

**REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
NEW YORK CITY**

**COURSE SYLLABUS  
Hebrew Exegesis – 09OT5150/RE**

Summer Course, 2022  
2 credits (26 hours of instruction)  
Thursdays, 6:00-9:00 PM EDT, May 19-July 14 (no class July 23)  
+ take home Midterm and Final exams

**INSTRUCTOR:** Rev. William Fullilove, Ph.D.  
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703-581-2015

NOTE: Please do not email or text for questions on assignments or to request extensions. The following contacts should be via Canvas:

- 1) Extension requests must be made in the individual comment section where the student would submit that assignment on Canvas.
- 2) Questions about assignments should be made in the general comments section regarding that assignment (visible to all).
- 3) More general class questions should be made in the Professor/Student discussion forum in Canvas.

If the issue is not covered by these three categories, then please email me. You are welcome to have my cell phone, but please only text me for emergencies. The three categories above are not emergencies.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** A graded Hebrew reading course designed to expose students to the major types of Hebrew literature in the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible, combined with an introduction to Hebrew exegetical issues. Attention will be given to a working knowledge of Biblical Hebrew and its various lexical, syntactic, and interpretive issues. Particular attention will be given to the necessary components required to write a robust exegetical paper based on the Hebrew text.

**[Please Note:** (1) Students must have successfully completed Hebrew II prior to registering for this course; (2) Students must come to the first class prepared (see course syllabus and Canvas for specifics).]

**COURSE FORMAT:**

**CLASS WILL MEET IN-PERSON ON 8 OCCASIONS**

Students should come to class having prepared the assigned passage with the help of the *Graded Reader*, ready to read the passage aloud and discuss the grammar and translation with their resulting impact on the exegesis of the passage.

Students must complete recorded video lectures and assigned reading in advance of class, and students should come prepared to ask questions about and discuss the video material.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

### Comprehension:

1. To develop the ability to successfully read and translate the Hebrew Bible.
2. To develop the ability to successfully interpret the Hebrew Bible.

### Competence:

1. To develop increased confidence in parsing of Hebrew forms.
2. To expand Hebrew vocabulary.

### Character:

1. To love God's word more by reading in the original languages.
2. To be a person of growing faith, hope, and love based on the work of God as revealed in the Scriptures.

## **REQUIRED Texts:**

- Elliger K. & W. Rudolph. Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia (BHS). Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1980.
- Fullilove, William. A Graded Reader of Biblical Hebrew: Mastering Different Literary Styles from Simple to Advanced. Philipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2018.
  - Students will also need access to (but do not need to purchase): Fullilove, William. Introduction to Hebrew: A Guide for Learning and Using Biblical Hebrew. Philipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2017.
- Stuart, Douglas. Old Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors. Westminster John Knox, 2009.
- Brotzman, Ellis R. Old Testament Textual Criticism: A Practical Introduction. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2016.
- Arnold, Bill T. & John H. Choi. A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2018.
- Chisholm, Robert B., Jr. From Exegesis to Exposition: A Practical Guide to Using Biblical Hebrew. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2009.
- Students should have a lexicon of their choice available to assist with class preparation.
- Students are also encouraged, but not required, to have access to Bible software (e.g.: Accordance, Logos, etc.) that has a morphologically tagged version of the Hebrew Bible.

## **REQUIREMENTS:**

*Attendance:* Students are required to attend class lectures and discussions. If you know you cannot make it to a class session, you must notify the instructor **in advance**. Failure to attend a significant number of classes (*with "significant" being defined at the discretion of the instructor*) may result in failure of the class.

*Homework:* Students are required to translate the assigned passages in advance of class and to come to class prepared to read and translate the passages from the Hebrew text. Notes are allowed, but students should work to rely on them as little as possible.

*Exegetical Assignments:* Students will complete six short exegetical assignments to practice the skills taught in the video sections of the course. These skills will need to be used in writing the exegetical paper for the class.

*Midterm Exam:*

Students will complete a 2-hour midterm exam. The exam will cover the parsing and translation of the Hebrew texts assigned for the first 4 class sessions. This exam will be **due June 23, 2022 at 11:59 PM via a scanned file uploaded to Canvas.**

*Final Exam:* Students will complete a 2-hour final exam. The exam will cover the parsing and translation of the Hebrew texts assigned for the second 4 class sessions. This exam will be **due July 21, 2022 at 11:59 PM via a scanned file uploaded to Canvas.**

*Exegetical Paper:* Students are required to write an exegetical paper on one of the texts covered in class. (Texts other than those covered in class are permitted with the professor's approval.) A sample exegetical paper will be provided to give a model for the students' use. This paper will be **due August 11, 2021 at 11:59 PM via Canvas.** This paper should be a full exegetical paper, following the expectations as outlined in class. Note that this paper is expected to involve SUBSTANTIAL extra research, not simply the consultation of a few commentaries. **PLEASE NOTE:** Students should provide the paper in .pdf format, as Hebrew fonts do not always transfer correctly.

**TOTAL GRADE:** The final grade for the course will be determined as follows:

- Class Performance: 20%
- Exegetical Assignments: 10%
- Midterm Exam: 15%
- Final Exam: 15%
- Paper: 40%

The instructor reserves the right to adjust grades based on each student's attendance at class and participation in classroom exercises.

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Thursdays 4:30-5:30 PM. I am always also available by appointment.

I enjoy sharing thoughts with students, so do not hesitate to contact me. The contact information given above is for your use, and you should feel free to contact me as much as you wish. I will respond as promptly as possible.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS:**

May 19

- Hebrew Text: 2 Sam 9:1-13 (Graded Reader ch. 1)
- Reading Due: Stuart 1.1.1, 2.1.1
- Asynchronous Viewing & Discussion: Why Hebrew Matters; Literary Context and Establishing Passage Limits

May 26

- Hebrew Text: 2 Chronicles 1:1-18 (Graded Reader ch. 4)
- Other Reading Due: Stuart 1.1.2-1.1.4, 2.1.2-2.2, 4.1-2; Brotzman
- Asynchronous Viewing & Discussion: Getting the Text Right – Textual Criticism and Text Notes

June 2

- Hebrew Text: Deuteronomy 22:1-12 (Graded Reader ch. 7)
- Other Reading Due: Stuart 1.4, 2.4, 4.4
- Asynchronous Viewing & Discussion: Word Study and Using a Research Lexicon

June 9

- Hebrew Text: Deuteronomy 24:1-18 (Graded Reader ch. 8)
- Other Reading Due: Stuart 1.3, 2.3, 4.3; Arnold and Choi (skim)
- Asynchronous Viewing & Discussion: Syntactical Study and Using Intermediate Grammars

June 16

- Hebrew Text: Psalm 23, 24, 100 (Graded Reader ch. 9)
- Other Reading Due: Stuart 1.5-6, 1.8, 2.5-6, 2.8, 4.5-6, 4.8
- Asynchronous Viewing & Discussion: Literary Form and Exegetical Methodology

June 23 – NO CLASS – Take home midterm exam due

June 30

- Hebrew Text: Psalm 19 (Graded Reader ch. 10)
- Other Reading Due: Stuart 1.7, 2.7, 4.7
- Asynchronous Viewing & Discussion: Translational Notes

July 7

- Hebrew Text: Micah 6:1-8; Amos 2:1-5 (Graded Reader ch. 11)
- Other Reading Due: Stuart 1.9-10, 2.9-10, 4.9-10
- Asynchronous Viewing & Discussion: Historical, Biblical, and Theological Contexts

July 14

- Hebrew Text: Job 28:1-28 (Graded Reader ch. 14)
- Other Reading Due: Stuart 1.11-12, 2.11-12, 3.1-7, 4.11-12; Chisolm
- Asynchronous Viewing & Discussion: From Exegesis to Sermon

July 21 – Take Home Final Exam Due

August 11 – Exegetical Paper Due

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY/RECOMMENDED READING:**

### *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Series*

- Van Pelt, Miles V. and Gary D. Pratico. The Vocabulary Guide to Biblical Hebrew. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.
- Van Pelt, Miles V. and Gary D. Pratico. Old Testament Hebrew Vocabulary Cards. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004.
- Van Pelt, Miles V., and Gary D. Pratico. Basics of Biblical Hebrew Vocabulary Audio. Read by Jonathan T. Pennington. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.
- Pratico, Gary D. and Miles V. Van Pelt. Pratico. Zondervan Get an A! Study Guides: Biblical Hebrew. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.
- Van Pelt, Miles V. Biblical Hebrew: A Compact Guide. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.

### *Bibles*

- Biblia Sacra.
- Elliger K. & W. Rudolph, eds. Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1980. (BHS)

### *Lexicons*

- Brown, Francis, Samuel R. Driver, and Charles A. Briggs. The New Hebrew and English Lexicon. Reprinted. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1979. (BDB)
- Clines, David J.A., ed. The Dictionary of Classical Hebrew. 8 volumes. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1993-. (DCH)
- Holladay, W. A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988
- Koehler L. & W. Baumgartner. The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament: Volumes 1 & 2. Leiden: Brill, 2001. (HALOT)

### *Introductory Grammars*

- Fullilove, William. *Introduction to Hebrew: A Guide for Learning and Using Biblical Hebrew*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2017.
- Futato, Mark D. *Beginning Biblical Hebrew*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2003.
- Kelley, Page H. *Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar*. Grand Rapids Eedrmans, 1992.
- Lambdin, T.O. *Introductory to Biblical Hebrew*. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons, 1971.
- Long, Gary A. *Grammatical Concepts 101 for Biblical Hebrew*. Peabody MA: Hendrickson, 2002.
- Seow, Choon-Leong. *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew. Revised Edition*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1995.
- Weingreen, J. *A Practical Grammar For Classical Hebrew. Second Edition*. Oxford & New York: Oxford University Press, 1959.

### *Intermediate/Advanced Grammars*

- Arnold, Bill T. & John H. Choi. *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.
- Gesenius, Wilhelm and E. Kautzsch, eds. *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar. Second Edition*. Oxford & New York: Oxford University Press, 1910.
- Joüon, Paul & T. Muraoka. *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew (Subsidia Biblica 14, 2 volumes)*. Fourth Edition. Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute Press, 2003.
- Van der Merwe, Christo H.J., et al. *A Biblical Hebrew Reference Grammar*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1999.
- Waltke, Bruce K. & M. O'Connor. *An Introduction to Hebrew Syntax*. Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbrauns, 1990.

## STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

<b><u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u></b> <i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i> <i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i>		<b><u>Rubric</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong</li> <li>• Moderate</li> <li>• Minimal</li> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<b><u>Mini-Justification</u></b>
<b>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</b>	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	Paper, class discussion
<b>Scripture</b>	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Strong	Exegetical Focus, Significant Paper, Readings
<b>Reformed Theology</b>	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Minimal	Engage theologically when appropriate
<b>Sanctification</b>	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Minimal	Scripture always has a sanctifying role
<b>Worldview</b>	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. Includes ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	Material is taught within and analyzed against redemptive-historical worldview
<b>Winsomely Reformed</b>	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	Moderate	Discussion and evaluation of contributions from other traditions in a respectful and honoring way
<b>Pastoral Ministry</b>	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both church and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians.	Moderate	Exegetical work that forms the backbone of strong preaching; frequent discussion of applications for preaching and counseling