Exegesis of Genesis OT 626
Fall 2009
Fridays 1:15pm—4:15pm

Carol M. Kaminski
Office hours by appointment
Assistant to the Dean:
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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.

2. 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.

Note: 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:**

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. **Selective Bibliography:**

   ______, *The Theme of the Pentateuch* (JSOTSsup, 10; Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1979).
Kaminski, C.M, *From Noah To Israel: Realization of the Primaeval Blessing After the Flood* (JSOTSsup 413; T&T Clark, 2004).

4. **Hebrew Bible and Language Resources:**
Holladay, W. L., *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Grand
5. Hebrew Competency Exam:
A Hebrew competency exam is scheduled for the first day of class, Sept. 11th. 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), parse every 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 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 (450 words) on the final exam (see below), date TBA.

**Hebrew Translation Exam:** all students are required to take a Hebrew translation exam which will comprise of Hebrew translations that you have been doing each week (you are required to translate the texts and parse all verbs). No lexicons can be used, but vocabulary is provided which occurs in the footnotes of RHB. The translation exam is worth 40% of your final grade. This exam is scheduled for Friday Nov. 20 at 1:15pm.

**Final Exam:** all students are required to take a final exam which will entail a) vocabulary testing of words occurring 79 times or more (450 words); 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 (seven is a good biblical number!). You are permitted to choose which essay topic you would like to answer out of the two options. The final exam is worth 30% of your final grade (date TBA). 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
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).

**Word Studies:** Students are required to complete the Hebrew word studies (as per the schedule below) *before* each class. Several students will be called upon in class each week to discuss your word study. Word studies will not be graded.
(and you do not need to submit them), but failure to have completed the word study when called upon in class will result in a 2-3 point deduction off your final grade.

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 1-2 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 Wed. Oct 21 (details below). The format for the exegesis paper is outlined below.

Format for the Exegetical Paper:

Each student is required to write a 15 page (no more than 15 pages is permitted) 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 for 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.

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**Due date:** The paper is due on **Wednesday Oct. 21** (this is the Wednesday after the first Reading Week). It is to be submitted to the mailroom by **4:00pm** (Kaminski Box #255), or to my Assistant, Jessica Boggs, by 4:00pm. Please note: a **hard copy** of your paper is required (no electronic copies). Late penalties will apply, except in the case of special circumstances (eg. 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.

**Cell Phones:** Please turn off all cell 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>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frid. Sept. 11</td>
<td>Wk 1</td>
<td>Hebrew Competency Exam Introduction to the Course and Genesis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frid. Sept. 18</td>
<td>Wk 2</td>
<td>Hebrew Reading at Seminary and Beyond: RHB Introduction to Hebrew Exegesis</td>
<td>♦ Be prepared to translate Gen. 1:1-5, 26-28; 2:16-17; 5:1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frid. Sept. 25</td>
<td>Wk 3</td>
<td>The Creator God—Yahweh Elohim Genesis 1:1—2:3</td>
<td>♦ Be prepared to translate Gen. 3:1-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frid. Oct 2</td>
<td>Wk 4</td>
<td>Life with God in the Garden Genesis 2—3; Rom. 5</td>
<td>♦ Be prepared to translate Gen. 4:1-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frid. Oct. 9</td>
<td>Wk 5</td>
<td>Sin, Judgment and Divine Grace Gen. 6—8</td>
<td>♦ Be prepared to translate Gen. 6:1-8; 12:1-20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frid. Oct. 16</td>
<td></td>
<td>Reading Week</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. Oct. 21</td>
<td></td>
<td>Exegesis Paper due by 4:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frid. Oct. 23</td>
<td>Wk 6</td>
<td>Realization of the Primeval Blessing Gen. 9—11</td>
<td>♦ Be prepared to translate Gen. 15:1-21; 16:1-16</td>
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<td>Frid. Oct. 30</td>
<td>Wk 7</td>
<td>God’s Promises to Abraham and his “seed” Gen. 12, 17 and Gal. 3</td>
<td>♦ Be prepared to translate Gen. 17:1-27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frid. Nov. 6</td>
<td>Wk 8</td>
<td>The Abrahamic Covenant and Circumcision Gen. 15, 17 and Rom. 4</td>
<td>♦ Be prepared to translate Gen. 18:1-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frid. Nov. 13</td>
<td></td>
<td>Reading Week</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Frid. Nov. 20</td>
<td>Wk 9</td>
<td>Hebrew Translation Exam</td>
<td>(Class continues after exam)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frid. Nov. 27</td>
<td></td>
<td>No class: Thanksgiving</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Frid Dec. 4</td>
<td>Wk 10</td>
<td>Who will be an Heir: A Slave or a Son? Gen. 15, 16, 18, 21; Rom. 9 and Gal. 4</td>
<td>♦ Be prepared to translate Gen. 21:1-21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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☞ Final Exam : TBA
Provisional Course Schedule

Week 1: Friday Sept. 11
  • Hebrew Competency Exam
  • Introduction to the Course
  • Introduction to Genesis
    • Introduction to the Primeval History (Genesis 1-11)
    • The Toledot Structure of Genesis
   Homework to be completed before next class:
    ☐ Translate Gen. 1:1-5, 26-28; 2:16-17; 5:1-3

Week 2: Friday Sept. 18
  • Hebrew Reading at Seminary and Beyond: RHB.
  • Introduction to Hebrew Exegesis
     Be prepared to translate Gen. 1:1-5, 26-28; 2:16-17; 5:1-3
   Homework to be completed before next class:
    ☐ Translate Genesis 3:1-24

Week 3: Friday Sept. 25
  • The Creator God—Yahweh Elohim
  • Genesis 1:1—2:3
     Be prepared to translate Gen. 3:1-24
   Homework to be completed before next class:
    ☐ Translate Genesis 4:1-17

Week 4: Friday Oct 2
  • Life with God in the Garden
  • Genesis 2—3; Rom. 5, 7
     Be prepared to translate Gen. 4:1-17 and Gen. 3:1-24
   Homework to be completed before next class:
    ☐ Translate Genesis 6:1-8; 12:1-20
    ❔ Closer Look: Do a word study on the Hebrew word הֵרֵחַ, “to blot out” (Gen. 6:7).
    ❔ Exegetical Question: What does the Hebrew word הֵרֵחַ mean? Give concrete examples from the OT that illustrate the meaning of this verb.
Week 5: Friday Oct. 9

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

⚠️ Be prepared to translate Gen. 6:1-8; 12:1-20
✍️ 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 יְדוֹת, ‘to be fruitful’ (Gen. 9:1).
  🤔 Exegetical Question: How is the verb יְדוֹת being used in Genesis? What do you notice about the different forms of this verb?

Friday Oct. 16

Reading Week

Week 6: Friday Oct. 23

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

⚠️ Be prepared to translate Gen. 15:1-21 and 16:1-16
✍️ 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 בָּשָׂר, “seed” (Gen. 17:7).
  🤔 Exegetical Question: When God makes promises to Abraham and his “seed”, who is God referring to?

Week 7: Friday Oct. 30

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

⚠️ Be prepared to translate Gen. 17:1-27
✍️ 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?
Week 8: Friday Nov. 6
- The Abrahamic Covenant and Circumcision
- Gen. 15:6, 17:9-21; Rom. 4
- Be prepared to translate Gen. 18:1-16
- 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?

Friday November 13
Reading Week

Week 9: Friday Nov. 20
- Hebrew Translation Exam
  (Class continues after exam)
Frid. Nov. 27
- No class: Thanksgiving

Week 10: Friday Dec. 4
- Who will be an Heir: A Slave or a Son?
- Gen. 15, 16, 18, 21; Rom. 9; Gal. 4
- Be prepared to translate Gen. 21:1-21

Final Exam TBA