I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The primary objective of the course is to develop skills to interpret poetical books from the perspective of the Hebrew text. In addition to building upon exegetical methodology learned at the 600-level, class times will be devoted to an examination of the poets’ main themes against their historical (when appropriate) and theological backdrop.

- Exegetical Process. How to interpret the Hebrew text of the poets.
- Setting. How the poets fit within the life and worship of Israel
- Practical context. Developing skills to preach and teach from OT Hebrew poetical texts.

Additional notes:
- Course documents (handouts, Powerpoints, etc.) will be available on Cams. It is the student’s responsibility to check Cams 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.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

J. Hartley, *The Book of Job* (NICOT, Eerdmans)
P. Craigie, M. Tate *Psalms 1-50* (Word Biblical Commentary, Word)
Highly recommended:
A. Berlin, *Dynamics of Hebrew Parallelism* (Eerdmans)
IV. HEBREW COMPETENCY EXAM

All 700-Level students are required to take a Hebrew competency exam that includes translation and parsing. The exam is scheduled for the first day of class.

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.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Mid-Term and Final Tests (50%):

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 and materials covered in class.

Hebrew Exegesis Paper (range 30 pages; 50% of course grade): 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. This is especially important for footnotes and bibliography.

Class Participation: Students need to come to class prepared to discuss (= read, parse, comment on exegetical steps) the assigned texts. Unexcused absences and absences beyond one week (equivalent of 3 hours of class) will result in a 5% grade penalty (in fairness to those who attend all the classes).

Readings:

- Select articles (to be posted on CAMS)
- The poets in translation (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs): read them for comprehension in one sitting (without [major] interruption). Consult Adler-Van Doren’s How to Read a Book for reading tips.
• Select readings in the required commentaries. Regarding Hartley and Craigie/Tate the expectation is that students will critically interact (not simply read) with the assigned sections of the commentaries.

Students need to submit a written report of the percentage of readings completed. Failure to read the required readings will result in 5% final grade penalty.

DUE DATES:
• Exegesis paper due: May 5. May Graduates: Consult Registration for your own deadlines.

VI. PREPARATION BEFORE FIRST CLASS

➢ Review 600-level texts Old Testament Exegesis (D. Stuart); Old Testament Textual Criticism (Brotzmann)
➢ Review First-year Hebrew grammar (for the competency exam)

VII. CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1 Jan 28/30
• Covenantal framework of Wisdom Literature
• Review of Method: grasping “The Big Picture of the Book” in Poetical books
• Hebrew competency exam
• Ps 1-2
• Reading on Sakai: T. D. Gordon, “Abraham and Sinai Contrasted”
• Optional reading: How to Read a Book (M. Adler and C. Van Doren)

Week 2 Feb 4/6
• Method: “Text Criticism and Translation of Wisdom poetry”
• Read Craigie/Tate “Introduction”
• Read A. Berlin “Parallelism” in the Anchor Bible Dictionary
• Ps 23; Ps 29

NOTE: choice of passage for the exegesis paper is due this week

Week 3 Feb 11/13
• Method: “Hebrew Syntax of Wisdom Poetry”
• Ps 51
• Read Ps 32 in translation
• Read Nicacci on Sakai
• Optional reading: Ps 32 in Hebrew
• Read Craigie/Tate pp. 369-414
Week 4 Feb 18/20  Reading Week: finish translating Ps 51

Week 5 Feb 25/27
  ● Method: “Lexical analysis of Wisdom Poetry”
  ● Ps 22
  ● Read Craigie/Tate pp. 415-472

Week 6 March 4/6
  Tuesday: Mid-Term Test (90 minutes)
  Thursday: Ps 48 (not included in the mid-term)

Week 7 March 11/13
  ● Method: “Structural analysis of wisdom Poetry”
  ● Job 19
  ● Read Hartley’s introduction
  ● Read I. Young on Sakai

Week 8 March 18/20 Reading week: work on exegesis paper

Week 9 March 25/27
  ● Method: “Poets in OT context”
  ● Job 31

Week 10 April 1/3
  ● Method: “Wisdom poetry in its ANE context
  ● Job 40:1-14
  ● Reading on Ugaritic poetry on Sakai

Week 11 April 8/10
  ● Job 40:15-25
  ● Method: “The Poets in NT context”

Week 12 April 15/17
  ● Job 42
  ● Method: “The Poets in Theological context”
  ● Read ch 2 “The Incomprehensible Righteousness of God” in D. Thomas, Calvin’s Teaching on Job (2004)

Week 13 April 22/24
Contextualizing and Applying Wisdom Literature: How not to teach and preach Wisdom literature

Week 14 Final exam (90 minutes): Check with registration for time

EXEGESIS PAPERS ARE DUE MAY 5 (pdf only); May Graduates: check with registration for your deadlines.

BIBLICAL HEBREW SELECT REFERENCE BIBLIOGRAPHY

Dictionaries/Concordances


Hebrew Grammar


**Hebrew Vocabulary**


**Hebrew Text**


**Poetry**


