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 Conquest 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 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.
II. REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS
- *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia.*
- T. Petter, *The Land Between the Two Rivers* (Eisenbrauns, 2014)

III. RECOMMENDED TEXTS
- *NIV Archaeological Study Bible* (Zondervan, 2005)

Note: Students who have not had OT 511 as a pre-requisite are strongly encouraged to read Brotzman or Wegner from the list of 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. For preparation, review your first-year Hebrew. It is necessary to pass this exam to continue in the course.

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 (including the glossary) and materials covered in class.

*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:** Friday July 12

*Readings:* In addition to specified readings (see schedule below), the expectation is that students will interact (not simply read) relevant sections of the assigned commentaries. There will be additional articles that will be posted on CAMS as required readings.
**Class Participation:** Students need to come to class prepared to read, parse and comment on the Hebrew grammar/syntax, lexical and structural components of the assigned texts. Note: Lack of preparation and attendance will affect course grade.

**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**

- Translate Numbers 21, Joshua 1 and Joshua 2 from the Hebrew
- Read *Show Them No Mercy*
- Read Genesis, Exodus, Numbers, Joshua, Judges, 1, 2 Samuel in translation

**VII. Class Schedule**

**Monday June 17 “Hebrew narrative Exegesis”**
- How to write a Hebrew exegesis paper
- Conquest Narratives: The Big Picture
- Hebrew competency exam
- Read *Land Between the Two Rivers* (xiii-xvii; chs 1-2)

**Tuesday June 18 “Herem Warfare”**
- Num 21:1-9
- Read *Land Between the Two Rivers* (ch 3)

**Wednesday June 19 “First Fruit of Conquest”**
- Num 21:10-35
- Read *Land Between the Two Rivers* (ch 4)

**Thursday June 20 “Deuteronomical Imperative”**
- Josh 1
- Introduction to narrative Hebrew syntax
- Readings on narrative syntax (Nicacci, Van Der Merwe, Cook on Sakai)

**NOTE:** deadline to choose a passage is today!

**Friday June 21 “Salvation”**
- Josh 2
- Read “Introduction” and ch 1 in Hess
Monday June 24  “Judgment”
  • Mid-Term Test (90 minutes)
  • Josh 6 (cf. Hess); Josh 11:16-20 (cf. Hess).
  • Readings on Jericho and the Date of the Conquest (Sakai)

Tuesday June 25  “Canaanization”
  • Judg 2 (cf. Butler)
  • Read Butler’s introduction
  • Discussion: Cultural accommodation

Wednesday June 26  “Early Israelite Identities (part I): Deborah, Jael and Barak”
  • Judg 4 (cf. Butler)
  • Read Judg 5 in translation several times (read Butler on Judges 5)

Thursday June 27  “Early Israelite Identities (part II): Jephthah”
  • Judg 11 (cf. Butler)
  • Discussion: OT vs NT identities

Friday June 28  “Toward Kingship”
  • 2 Sam 5:6-9 (this text is not included in the test)
  • Integration of Conquest Narratives in today’s contexts

Exegesis Paper due Friday July 12

VIII. BIBLICAL HEBREW SELECT REFERENCE BIBLIOGRAPHY

Dictionaries/Concordances


Hebrew Grammar


Cook, J. Time and the Biblical Hebrew Verb (Eisenbrauns, 2012)


Williams, R.J. Hebrew Syntax, an Outline.  2d ed.  Toronto: University of Toronto, 1976.
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.


Fokkelman, J.P. *Reading Biblical Narrative. An Introductory Guide*. Louisville:


Kline, M.G. Images of the Spirit. 1986.


