I. PREREQUISITE: OT 511; OT 600-LEVEL EXEGESIS

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The primary objective of the course is to develop exegetical skills to interpret Hebrew poetry from select texts in the Prophets and Wisdom Literature. In addition to building upon exegetical methodology learned at the 600-level and OT 511, class times will be devoted to an examination of the theme of the Promise of Zion against its historical and biblical-theological backdrop.

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Analyze Hebrew verse structure (reading, parsing and identifying principal features of Hebrew poetry)
- Recognize features in Hebrew poetry that are significant for interpretation and application
- Construct a methodology to situate the Prophets and Wisdom Literature within a Biblical-Theological framework (OT and NT)
- Create legitimate bridges between the original meaning of the text and our contemporary setting(s).
- Identify relevant points of application from a given text.
- Develop skills to go ‘from text to sermon’ in the Prophets and Wisdom Literature

(cf. Mission Statement articles 1-3)

III. REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

- A. Berlin, *The Dynamics of Biblical Parallelism* (Indiana University, 1985)
- ESV text of the Bible
IV. HEBREW COMPETENCY

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 (mid-term; final; paper), including reading less than 60% of class readings, he/she will not be able to receive a passing final grade.

Students must pass a Hebrew competency quiz taken on the first of class. Review first year grammar for this competency quiz.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Two Tests (20% each):
- Part I: Translation and parsing of Hebrew text (with exegetical comments). No lexicon allowed. See Schedule below.
- Part II: Identification and short essay questions based on the required readings and materials covered in class.

Hebrew Exegesis Paper (20 pages, excluding bibliography. 50% of course grade)
Note: papers falling short of this range will not be accepted which will result in a failing grade for the course. If papers extend beyond 30 pages, the paper will be graded on the basis of what has been accomplished by page 30, not beyond. Your motto should be: ‘thorough and succinct.’ This strategy will also serve you well in the task of going from text to sermon/Bible study, etc. (and life in general!)

Detailed instructions (cf. Handout “Interpreting the Hebrew Text; from translation to significance”) and sample papers will be provided in class. Of this 20-page range, a substantial portion of the paper must be devoted to the analysis of the Hebrew text (Text Criticism; Grammar and Syntax; Lexical analysis and Structure). Other sections of the paper include literary setting and historical background; Old Testament Parallels; New Testament trajectories; Biblical-Theological framework; Contextualization (‘exegeting culture’/ ‘bridging contexts’), and Application (‘living out the text’).
Note: pdf format only; uploaded on Sakai (no email attachments).

Students are expected to abide by the academic policies in the Student Handbook (re: plagiarism, late assignments, etc.). For style (including footnotes, bibliography) consult The SBL Handbook of Style. Critical interaction with a minimum of 10 scholarly resources (refereed publications) is required.

Overview Chart of Isaiah (10%)
Instructions will be given in class. Due at the end of the third week of class.
Class Participation and Readings

On the basis of the “flip method” approach used in this course, it is essential that students come to class prepared to discuss actively the assigned texts. Preparation for class entails the ability to read the Hebrew out loud, parse verbs, extract interpretive insights from grammar and syntax (e.g. verbal system, word order), define terms (e.g. figures of speech), versify the text, identify parallelisms and comment on their significance for interpretation. In addition, specific questions pertaining to the exegetical process and its relationship to contemporary significance constitute a regular feature of our class discussions.

Readings:
- Berlin should be read in its entirety by the end of the first week of class
- Select articles and book excerpts (see Schedule below)
- Select Prophetic and Wisdom Literature texts in a non-paraphrase translation of your choice (see Schedule below)
- Regarding Oswalt, Craigie/Tate, and Boda, the expectation is that students will critically interact (not simply read) with the assigned sections of the commentaries.

Ways to lose class participation and readings credit (up to 10%):
1. Internet (texting, etc.) for personal use in class (except for emergencies). Tip if you are tempted: ‘It can wait until the next break’). Each student will turn in a signed statement as appendix to the exegesis paper stating: “I did not consult the internet for personal usage during the class. Signed: John Doe”
2. Systematic inability to translate and parse Hebrew texts and actively contribute to the discussions.
3. Regular tardiness or cutting class short
4. Unexcused absences and absences beyond one class session of 3 hours
5. Reading less than 80% of the readings. Thus, if a student reads 78% of the total reading, he/she receives no credit. If a student reads 80%, he/she receives 8%, and so on. A reading report must be submitted as appendix to the paper: “I have read 100% of the readings. Signed: Jane Doe”
6. Failure to submit an internet accountability statement
7. Failure to submit a reading report

VI. Preparation Before First Class

- Review first-year Hebrew Grammar and Hebrew texts covered in 600-level exegesis
VII. CLASS SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Week 1 Sept 13/15 “Deuteronomic Playbook”
- Overview Chart workshop: bring an ESV Bible to class with pen/paper or computer
- Psalm 1
- Craigie/Tate on Psalm 1 + Introduction
- Read Tate’s essay on Poetry in Psalm 1-50 commentary
- Bible Reading in translation: Exodus/Deuteronomy/Proverbs 1-9

Week 2 Sept 20/23 “Zion’s Downfall”
- Isaiah 1:1-20
- Oswalt on Isaiah 1 + Introduction pp. 3-76
- Bible Reading: Hosea

Week 3 Sept 27/29 “Nations are Accountable”
- Psalm 2 (cf. Craigie/Tate)
- Isaiah 13 (cf. Oswalt)
- Bible Reading: Amos, Nahum, Zephaniah, Obadiah
- Select readings on the verbal system (Nicacci; Joosten; Cook)
- Overview chart is due

Week 4 Oct 4/6 “The Heart of the Problem”
- Jeremiah 17: 5-14
- Readings from B. Sandy on metaphorical language (*Plowshares and Pruning Hooks*)
- Bible Reading: Ps 51; 32

Week 5 Oct 11/13 READING WEEK
- Prepare for mid-term exam on Hebrew texts covered so far (Ps 1; Isa 1:1-20; Ps 2; Isa 13; Jer 17:5-14

Week 6 Oct 18/20 “The future of the nations in Zion”
- Mid-term exam on Tuesday
- Ps. 48 (cf. Craigie/Tate)
- Isa 2:1-4 (cf. Oswalt)

Week 7 Oct 25/27 “Promise of Restoration”
- Isaiah 40 (cf. Oswalt, vol. 2 Introduction and related materials)
Week 8 Nov 1/3 “The victorious king”
   • Ps 18:1-24 (cf. Craigie/Tate)

Week 9 Nov 8/10 READING WEEK
   • Work on exegesis paper

Week 10 Nov 15/17 “The Suffering King”
   • Isa 52:13 – 53:1-12 (cf. Oswalt)
   • “Substitutionary Righteousness in Isa 53:11” (Trinity Journal 2011)
   • Bible Reading: Romans

Week 11 Nov 22 “Inaugurated Restoration”
   • Haggai 2 (cf. Boda, Introduction and Commentary)
   • Bible Reading: Haggai, Ezekiel
   • Nov 24 is THANKSGIVING (NO CLASS)

Week 12 Nov 29/Dec 1 “New Zion”
   • Zech 14 (cf. Boda)
   • Bible Reading: Zechariah; Daniel; Galatians; Revelation

Week 13 Dec 6/8
   • Final test review

Week 14 Dec 13/15

Final test on Tuesday Dec 13
Exegesis paper due on Thursday Dec 15
Note: pdf format to be uploaded on sakai; no email attachments.

Please consult the schedule set out by the Registration Office in Charlotte for the final exam

VIII. BIBLICAL HEBREW SELECT REFERENCE BIBLIOGRAPHY

Dictionaries/Concordances


**Hebrew Grammar and Syntax**


Rainey, A.F. *Canaanite in the Amarna Tablets; A linguistic Analysis of the Mixed Dialects used by Scribes from Canaan.* (4 vols). Leiden, Brill.


**Hebrew Vocabulary**


**Hebrew Text**


Narrative


Poetry


Fisch, H. *Poetry with a Purpose: Biblical Poetics and Interpretation*. Bloomington:
University of Indiana, 1988.


____. *Stylistic Studies of Word-Pairs in Biblical and Ancient Semitic Literatures*.