sept 12 | Wk 1 | Hebrew Competency Exam  
Introduction to the Course and Genesis  
Review of Hebrew Exegesis | [Gen. 1:1—2:3; 5:1-3](#)  
*Be prepared to translate Gen. 1:1-5, 26-28; 2:1-4, 15-18; 5:1-3* | ![](#) |
| Friday Sept 19 | Wk 2 | The Creation Story  
Genesis 1:1—2:3; 5:1-3  
*Be prepared to translate Gen. 3:1-19* | ![](#) |
| Friday Sept 26 | Wk 3 | Adam’s disobedience and God’s judgment  
Genesis 2—3; Rom. 5  
*Be prepared to translate Gen. 3:1-19* | ![](#) |
| Friday Oct 3  | Wk 4 | Sin, Judgment and Divine Grace; the role of Noah  
Gen. 6—8  
*Be prepared to translate Gen. 6:1-13, 18, 22; 7:1; 8:20-21*  
Word study: **רחם**, “to blot out” (Gen. 6:7). | ![](#) |
| Friday Oct 10 | Wk 5 | Realization of the Primeval Blessing  
Gen. 9—11  
*Be prepared to translate Gen. 9:1-24* | ![](#) |
| Friday Oct 17 | Wk 6 | Reading Week (October 13-17) | ![](#) |
| Friday Oct 24 | Wk 7 | Hebrew translation and vocab test (words 1—200)  
God’s Promises to Abraham and his “seed”  
Word Study: **ברא**, “seed.”  
Gen. 12 and Gen 15. | ![](#) |
| Friday Oct 31 | Wk 8 | The Abrahamic Covenant and Circumcision  
Gen. 15, 17, and Rom. 4.  
*Be prepared to translate Gen. 17:1-22* | ![](#) |
| Friday Nov 7  | Wk 9 | Who will be an Heir: A Slave or a Son?  
Gen. 16, 18, 21; Rom. 9 and Gal. 4  
*Be prepared to translate Gen. 18:10-15; 21:1-14* | ![](#) |
| Friday Nov 14 | Wk 10 | Reading Week (November 10-14) | ![](#) |
| Friday Nov 21 | Wk 11 | Hebrew translation exam (on all texts) | ![](#) |
| Friday Nov 28  | Wk 12 | No Class. Thanksgiving. | ![](#) |
| Friday Dec 6  | Wk 13 | Overview of key texts in the patriarchal narratives | ![](#) |
| Monday Dec 8  | Exegesis paper due today by 6:00pm | | ![](#) |
| Friday Dec 12 | Wk 14 | Class presentations on exegesis papers. | ![](#) |
| TBA | Final Exam: two parts:  
1. Hebrew vocabulary (words 1—400)  
2. Genesis Essay | ![](#) |