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 already 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 A Reader’s Hebrew Bible. 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.


3. Pelt, Miles van, and G. Pratico, The Vocabulary Guide to Biblical Hebrew (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003). Another Hebrew Vocabulary book would also be fine, such as Mitchel’s, A Student’s Vocabulary for Biblical Hebrew.
4. If you do not have a Bible software program such as BibleWorks, Logos, or Gramcord/Accordance, you will need to purchase:


3. **Recommended Genesis Commentary:**

Mathews, K. A., *Genesis 1-11:26* (NAC; Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1996). This commentary is not required, but you may want to purchase it since you are required to read 100 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. **Recommended Book for Exegetical Method:**


5. **Selective Bibliography:**


———, *The Theme of the Pentateuch* (JSOTSup, 10; Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1979).


Kaminski, C.M, From Noah To Israel: Realization of the Primaeval Blessing After the Flood (JSOTSUp 413; T&T Clark, 2004).


Williamson, P.R., Abraham, Israel and the Nations: The Patriarchal Promise and Its Covenantal Development in Genesis (JSOT 315; Sheffield Academic Press, 2000).


4. Hebrew Bible and Language Resources:


Botterweck, Ringgren, and Fabry, Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament (Eerdmans), 15+ volumes.


Wolde, Ellen van, ed., *Narrative Syntax and the Hebrew Bible* (Brill, 2002).

5. Hebrew Competency Exam:
A Hebrew competency exam is scheduled for the first day of class, Sept. 8th. 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:

公共交通
Hebrew Translation: 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. The first 40-45 minutes of each lecture will be devoted to Hebrew translation, which will be done in groups of 4-5 people. Failure to have completed the translations before class may result in a grade penalty. 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 print-out of your translation during the translation time done in groups (but RHB when being tested; see below).

公共交通
In-class Testing of Hebrew Translation: Several people will be called upon each week to translate one or two verses from the weekly translation using an unmarked copy of *A Reader’s Hebrew Bible* (supplied by professor). You are not allowed to use any translation notes for the in-class translation test, but you are allowed to make use of the vocabulary supplied in the footnotes of RHB when translating and any parsing helps that are provided in RHB. When you are called upon in class, you will be required to translate the verse(s), and parse every verb.
One of the following grades will be assigned for the in-class portion of Hebrew translation: A (superior), B (solid Hebrew), C (below average, but in progress), D (unsatisfactory translation, demonstrating lack of basic Hebrew), F (does not meet the Hebrew requirement). The in-class translation testing is **worth 10%** of your final grade.

**Hebrew Vocabulary:** Since you are allowed to make use of the vocabulary provided in RHB for the in-class translation and for the mid-term and final exams, you are required to know all Hebrew words occurring at a frequency of 79 times or more (450 words according to van Pelt and Pratico, p. 25). Remember that you have already learnt many of these words in first year Hebrew. You will be tested on this Hebrew vocabulary in the mid-term exam (first 250 words only) and in the final exam (450 words).

**Mid-term Exam:** all students are required to take a mid-term exam which will comprise of a) Hebrew translation and b) Hebrew vocabulary (first 250 words only). No lexicons can be used, but vocabulary is provided which occurs in the footnotes of RHB. The mid-term exam is **worth 20%** of your final grade.

**Final Exam:** all students are required to take a final exam which will entail: a) Hebrew translation of the set texts studied in class using RHB, with vocabulary provided from the footnotes of RHB, but a lexicon is not allowed; b) grammatical observations on specific texts discussed in class; c) vocabulary testing of words occurring 79 times or more (450 words); and d) one essay question on the theology of Genesis from one of the seven topics noted below. The final exam is **worth 40%** of your final grade. Topics for essay question:

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
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, mid-term and final exams, Hebrew grammar in your paper), you will not be given a passing grade (even if you pass the course according to your grade point).
Word Studies: Students are required to complete the Hebrew word studies (as per the schedule below) before each class. Failure to complete the word studies before class may result in a grade penalty. You will be asked in the final exam to state what percentage of the word studies you have completed.

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:
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 grade penalty.

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. The format for the exegesis paper is outlined below.

Format for the Exegetical Paper:
Each student is required to write a 15-20 page exegesis paper (double spaced) with footnotes. Sample papers will be on the reserve shelf in the library. You can select any passage from Genesis, provided we have not studied the passage 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 ("TACKLE" the Text):
  1) 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 (such as NIV, NRSV, NASB, etc.) and reasons for your translation where it differs.

2) **Authorship:** Discuss current views of the authorship of Genesis; show the biblical support for Mosaic authorship; summarize your view of authorship; include a possible date for writing of Genesis.

3) **Circumstances:** Outline briefly the historical circumstances of your passage, and provide an approximate date the events if possible.

4) **Key Words and Grammar:** Include in this section five Hebrew word studies and a verse-by-verse analysis of the grammar (consult several Hebrew grammars, such as Jouon, Gesenius, Waltke).

5) **Literary Context:** Locate your passage in the Genesis narrative, noting where the story occurs in the book, and any significance this may have for interpreting the passage.

6) **Explain the Text:** This section entails a verse by verse commentary on your passage based on your own exegetical work. You will want to interact with commentaries and articles in this section, discussing debated issues as well as insights from scholars on your passage. Include as final paragraph how you would apply this passage in the context of preaching.

7) **Bibliography:** It is expected that you will consult major commentaries on Genesis as well as a key articles related to your passage.

- Consult D. Stuart’s book, *Old Testament Exegesis*, to help you with the exegetical steps. Several of the headings are different, but the content is basically the same.

**Due date:** The paper is due on Monday November 24th. It is to be submitted to the mailroom by 3:00pm (Kaminski Box #255). Late penalties will apply, except in the case of special circumstances (e.g. personal illness, bereavement etc.).

**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)

**Class Attendance:** Please note that class attendance is required. If you miss more than two classes, you will not be able to take the class for credit.

**Mobile Phones:** Please turn off all mobile phones before class.

**Surfing the Web** is prohibited during class, but permissible during breaks.
### Provisional Lecture Outline at a Glance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Mond. Sept. 8 | **Hebrew Competency Exam**  
Introduction to the Course and Genesis |               |                                                                     |
| Mond. Sept. 15 | Hebrew Reading at Seminary and Beyond: *RHB*  
Review of Hebrew Parsing  
Introduction to Hebrew Exegesis |               | ✨ Be prepared to translate Gen. 1:26-28; 2:4-25                       |
| Mond. Sept. 22 | The Creator God—Yahweh Elohim  
Genesis 1:1—2:3 |               | ✨ Be prepared to translate Gen. 3:1-24                                |
| Mond. Sept. 29 | Life with God in the Garden  
Genesis 2—3; Rom. 5 |               | ✨ Be prepared to translate Gen. 4:1-17; 5:1-3                       |
| Mond. Oct. 6 | Sin, Judgment and Divine Grace  
Gen. 6—8 |               | ✨ Be prepared to translate Gen. 6:1-8; 12:1-20                       |
| Mond. Oct. 13 | **Reading Week** |               |                                                                     |
| Mond. Oct. 20 | Realization of the Primeval Blessing  
Gen. 9—11 |               | ✨ Be prepared to translate Gen. 15:1-21; 16:1-16                   |
| Mond. Oct. 27 | God’s Promises to Abraham and his “seed”  
Gen. 12, 17 and Gal. 3 |               | ✨ Be prepared to translate Gen. 17:1-27                           |
| Mond. Nov. 3 | The Abrahamic Covenant and Circumcision  
Gen. 15, 17 and Rom. 4 |               | ✨ Be prepared to translate Gen. 18:1-16                           |
| Mond. Nov. 10 | **Reading Week** |               |                                                                     |
| Mond. Nov. 17 | Who will be an Heir: A Slave or a Son?  
Gen. 15, 16, 18, 21; Rom. 9 and Gal. 4 |               | ✨ Be prepared to translate Gen. 21:1-21                           |
| Mond. Nov. 24 | No class due to Thanksgiving on Thursday |               |                                                                     |
|             | ☐ Exegesis Paper due today by 3:00pm (box 255)                      |               |                                                                     |
| Mond. Dec. 1 | God’s Grace to the Patriarchs  
Gen. 12, 20, 25-28 |               | ✨ Be prepared to translate Gen. 20:1-18                            |
| Dec. 10—12 | ☎ Final Exam: TBA |               |                                                                     |
Provisional Course Schedule

Monday Sept. 8th

- Hebrew Competency Exam
- Introduction to the Course
- Introduction to Genesis
  - Introduction to the Primeval History (Genesis 1-11)
  - The Toledot Structure of Genesis

 فلا تحاربنا

Homework to be completed before next class:

- Translate Genesis 1:26-28; 2:4-25

Monday Sept. 15

- Hebrew Reading at Seminary and Beyond: RHB.
- Review of Hebrew Parsing
- Introduction to Hebrew Exegesis

 فلا تحاربنا

Homework to be completed before next class:

- Translate Genesis 3:1-24

Monday Sept. 22

- The Creator God—Yahweh Elohim
- Genesis 1:1—2:3

 فلا تحاربنا

Homework to be completed before next class:

- Translate Genesis 4:1-17; 5:1-3

Monday Sept. 29

- Life with God in the Garden
- Genesis 2—3; Rom. 5, 7

 فلا تحاربنا

Homework to be completed before next class:

- Translate Genesis 6:1-8; 12:1-20

 فلا تحاربنا

Closer Look: Do a word study on the Hebrew word הָשָׁם, “to blot out” (Gen. 6:7).

 فلا تحاربنا

Exegetical Question: What does the Hebrew word הָשָׁם mean? Give concrete examples from the OT that illustrate the meaning of this verb.

Monday October 6

- Sin, Judgment and Divine Grace
- Genesis 6-8

 فلا تحاربنا

Homework to be completed before next class:
Translate Genesis 15:1-21; 16:1-16

Closer Look: • Do a word study (in Genesis only) on the term הָרֹד, ‘to be fruitful’ (Gen. 9:1).

Exegetical Question: How is the verb הָרֹד being used in Genesis? What do you notice about the different forms of this verb?

Monday October 13

Reading Week

Monday October 20

• Realization of the Primeval Blessing After the Flood
• Genesis 9—11

Homework to be completed before next class:

Translate Genesis 17:1-27

Closer Look: Do a word study (in Genesis only) on the Hebrew word בֵּית, “seed” (Gen. 17:7).

Exegetical Question: When God makes promises to Abraham and his “seed”, who is God referring to?

Monday October 27

• God’s Promises to Abraham and his “seed”
• Genesis 12, 17; Gal. 3

Homework to be completed before next class:

Translate Genesis 18:1-16

Exegetical Question: Given that Ishmael is circumcised (Gen.17:23), how is it possible that God’s covenant is not with Ishmael, but with Isaac (see Gen. 17:18-21)? How do you make sense of this?

Monday November 3

• The Abrahamic Covenant and Circumcision
• Gen. 15:6, 17:9-21; Rom. 4

Homework to be completed before next class:

Translate Genesis 21:1-21

Exegetical Question: God blesses Ishmael on several occasions in Genesis (Gen. 16:10; 17:20; 21:13). Does this mean that he is an heir of the Abrahamic promises?

Monday November 10th
Reading Week

Monday November 17th

• Who will be an Heir: A Slave or a Son?
• Gen. 15, 16, 21; Rom. 9; Gal. 4
☞ Homework to be completed before next class:
  ☞ Translate Gen. 20:1-13
  ✉ Exegetical Question: Who is in the right in Gen. 20:1-18? Can Abraham’s action be excused or justified in any way in light of what God is doing? In other words, is it okay for Abraham to lie? Is this what he is doing?

Monday Nov. 24th

No Class Due to Thanksgiving
☞ Exegesis Paper due today by 3:00pm (box 255)

Monday December 1st

• God’s Grace to the Patriarchs
• Gen. 12, 20, 25-28
☞ Homework: review for final exam!

☞ Final Exam TBA (Dec. 10—12)