OT551 – Genesis in Depth
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Course Requirements

OT551 requires timely completion of the following six course requirements:

1. Examination - 60% of your grade
2. Exegetical Paper - 40% of your grade
3. Word Study Papers
4. Required Reading
5. Course Checkout/Reading Report (after you have finished all course requirements above)

Please contact the T.A. for all questions or concerns about due dates, readings, lectures, or content. Only contact the professor with concerns about your final grades.

Course Objectives

1. To introduce students to general principles used for the interpretation of Bible. This includes helping students: a) learn foundational tools and methods needed for the exposition of biblical texts; and b) learn the Hebrew and Greek alphabets so that basic word studies can be done in the original languages.
2. 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.
3. To encourage students to become knowledgeable of God's inerrant Word, competent in its interpretation, proclamation and application in the contemporary world. Because the teaching of God's Word is indispensable to the well-being and vitality of God's people, the Seminary has a fundamental responsibility to encourage in students a love for Scripture. The Seminary is to teach exegetical skills by which they will be able to apply Scripture effectively.
4. To maintain academic excellence in the highest tradition of Christian scholarship in the teaching of the biblical, historical and theological disciplines. Theological education, which is properly done within and for the Church, ought to function with rigor and academic integrity. The Seminary, therefore, must provide an environment within which teaching and learning can best occur and encourage high levels of scholarly competence and research in its faculty.
Required Texts

1. *The Hebrew-Greek Key Study Bible* (ed. S. Zodhiates; Chattanooga, AMG Publ. 2008). Please note: the New American Standard Version (NASB) will be used in class; this is the recommended version for this course (this version is coded with Strong's numbers). ISBN-13: 978-0899577500


*These articles can be requested through the libraries of GCTS.

Course Requirements

**Reading Requirement:** You have several reading requirements for this class: the book of Genesis (read twice), Kidner’s commentary on Genesis in its entirety, and three journal articles. Failure to complete the reading requirement may result in a grade penalty. The commentary reading may be subject to examination in the final exam. Your reading report is to be submitted with your online checkout form (see Modules).

**Word Studies:** You are required to complete several word studies due before the appropriate lecture, as per the schedule below (word studies are not to be submitted). See the resources below (also available under "Resources") for detailed instructions on how to conduct a word study in Hebrew and Greek. Failure to have completed the homework before the lecture may result in a grade penalty.

Hebrew Resources
Greek Resources

**Final Exam:** Your exam is worth 60% of your grade. Your exam will be comprised of the following three parts: (A) Hebrew and Greek component, (B) Multiple choice questions based on the content of the lectures and the reading assignments, (C) One essay question on Genesis (see below).

**a) Hebrew and Greek Component:**
You will be required to reproduce both the Hebrew and Greek alphabets, and read basic Hebrew and Greek words. This will be worth approximately 1/3 of your final exam grade.

**b) Multiple Choice Questions:**
This portion of the exam will comprise of a series of multiple choice questions based on the class lectures. The best way to prepare for this is to review your
notes for the class lectures. This section of the exam is worth approximately 1/3 of your final exam grade.

**c) One essay question:**
The final exam will include one essay from the topics listed below. This essay is worth approximately 1/3 of your final exam grade. Since you will not be able to choose which essay to answer, you will need to prepare answers for all of the following topics:

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) in Genesis
4. The Form and Function of Genealogies in Genesis
5. God’s Promises to Abraham: Their Content, Significance and Fulfillment
6. The Relationship between Faith in Gen. 15:6 and Circumcision in Gen. 17; see also Rom. 4.
7. Slave or Heir: Gen. 15-16, 21; Gal. 4.

**Required Midterm “Test” Language Exam**
In order to be well-prepared for the final exam, you are required to be ready to take a practice “Hebrew and Greek language component” section of the exam by Week 7 of the course. For this practice exam you will be required to read basic Hebrew and Greek words. These words will be people or place names only (see the Hebrew and Greek word study guides for examples of the type of words you will be tested on). This practice test will not be graded, but you will be given an answer key the following week, so that you can find out what your grade would have been for the test. This way you will be able to tell if you have learnt the Hebrew and Greek alphabets well enough to read basic Hebrew and Greek words, which will be tested on the final exam.

**Exegetical paper:** You are required to write a 15-page (double-spaced) exegetical paper. Choose 5-6 verses from Genesis (any passage provided it is not a text we have done in class). Your paper needs to include 5 Hebrew word studies and 1 Greek word study.

- Translation
- Author
- Circumstances
- Key Words
- Literary Context
- Explain the Text

**Submitting Assignments**
Assignments can be submitted electronically through the Drop Box tool in Sakai. On the left menu, under "Project Tools," select "Drop Box." To add a file, click “Add” and upload from there.

Some guidelines for this process:
- Paper submissions should be in either .doc, .docx or .pdf format.
- Submitting your work through drop box is considered a formal (and final) submission. Nothing further will be needed on your part.
- All submissions are time/date stamped and will be retrieved by the Semlink office and routed to your professor for grading.
- Assignments may be returned to you electronically, in most cases through your Sakai drop box or via email. If your assignment was graded by hand, it will be scanned and delivered to you as a PDF file.
- Remember to use a full heading, including your name, professor, course, and date.

Please let the Hispanic Ministries office know if you have any further questions about electronic submission.

**Workbook**

As you listen to the lectures, you can answer the questions in the accompanying workbook. The workbook is provided as a resource for your study. The questions have been designed to help you to learn and process the information in this course. The completed workbook will also serve as an outline of the course for your future reference.

You may find it helpful to stop the lecture at various times to consider the questions and answer them more fully. This is highly encouraged.

"Tackle" the Text: 500 Level

Six steps to help you interpret the biblical text

**Translations:**
- Compare translations (e.g. NIV, NASB, KJV).
- Note the major differences in translations.
- Use this to alert you to key words and grammatical issues.

**Author:**
- Who wrote the book/letter? when?
- What form of writing did the author use to communicate?
- e.g. narrative, gospel, prophecy, poetic, apocalyptic, letter.

**Circumstances:**
- What was going on at the time of writing?
- Why did the author write the book/letter?
- What circumstances does the author address?

**Key Words:**
- Do word studies on important words in your passage.
  1. Use the Hebrew-Greek Key Study Bible 1. to locate the Strong’s number.
  2. Look up words in either the Hebrew or Greek Englishman’s Concordance.
3. Summarize the “range of meaning,” then decide what meaning best suits the context in which the word occurs. Why?
   - NT Grammar: Note structural relationships (“therefore,” “so that,” “but,” “in order that”).

Literary Context:
   - How is the biblical book structured?
   - How does your passage fit into the argument, story or structure?
   - How does your passage contribute to the message(s) of the book?

Explain the Text:
   - Where is your text located in God’s redemptive story?
   - Is your passage discussed elsewhere in the Bible? Where?
   - What does your passage teach about God, his people, other issues?
   - How does your passage relate to us today?

Course Outline

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<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Homework</th>
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| 1       | * Introduction to Genesis  
* Aims of the Course and Requirements  
* Introduction to Hebrew, Word Studies, and the Study Bible  
* Introduction to the 6 steps of exegesis, TACKLE the Text | -Bible Reading: Genesis 1-12  
-Kidner, Preface and Introduction  
-Learn the Hebrew Alphabet.  
-Do a word study on the Hebrew verb ‘to form’ in Gen. 2:8 (Strong’s #3335).  
-Exegetical Question: What is the difference between ‘forming’ and ‘creating’ (in Gen. 1:1)? How would you explain what the verb ‘to form’ means to your congregation? Give a few biblical examples to illustrate it. |
| 2       | * The Creator God: Yahweh Elohim (Genesis 1-2)  
* Authorship of Genesis | -Bible Reading: Genesis 13-24  
-Clines, "The Image of God in Man," 53-78  
-Learn the Greek Alphabet.  
-Do a word study on the Hebrew verb “helper” in Gen. 2:18 (Strong’s #5828).  
-Exegetical Question: What type of “tasks” does a ‘helper’ usually do? Any thoughts on how this may relate to Eve’s role in the context of the garden? |
| 3       | * Life with God in the Garden (Genesis 2-3) | -Bible Reading: Genesis 25-36  
-Clines, "The Image of God in Man," 79-103  
-Do a word study on the Hebrew word “pain” (Gen. 3:16, only in Genesis). Who experiences “pain” in Genesis?  
-Do a word study in the Hebrew word "desire" (Gen. 3:16). Where else does this word occur? |
| 4 | * The Fall and Sibling Rivalry (Genesis 3-4) | -Bible Reading: Genesis 37-50  
- Kidner, 42-100  
- Do a word study in the Hebrew verb “to blot out” (Gen. 6:7).  
- Exegetical Question: If you had less than 5 minutes to explain what this verb means, what would you say? Give biblical examples to illustrate the meaning of this verb. |
| 5 | * Sin, Judgment and Divine Grace (Genesis 6-8) | -Bible Reading: Genesis 1-12  
- Kidner, 100-155 |
| 6 | * The Function of Genealogies in Genesis (Genesis 5, 9-11) | -Bible Reading: Genesis 13-24; Galatians 3  
- Robinson, "Literary Functions of the Genealogies of Genesis"  
- Do a word study in the Hebrew word “seed” (Genesis 17:7, Genesis only). Do a word study on the Greek word spevrama, “seed,” in Galatians 3:16 (only in Romans and Galatians).  
- Exegetical Questions: How is the Hebrew word translated in Genesis? (Give examples). How important is the word in Genesis? Why? How is Paul using “seed” language in Galatians? |
| 7 | * God’s Promises to Abraham and his “seed” (Genesis 12, 17; Galatians 3) | -Bible Reading: Genesis 25-36; Romans 4  
- Kidner, 155-224  
- Do a word study on the Greek term “ungodly” (Romans 4:5).  
- Exegetical Questions: Who are the “ungodly” in the book of Romans and elsewhere in the New Testament? If Abraham is one of the “saints,” why does Paul refer to him in this way? |
| 8 | * The Abrahamic Covenant and Circumcision (Genesis 15, 17 and Romans 4) | -Bible Reading: Genesis 37-50; Romans 4  
- Clines, "Theme in Genesis 1-11"  
- Work on exegesis paper. |
| 9 | * Who will be the heir: a slave or a son? (Genesis 15, 16, 21; Galatians 4) | -Bible Reading: Galatians 4  
- Prepare for your final exam.  
- Work on exegesis paper. |
| 10 | * God’s grace to the Patriarchs | - Prepare for your final exam.  
- Work on exegesis paper. |
Recommended Texts


Resources for Genesis