



## HEBREW EXEGESIS: PROPHETS

### OT 641

SYLLABUS

WINTER 2009  
Feb. 2-6 Intensive

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*The passion of Bethel Seminary is to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ among all people in culturally sensitive ways. As a Spirit-empowered, biblically grounded community of learning, Bethel strives to develop and equip whole and holy persons to serve and lead so that churches and ministry agencies can become all they are called to be and do in the world for the glory of God.*

The objectives and assignments of HEBREW EXEGESIS are designed in light of that statement of mission and in light of the degree program aims appropriate to this course. In addition, each member of this learning enterprise is expected to set out personal objectives to pursue in their studies this term.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Hebrew Exegesis is designed to build on the Hebrew Language course sequence. Its goal is to amplify the benefits of learning and using biblical Hebrew by enhancing one's vocabulary and understanding of Hebrew syntax. The course provides practice of principles and methods of interpreting the Hebrew Bible. The focus is on exposition with an aim to apply the meaning of the text to personal spiritual development, doing "real-time" theology-teaching and preaching. Prerequisite: OT521, OT522 and OT531. Four hours.

## COURSE BENEFITS

Upon completion of this course you should be able to

- ✓ demonstrate a grasp of "the trees" by
  - ✓ developing a working awareness of forms and functions of Hebrew syntax.
  - ✓ developing facility in Hebrew vocabulary.
  - ✓ effective use of key language tools.
- ✓ demonstrate a grasp of "the forest" by
  - ✓ stating the basic facts with respect to each book's setting, theme, and content. This is essential to the reflection required for teaching and preaching the "whole counsel of God." As St. Jerome (340?-420AD) claimed in the prologue to his commentary on Isaiah, "ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ."
  - ✓ tracing and synthesizing core theological themes through the Nevi'im in context of Torah and Kethuvim as well

as the New Testament. A good facility in biblical theology is essential to “doing” theology in contemporary settings.

- ✓ locating the historical/geographical/cultural setting of main events recorded in this portion of the Hebrew Bible. Whether in the pulpit, study group, or counsellor’s office, a clear exposition requires an understanding of the context of revelation.
- ✓ executing a working exegetical method in ways that positively impacts the ministry of the Word.
- ✓ demonstrating greater skill in interpreting the Scripture (including further developing your facility in Hebrew). This will benefit both you and all those to whom you minister.
- ✓ more effectively and faithfully applying the 77% of Scripture we call the Old Testament in life and ministry. This is critical because the whole Bible really is the Christ-follower’s Bible.

## COURSE TEXTS

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Primary literature:

Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia

Secondary literature

Required Texts:

Arnold, Bill and John Choi. *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. NY: Cambridge, 2003. (*Abbrev. GBH in assignments*)

Beecher, Willis J. *The Prophets and the Promise*. Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2002. (*Abbrev. P&P in assignments*)

Chisholm, R. B., Jr. *From Exegesis to Exposition: A Practical Guide to Using Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1999. (*Abbrev. FETE in assignments*)

Dillard, Raymond and Tremper Longman. *Introduction to the Old Testament*, 2 ed.. Grand nd Rapids: Zondervan, 2006. (*Abbrev. IOT in assignments*)

Recommended Tools:

Koehler, Ludwig and Walter Baumgartner. *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Leiden: Brill, 2001. (*abbrev. HALOT in assignments*)

## COURSE PROJECTS

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Hebrew Reading Portfolio- Notes compiled from thoughtful execution of Chisolm’s seven steps on assigned passages.

Guide Sheets - A series of briefs designed to acquaint you with various Hebrew tools. Some include a brief exercise.

Exposition Plan - 13 unit teaching plan that covers sequence of passages within an extended section of text. Each unit will be comprised of 1) teaching passage (at least one paragraph), 2) the “big” idea of the passage, 3) theological principle derived from the development of the “big idea,” 4) working list of a range of applicaitons

Expository Project - An exegetical research project focussed on one passage from the Exposition Plan which includes clause map and a one-page teaching outline aimed at a selected contemporary audience.

Integration Project - A 2000-2500 word essay in which you synthesize what you have learned in Hebrew Exegesis and integrate those learnings with what you have been learning in other components of the curriculum (Bible, theology, history, sociology, anthropology, global & contextual studies, spiritual formation, leadership, etc.). Devote the last 250-500 words to reflections on how your work has impacted you personally and areas you intend to follow-up.

## Submitting Assignments

Assignments are due by midnight Saturday. The Seminary Catalog stipulates: “students are expected to submit all work by the dates set by the course instructors and complete all course requirements on or before the last day of the quarter.”

**N.b.**, normally late work will not be accepted. (Circumstances that a congregation would accept for postponing a Sunday sermon may be considered with a reduction in grade) An *Incomplete Contract* may be approved for extenuating circumstances (not for simply getting behind in the assignments). Such exceptions may involve a grade reduction.

Written work is to be submitted via Blackboard in either MSWord or WordPerfect format. **N.b.**, the filename given each assignment must follow a prescribed protocol. The filename will include *course number, term, your last name, and assignment name* (e.g., **ot641-w09-yourname-assignmentname**). Documents submitted without this filenaming protocol may not be registered and graded.

### Miscellany:

- Policies: Refer to the seminary catalogue and student handbook for policies that apply to all courses.
- Attendance: Regular engagement in the class each week is an essential part of the learning enterprise. Being on-time for class sessions is a matter of respect. Unexcused absence and multiple tardiness will result in reduction of grade.
- Etiquette: Phones & beepers must be turned off during class. Tardiness & inappropriate behavior will result in reduction of grade. Tape recording is not permitted inasmuch as it can inhibit class participation. Men: hats off to you. ☺
- A summary of library resources may be found at <http://seminary.bethel.edu/library/research-help/bib-stud>
- **N.b.:** The professor may modify or otherwise supplement this syllabus and/or class instructions via Blackboard or e-mail. Other course material is available on Blackboard. It is the student's responsibility to avail herself or himself to such resources and check Blackboard and/or their email for such notices.

**Grading Rubric:** See “Rubric for Assessment” under the “Assignments” tab on the course website.

## COURSE ASSESSMENT

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Class preparation & participation	
Discussion & participation. . . . .	10%
Written assignments	
Portfolio. . . . .	25%
Guide Exercises. . . . .	5%
Exposition Plan. . . . .	20%
Exposition Project. . . . .	20%
Integration Project. . . . .	20%

# COURSE AGENDA \_\_\_\_\_ OT641 -WINTER '09

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Assignment due</i>
Week of Jan 5	Course Intro: Webinar Setting of the Prophets; Review Exegetical Method	Beecher, P&P, chs 4-11 Review FETE chs 3-8 Read Amos 5:1-17 aloud
Week of Jan 12	Amos 5:1-17 (exercise FETE pp.284-287)	Read <i>IOT</i> on Amos; FETE process notes. Incl. clause map in step 2; Scan GBH chs 1-3; <a href="#">Guide to BHS</a>
Week of Jan 19	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Read <i>IOT</i> on Isaiah; FETE process notes. Incl. clause map in step 2; Scan GBH ch 4; <a href="#">Guide to MT</a> ; <a href="#">Guide to Accent System</a>
Week of Jan 26	Jeremiah 31:27-40	Read <i>IOT</i> on Jeremiah; FETE process notes. Incl. clause map in step 2; Review FETE ch 9; Scan GBH ch 5; Study <a href="#">Guide to BHS Apparatus</a> ;
Week of Feb 2	<b>Intensive Week One</b> Prophets: Historical & Theological Setting; Hermeneutics	
Tues	Amos 5:1-17; <a href="#">Guide to Reading &amp; Translating</a> ; <a href="#">Guide to GKC</a> ; <a href="#">Guide to Syntax</a>	
Wed.	Isaiah 52:13-53:12 ; <a href="#">Guide to HALOT</a> ; <a href="#">Guide to Word Studies</a>	
Thurs	Jeremiah 31:27-40; <a href="#">Guide to Even-Shoshan</a>	
Fri	Malachi 1:1-2:9	
Feb. 8	At Home, 7PM - R.S.V.P.	
Week of Feb 9	<b>Intensive Week Two</b>	
Week of Feb 16	Expository teaching plan (13 weeks)	Teaching Plan
Week of Feb 23	Exegetical research	
Week of Mar 2	Expository Project	Expository Project
Week of Mar 9	Integration Project	Integration project ; Hebrew Reading Portfolio