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 the advent of kingship in Israel 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 kingship texts fit within the environment of the early Iron II.
- 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 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

RECOMMENDED TEXTS
• NIV Archaeological Study Bible (Zondervan, 2005)
• J.J. Niehaus, Ancient Near Eastern Themes in Biblical Theology (Kregel 2008)

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, see below) and materials covered in class.

Hebrew Exegesis Paper (50% of course grade): This paper (about 30 pages) must be based on the Hebrew text. A choice of passages from the corpus 1, 2 Samuel 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: December 9

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 1, 2 Samuel in translation

VII. Class Schedule

Week 1, Sept 9, 11 “Introduction”
- Hebrew competency exam
- Overview of Hebrew Exegesis
- Tsumura p. 1-99

Week 2, Sept 16, 18 “Promise of kingship”
- 1 Sam 1
- Textual Criticism

Week 3, Sept 23, 25 “Priesthood failure”
- 1 Sam 2:11-36
- Translation
- OTC, pp. 17-24; 97-132

Week 4, Sept 30, Oct 2 “Divine abandonment”
- 1 Sam 4
- Narrative Grammar and Syntax
- OTC, pp. 25-86
- Van der Merwe (on Reserve): pages on the verbal system

Week 5, Oct 7, 9 “Tribal kingship”
- 1 Sam 8
- Lexical data
- OTC pp. 87-96
READING WEEK

Week 6, Oct 21, 23 “Covenant renewal”
- Tuesday: Mid-Term Test
- Thursday: 1 Sam 12
- Structure

Week 7, Oct 28, 30 “Spiritual kingship”
- 1 Sam 17: 34-58
- Old Testament context
- OTC pp. 167-192

Week 8, Nov 4, 6 “Unconditional kingship”
- 2 Sam 7
- Cultural environment
- Summary of Iron I/IIA archaeological data

READING WEEK

Week 9 Nov 18/20 “Deuteronomic accountability”
- 2 Sam 11
- New Testament context

Week 10 Nov 25 “Promise of Zion”
- 1 Kings 8:1-30
- Biblical-Theological Context

Thursday is Thanksgiving Day: NO CLASS

Week 11 Dec 2, 4
- Dec 2: Contextualization and Application
- Dec 4: Final Test

Exegesis Paper is due on Tuesday December 9 (outside my office)
VIII. BIBLICAL HEBREW SELECT REFERENCE BIBLIOGRAPHY

Dictionaries/Concordances


Hebrew Grammar


**Hebrew Vocabulary**


**Hebrew Text**


Hebrew Narrative


IX. SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY


Dever, W.G. *Who were the Israelites and Where did they Come from?*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.


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


