OT 661  Exegesis in the Minor Prophets

Spring, 2009   Thursday 1:15-4:15 pm     Prof. Stuart

Syllabus subject to change. Changes will be communicated to the class as expeditiously as possible.

Office hours: Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu,  10:30-12 noon
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Required Texts:


Recommended Texts (familiarity with these books is assumed in the course):

E. Brotzman,  *Old Testament Textual Criticism* (Baker)
G. Fee and D. Stuart,  *How to Read the Bible For All Its Worth*, 3d. ed. (Zondervan)

Course pre-requisite:  OL 502, completed and passed, or equivalent via approved transfer; passing Hebrew competency quiz given in connection with this course

Course objectives: introduction to OT Hebrew Exegetical method; exposure to the general content of the Minor Prophets and exegetical sampling of specific passages weekly; increased facility in OT Hebrew at the intermediate level; increased sense of how to preach and teach from prophetical books; exposure to hermeneutical errors commonly committed by OT preachers and teachers; exposure to useful commentary literature on Minor Prophets.

**Th.M. Elevation**: To elevate this course to a 900-level, you must get prior approval by petition on a proper form from the Registration Office. You must then do all the coursework as prescribed in this syllabus and, in addition, write a special research paper on a topic relevant to the course, approved by the professor, of at least ten pages, showing extensive bibliographic consultation (usually a minimum of two dozen sources with good representation of periodical literature, not just books and commentaries) cites or discusses biblical texts in English rather than Hebrew, Greek or other appropriate languages, you will be graded down substantially.

**Th.M. Writing Course use**: To make this course the one in which you write your Th.M. “major research paper” you must get prior approval as required by petition on a proper form from the Registration Office and/or the director of the Th.M. program. You must do all the coursework as prescribed and, instead of the usual more limited exegesis paper, write a more extensive exegesis paper, following the same instructions but clearly labeled “Th.M. Major Research Paper,” at least 40 pages in length (that’s a bare minimum; it may need to be substantially longer), with extensive bibliographic consultation (usually a minimum of about forty sources with good representation of periodical literature, not just books and commentaries, and extensive footnotes interacting with the secondary literature). The paper must be a Hebrew exegesis paper throughout. If any part of the paper cites or discusses biblical texts in English rather than Hebrew, Greek or other appropriate languages, you will be graded down substantially.

**Major Integrative Paper** (M. A. requirement for students for whom English is a second language, in place of a summative evaluation): Prior approval required by petition to the professor. The paper must be at least 25 pages in length, and written and submitted entirely in addition to all other course requirements (it does not substitute for any course requirement and is not graded as part of any course’s grade). If you obtain permission to write it for me I require that it be written on one of the following topics:
a. An evaluation of the influence of the Old Testament on Christian theology as seen in specific examples over the span of Church history.
c. Misunderstandings of the Old Testament that have resulted in problems for denominations or movements as indicated in the writings of leaders of those movements.

ASSIGNMENTS and grading information:

1. HEBREW COMPETENCY TEST  First Day of Class. You must pass this quiz (at least 60 out of 100 points) to continue in the course. It is graded p/f. It contains sections on vocabulary, parsing and reading. The way to study for it is simply to review your Hebrew.

2. COURSE QUIZ #1. 25% of course grade. First half of exegesis terms (see OTE 171-175); first half of hermeneutical fallacies (see OTE 177-179); reading to date; Hebrew text assignments up to and including the week before the quiz; class lectures. Lexicons not allowed. Bring a clean BHS to the quiz.

3. COURSE QUIZ #2. 25% of course grade. Remaining exegesis terms (see OTE 171-175); remaining hermeneutical fallacies (see OTE 177-179); reading to date; Hebrew text assignments not on first quiz; class lectures. Lexicons not allowed. Bring a clean BHS to the quiz.

4. HEBREW EXEGESIS PAPER on a passage of your choosing from one of the Minor Prophets. Recommended length of passage: 4-6 verses. Choose a passage that has at least three text issues associated with it. Due last day for written work, 4:00 PM. This paper does not absolutely require footnotes (you may use parentheses) but does require a full bibliography. Value: 50% of course grade. Please be very careful to follow the directions below. Sample papers are on CAMS and in my office.

5. Class attendance and participation (mainly responding to questions). 5%. Persons who attend fully and participate regularly will usually receive this credit.

6. Important note: As the catalog states, you must demonstrate adequate competence in both Hebrew language and in exegetical method in order to pass the course, regardless of your grades on assignments 1-5 above. If you fail to demonstrate Hebrew and/or exegesis competence in any aspect of the course, including the Hebrew competency quiz, you cannot receive a passing grade or credit. Naturally, cheating, plagiarism and other breaches of academic propriety will also result in failure. Be sure to read the seminary statement on plagiarism.

LATE WORK/EXTENSIONS PRIOR TO 5/5:
Basic concept: fairness to those who make the sacrifices to get their work in on time, not a desire to hurt anyone. Fairness requires that everyone have essentially the same amount of time to complete the assignments.

• True unavoidable emergency, including illness: no penalty as long as simple written request is made and approved and lateness does not exceed actual time lost by reason of the emergency.
• Late work otherwise: 1/2 point per 1/2 week is deducted.

Late work at the end of the session (after last day for submitting written work) cannot be accepted by the professor, but must be submitted directly to the Registration Office after approval of your petition for an extension. The Registration Office may assign additional penalties to those assigned by the course professor.
Graduating seniors: Your work must be submitted by 4/24 if you are to graduate.

Exegesis paper instructions: This is a full paper, which could easily be 20-25 pages or more. Organize it according to the "12 steps" of OTE Ch. 1, but don't produce a detailed outline with subordinated letters and numbers (I, A, I, a, etc.). Instead, group things together mainly by spacing. Step 11 will be evident from the bibliography (and footnotes where appropriate). Don't make it a separate section. Thus, your finished outline will have eleven sections (each with a heading) plus a bibliography. For step 1 (text) be sure to print out your reconstructed text in your own handwriting. If it is poetic, print it out in stichometry (poetic format), showing clearly how you think the couplets and triplets are grouped by the way you space them apart from one another. Then immediately after that, still within step 1, type your annotations to the text (justifying and/or explaining all the significant text problems or decisions or issues). You indicate your annotations by raised letters in the text corresponding to raised letters at the beginning of each annotation. For step 2, type out your own translation, and immediately after that type the annotations to your translation. Use the same raised-letter annotation system. You should comment on every word or phrase not obvious or automatic in the translation. After step 2, your other steps need have no footnotes although you may use them if you choose. Submit the paper without a cover or binder (a title page is fine), stapled in the upper l.h. corner. Samples of acceptable exegesis outlines are available, so please don't guess at the proper format. Instead, check out the samples. Please remember that you need to write a solid Hebrew exegesis paper, not a paper that is partly a Hebrew exegesis and partly an English exegesis.

You can see if I preach what I practice at Linebrook Church, 391 Linebrook Rd., Ipswich, at 9:45 AM [Sunday School], 11:00 AM [morning service] and 5:30 PM [evening service] Sundays. A free supper follows the evening service.

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

Everything listed for a given day should be prepared for that day. Be sure to prepare text assignments according to the 12 steps, and always from the Hebrew. Bring a BHS to class.

1/29  Class #1  Hosea 1:1-3  Hebrew Competency Quiz  Comments on introduction and methods; goals; use of texts; general considerations on OT exegesis, and its use by the minister, etc. Pick a paper topic and start working on your paper.

2/5   Class #2  Hosea 5:1-7  Reading Assignment: Brotzman (generally) and Stuart, OTE, especially ch.1; Also, read Stuart on Hosea.

2/12  Class #3  Joel  2:20d-3:5 (2:20d = the last three Hebrew words in 2:20)  Read Stuart on Joel.

[2/19 NO CLASS -- READING WEEK Assignment: Finish reading Brotzman and OTE.]

2/26  Class #4  Amos 8:4-14  Read Stuart on Amos.

3/5   Class #5  Micah 6:1-8  Read Barker and Bailey on Micah.

3/12  Class #6  QUIZ #1  Nahum 1:2-11  Read Barker and Bailey on Nahum.

3/19  Class #7  Habakkuk 2:2-14  Read Barker and Bailey on Habakkuk.
[3/26 NO CLASS – READING WEEK Begin exegesis paper work in earnest.]

4/2 Class #8 Zephaniah 3:9-20 Read Barker and Bailey on Zephaniah.

4/9 Class #9 Haggai 2:10-19 Read Taylor and Clendenen on Haggai

4/16 **QUIZ #2** No class otherwise, unless a make-up session is needed

[4/23 NO CLASS unless make-up session is needed; paper preparation]

4/24 (Friday, 4:00 PM) Exegesis papers and all other written work due from graduating seniors

5/4 (Monday, 4:00 PM) Exegesis papers and all other written work due from all other students

Reminder: After 5/4 no work can be submitted to me. It is submitted to the Registration Office once it is done, after you have petitioned through that office for an extension. They may assess a penalty. It may be severe.