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 OT Hebrew 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 Bb 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*.

III. RECOMMENDED TEXTS

- *NIV Archaeological Study Bible* (Zondervan, 2005)

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. No particular preparation is required, except to review your Hebrew (from first-year instruction and 600-level exegesis). 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 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: July 11, 4pm**
**Readings:** In addition to specified readings (see schedule below), the expectation is that students will interact (not simply read) relevant sections of the assigned commentary.

**Glossary of Exegetical Terms:** A list of terms relevant to exegetical study (to be learned for tests from Murphy)

**Class Participation:** Students need to come to class prepared to discuss (= read, parse, comment on exegetical steps) 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**
- Review First-Year Hebrew
- Read Genesis, Exodus, Numbers, Joshua, Judges, 1, 2 Samuel in translation

**VII. Class Schedule**

**Week 1 Jan 27/29 “Introduction”**
- Overview of Hebrew Exegesis
- Exegetical Method: The Big Picture
- Hebrew competency exam
- Begin reading Gundry

**Week 2 Feb 3/5 “First Fruit of Conquest”**
- Num 21
- Method: Textual Criticism
- “Arad” in *Dict of the OT: Historical Books*
- Continue Gundry

**Week 3 Feb 10/12 “Deuteronomic Imperative”**
- Josh 1
- Method: Translation
- OTC, pp. 17-24; 97-132
- Continue Gundry

NOTE: deadline to choose a pericope is THIS WEEK
READING WEEK

Week 4 Feb 24/26 “Salvation”
- Josh 2 (cf. Introduction and ch 1 in Hess)
- Method: Grammar and Syntax
- OTC, pp. 25-86
- Ch. Van der Merwe, et al (on Reserve): pages on the verbal system
- Continue Gundry

Week 5 March 3/5 “Judgment”
- Tuesday: Mid-Term (Josh 6 is not included in the test)
- Josh 6 (cf. Hess)
- Method: Lexical data
- OTC pp. 87-96

Week 6 March 10/12 “Promise fulfilled”
- Method: Structure
- “The Conquest of Canaan,” “The Walls of Jericho,” “Jericho and the Date of the Conquest” in ASB

Week 7 March 17/19 “Accommodation”
- Judg 2 (cf. Block)
- Method: OT context
- OTC pp. 167-192
- Finish Gundry

READING WEEK

Week 8 March 31/ April 2 “Shifting Identities”
- Judg 4 (cf. Block)
- Method: Cultural Environment
- Read Judg 5 in translation several times
- Read Block on Judges 5

Week 9 April 7/9 “Competing land claims”
- Judg 11 (cf. Block)
- Method: NT context; Biblical-Theological context

Week 10 April 14/16 “Conquest of Zion”
- 2 Sam 5
• Method: Contextualization and Application of narrative texts

Week 11 April 21 Final Test
Exegesis papers due on April 24

VIII. BIBLICAL HEBREW SELECT REFERENCE BIBLIOGRAPHY

Dictionaries/Concordances


Hebrew Grammar


**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.


----. *Kingdom Prologue.* 1993.


