

OT514 HEBREW SYNTAX AND EXEGESIS

FALL 2022 – PHOENIX SEMINARY



INSTRUCTOR

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DESCRIPTION (from *Student Handbook*)

This course teaches the process of exegeting the Hebrew Old Testament. This includes the skills necessary for doing textual criticism, responsible lexical study, informed analysis of syntax and grammar and all with a growing sensitivity to matters of genre and historical background.

[3 credit hours. Prerequisites: OT512 and OT513]

COURSE OUTCOMES

At the end of this course the student will:

1. Learn a responsible method for exegeting the Bible in Hebrew.
2. Understand textual criticism and how to use an apparatus to resolve textual problems.
3. Grow in proficiency with Hebrew through reading the Hebrew Old Testament.
4. Make informed and judicious use of the standard lexica.
5. Engage with advanced commentaries.
6. Produce an exegetical paper, exercising all the skills learned in the class.

PRIMARY REQUIRED COURSE TEXT(S)

Beckman, John C. *Williams' Hebrew Syntax* (3rd Edition). Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2007. (Beckman)

Brown, Francis, S.R. Driver, and C.A. Briggs. *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Oxford, 1907. OR digital equivalent in Bible Software.

Elliger, K., and W. Rudolph, et al., eds. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. 5th ed. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1967/77, 1997.

Gentry, P. J. "The System of the Finite Verb in Classical Biblical Hebrew," *Hebrew Studies* 39 (1998): 7-39.

Gentry, P. J. "The Text of the Old Testament," *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 52/1 (2009): 19-45.

Merwe, Christo H. J. van der, Jackie A. Naudé, and Jan H. Kroeze. *A Biblical Hebrew Reference Grammar*. 2nd Edition. London: Bloomsbury / T&T Clark, 2017. (*ABHRG*)

Stuart, D. *Old Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001, 2009.

Watson, Wilfred G. E. *Classical Hebrew Poetry: A Guide to its Techniques*. JSOT Sup. 26. Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1984; reprint: T & T Clark, 2009.

SECONDARY COURSE TEXT(S) [ON RESERVE OR ON COURSE WEBPAGE]

Barthélemy, D. et al. *Preliminary and Interim Report on the Hebrew Old Testament Text Project*. Vol. 1, Pentateuch. New York: UBS, 1979.

Joüon, P. *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew*. 2 vols. Subsidia Biblica 14/1-2. Trans. and rev. by T. Muraoka. Rome: Biblical Institute Press, 1992. **Or** the new one volume, Joüon, P. and T. Muraoka. *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew*. Subsidia Biblica 27. Rome: Biblical Institute Press, 2006.

Kautzsch, E. *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar*. Rev. by A. E. Cowley. 2nd English ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1910.

Meade, John D. "Old Testament Textual Criticism: Retrieving the Words for Exegesis" (Draft of forthcoming chapter for *Going Deeper into Classical Biblical Hebrew*, B&H; posted on course webpage)

O'Connor, Michael. *Hebrew Verse Structure*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1997.

Ross, Allen P. *Biblical Hebrew Handbook*. 2nd Edition, 1981. For Lexical Analysis, see pp. 558-565. Professor will provide this handout.

Tov, Emanuel. *Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible*. 3rd ed. Revised and Expanded. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2012.

Waltke, Bruce K. and M. O'Connor. *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 1990.

The students may find the following resources helpful:

i. Bibliography of Exegetical Tools (Prepared by Peter J. Gentry and adapted by John D. Meade; see also Stuart Chapter IV).

ii. Helpful websites for OT Textual Criticism:

General

- Online Bibles (without apparatus; BHS, Rahlfs' LXX; Vulgate; NT):

<http://www.academic-bible.com/en/online-bibles/>

- Online list of MSS and Editions:

<http://oldtestamenttextualcriticism.blogspot.com/p/online-digital-images.html>

Hebrew

- Dead Sea Scrolls (1QIsa^a et al.)

<http://dss.collections.imj.org.il/>

<http://www.deadseascrolls.org.il/>

- Aleppo Codex (Hebrew ms from ca. AD 930)

<http://www.aleppocodex.org/>

- Kennicott (needed to get readings from the Hebrew Medieval mss)

Vol. 1: <https://archive.org/details/vetustestamentum01kenn>

Vol. 2: <https://archive.org/details/vetustestamentum02kenn>

-DeRossi (needed to get readings from the Hebrew Medieval mss)

Vol. 1:

<http://books.google.com/books/reader?id=tK0WAAAAQAAJ&printsec=frontcover&output=reader&pg=GBS.PR1>

Vol. 2:

<http://books.google.com/books/reader?id=33dBAAAAcAAJ&printsec=frontcover&output=reader&pg=GBS.PR1>

Vol. 3:

http://books.google.com/books?id=8XdBAAAAcAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=Variae+lectiones+Veteris+Testamenti,+ex+immensa+mss.+editorumque+...,+Volume+3&hl=en&sa=X&ei=c42_UJzaFqaa2AXTyoCABQ&ved=0CDYQ6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q&f=false

Vol. 4:

http://books.google.com/books?id=-BuKcwIIxVYC&printsec=frontcover&dq=Variae+lectiones+Veteris+Testamenti,+ex+immensa+mss.+editorumque+...,+Volume+4&hl=en&sa=X&ei=oo2_UJLgGc-_2QWow4HICw&ved=0CDMQ6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q=Variae%20lectiones%20Veteris%20Testamenti%2C%20ex%20immensa%20mss.%20editorumque%20...%2C%20Volume%204&f=false

Greek

- *New English Translation of the Septuagint* (NETS)

<http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/nets/>

- Field's Hexapla (for the readings of Aquila, Symmachus, and Theodotion when there is no Göttingen Edition):

Vol. 1: <http://archive.org/details/origenhexapla01unknuoft>

Vol. 2: <http://archive.org/details/origenhexapla02unknuoft>

Latin

- Whitaker's Words (Latin Parsing tool): <https://mk270.github.io/whitakers-words/>

Aramaic and Syriac

- Comprehensive Aramaic Lexicon (Aramaic Targums and Syriac Peshitta):

<http://cal1.cn.huc.edu/>

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Faithful labor and learning on the part of the student should produce:

1. Hebrew Class Reading [10%], Secondary Readings [10%], and Final Exam [30%] <i>[Outcomes 1, 3, 5-6]</i>	an ability to read various genres in Hebrew. This ability will be tested in the Final Exam in preparation for which the student will be responsible for the readings in Hebrew.
2. Exegetical Paper [30%] <i>[Outcomes 1-6]</i>	an ability to exegete narrative and poetry in Hebrew. This will be measured by completing exegetical assignments and composing an exegetical paper.

3. Textual Assignment [5%] <i>[Outcome 4]</i>	an ability to read the textual apparatus in the BHS text and make informed decisions between variants. This will be measured by having the student practice textual criticism in: (1) an assignment on a particular problem (2) consulting The Preliminary Report for the passages read together (3) an assignment integral to the exegetical paper.
4. Lexical Assignment [5%] <i>[Outcomes 1-2]</i>	an ability to do a thorough lexical study through the careful use of available resource tools. This will be measured by: (1) an assignment in lexical analysis (2) two lexical studies in the exegetical paper.
5. Syntax Assignments [4 x 2.5 = 10%] <i>[Outcome 5]</i>	an ability to analyze Hebrew grammar and syntax. This will be measured by: (1) Four assignments in gross and fine grammatical analysis (2) Integration of these skills into the exegetical paper.

GRADING INFORMATION

Letter Grade	Percentage	Grade Points	Description
A+	100–97	4.0	
A	96–93	4.0	Excellent; superior achievement.
A-	92–90	3.7	
B+	89–87	3.3	
B	86–83	3.0	Good; commendable achievement.
B-	82–80	2.7	
C+	79–77	2.3	
C	76–73	2.0	Satisfactory; acceptable achievement.
C-	72–70	1.7	
D+	69–67	1.3	
D	66–63	1.0	Poor; marginal achievement.
D-	62–60	0.7	
F	59–0	0.0	Failure to advance in the course. No credit earned. Computed in GPA.

SEMINARY ACADEMIC POLICIES

All Seminary policies affecting student work, appeals, and grievances, as outlined in the Student Handbook and/or Seminary Catalog will apply, unless otherwise indicated in this syllabus. See the respective sections of the [*Student Handbook*](#).

Assignment Policies

Reading and writing are essential habits to form while in seminary for the benefit of present and future ministry. Planning for submitting work on time in seminary should help create the habits necessary for ministry. Papers are to be submitted in electronic format on the due date according to the syllabus. Papers should be type-written and proofread carefully before submission. Take the time to read your work out loud to yourself or anyone who will listen to it. Each assignment should include a title page and conform to the style of [Phoenix Seminary Guidelines](#) for papers. **Late submissions will be accepted but marked down a third of a letter grade each day (e.g. A+ > A > A-) that they are not submitted.**

BIBLIOGRAPHY
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REFERENCE WORKS:

A. Text

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- Brooke, G. J. and B. Lindars. *Septuagint, Scrolls and Cognate Writings*. Society of Biblical Literature Septuagint and Cognate Studies, no. 33. Atlanta, Georgia: Scholars Press, 1992.
- Brotzman, Ellis R. *Old Testament Textual Criticism: A Practical Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994.
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- Fitzmyer, J. A. *The Dead Sea Scrolls: Major Publications and Tools for Study*. Atlanta, Georgia: Scholars Press, 1977. rev. ed. 1990.
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- Gentry, Peter J. "The Septuagint and the Text of the Old Testament," *Bulletin for Biblical Research* 16.2 (2006): 193-218.
- Ginsburg, Christian D. *Introduction to the Masoretico-Critical Edition of the Hebrew Bible*. New York: KTAV, 1966. Prolegomenon by Harry M. Orlinsky.
- Jellicoe, Sidney. *The Septuagint and Modern Study*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1968.
- Jobes, Karen H. and Moisés Silva. *Invitation to the Septuagint*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2000.
- Klein, Ralph W. *Textual Criticism of the Old Testament*. (Guides to Biblical Scholarship). Fortress Press, 1974.
- Martin, Malachi, SJ. *The Scribal Character of the Dead Sea Scrolls*. 2 vols. Louvain: Publications Universitaires, 1958.
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- Norton, Gerard, transl. Frederick Field's *Prolegomena to Origenis Hexaplorum quae Supersunt, sive veterum interpretum Graecorum in totum Vetus Testamentum fragmenta*. Cahiers de la Revue Biblique 62. Paris: Gabalda, 2005.

- Parry, Donald W. and Elisha Qimron, eds. *The Great Isaiah Scroll (1QIsa^a): A New Edition*. Leiden: Brill, 1999.
- Rahlfs, Alfred. *Septuaginta*. 2 vols. 1935. Reprint. Stuttgart: Württembergische Bibelanstalt, 1982.
- Scanlin, H. *The Dead Sea Scrolls & Modern Translations of the Old Testament*. Wheaton: Tyndale House, 1993.
- Septuagint - see Würthwein.
- Sperber, Alexander. *The Bible in Aramaic*. Reprint. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1959, 1992.
- Swete, H. B. *An Introduction to the Old Testament in Greek*. 2nd ed. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1902. Revised by R. R. Ottley, 1914. Reprint. New York: Ktav, 1968.
- Syriac - see Würthwein.
- Targums - see Würthwein / Comprehensive Aramaic Lexicon (<http://cal1.cn.huc.edu>).
- Tov, Emanuel. "The Text of the Old Testament" in *The World of the Bible*. ed. A. S. Van der Woude. Eerdmans, 1986. pp. 156-190.
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- Vulgate - see Würthwein.
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- Weber, Robert et al. eds. *Biblia Sacra iuxta Vulgatam Versionem*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1969, 3rd ed., 1983.
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- Würthwein, Ernst. *The Text of the Old Testament*. 2nd ed. Trans. Erroll F. Rhodes. Eerdmans, 1979, 1995.
- Yeivin, Israel. Ed. & transl. by E. J. Revell. *Introduction to the Tiberian Masorah*. (Masoretic Studies 5). Missoula: Scholars Press, 1980.

B. Language

(i) Concordances

Andersen, Francis I. and A. Dean Forbes. *The Vocabulary of the Old Testament*. Rome: Editrice Pontificio Istituto Biblico, 1989.

Even-Shoshan, A. *A New Concordance to the Old Testament*. Baker, 1984. Best for Grammatical Studies.

Hatch, Edwin and Redpath, Henry A. *A Concordance to the Septuagint and the Other Greek Versions of the Old Testament*. 2 vols. Oxford: At the Clarendon Press, 1897-1906.

Lisowsky, G. *Konkordanz zum Hebräischen Alten Testament*. Stuttgart: Württembergische Bibelanstalt, 1958. Best for Lexical Studies.

(ii) Grammars

Gibson, J. C. L. *Davidson's Introductory Hebrew Grammar – Syntax*. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1994.

Jenni, E. *Die hebräischen Präpositionen, Band 1: Die Präposition Beth* Stuttgart: Kolhammer, 1992.

Jenni, E. *Die hebräischen Präpositionen, Band 2: Die Präposition Kaph* Stuttgart: Kolhammer, 1994.

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Waltke, Bruce K. and M. O'Connor. *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 1990.

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(iii) Lexicography

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Barr, James. "Etymology and the Old Testament" in *Oudtestamentische Studien XIX*, pp. 1-28. Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1974

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- Harris, R. Laird, Archer, Gleason L. Jr., and Waltke, Bruce K. eds. *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. 2 vols. Chicago: Moody Press, 1980.
- Holladay, W. L. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Eerdmans, 1971.
- Jastrow, Marcus. *A Dictionary of the Targumim, The Talmud Babli and Yerushalmi, and The Midrashic Literature*. 2 vols. 1903. Reprint. New York: Pardes, 1950.
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- C. Conceptual and Literary Milieu
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E. Methodology

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Clements, R. E. *A Century of Old Testament Study*. Guildford and London: Lutterworth Press, 1976. pp. 76-98.

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F. Refutation of Kahle's Theory

Hanhart, R. "Judische Tradition und christliche Interpretation zur Geschichte der Septuagintaforschung in Göttingen", in: A.M. Ritter (ed.), *Kerygma und Logos, Festschrift Carl Andresen*. (Göttingen, 1979), pp. 280-297.

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Orlinsky, H. M. "On the Present State of Proto-Septuagint Studies." JAOS 61 (1941), pp. 81-91.

Orlinsky, H. M. Review of Kahle, P. E. *The Cairo Geniza*. Oxford, 1947 (Schweich Lectures 1941). JAOS 69 (1949), pp. 164-167.

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Wevers, J. W. "Text History and Textual Criticism of the Septuagint," SVT 29 (1978), pp. 392-402.

THE PROFESSOR DOES NOT ENDORSE ALL VIEWPOINTS REPRESENTED IN THESE WORKS

COURSE SCHEDULE

Class	Topics	Assignments, Preparation & Reading
Week 1	Course Overview	Syllabus Exegetical Resources/Tools
	Hebrew Reading	Isaiah 40:1–19
Week 2	Exegetical Method	Lecture on Exegetical Method Stuart, <i>O.T. Exegesis</i> , Chapters 1 and 2
	Hebrew Reading	Isaiah 40:20–41:7
Week 3	Textual Criticism	Lecture on Textual Criticism <i>Preliminary Report</i> , v–xvii Gentry, “The Text of the Old Testament” Tov, <i>Textual Criticism</i> , Chapters 1–2, 7
	Hebrew Reading	Isaiah 41:8–27
Week 4	Method for Textual Criticism	Assignment in Textual Criticism (Isaiah 3:12) Meade, “Old Testament Textual Criticism: Retrieving the Words for Exegesis” (Draft)
	Hebrew Reading	Isaiah 41:28–42:17
Week 5	Discussion Period	Assignment in Textual Criticism – Hand in
	Hebrew Reading	Isaiah 42:18–43:14
Week 6	Lexical Analysis	Methodology of Lexical Analysis Ross, <i>Biblical Hebrew Handbook</i> , 558–565
	Hebrew Reading	Isaiah 43:15–44:8
Week 7	Discussion Period	Assignment in Lexical Analysis (Genesis 1:26) – Hand in
	Sentence Typology	<i>ABHRG</i> , 47–65 Lecture on Sentence Typology

	Hebrew Reading	Isaiah 44:9–24
Week 8	Advanced Syntax	Verb: Tense, Aspect, and Modality
		Gentry, “System of the Finite Verb”
		<i>ABHRG</i> , 151–171; 188–199
		Beckman, 56–95
	Sentence Typology	Sentence Typology Exercise #1 (Isaiah 54:1–9) – Hand in
	Hebrew Reading	Isaiah 44:25–45:13
Week 9	Advanced Syntax	Verb: Derivational Morphology
		<i>ABHRG</i> , 72–91
		Beckman, 1–55
	Hebrew Reading	Isaiah 45:14–46:2
	Sentence Typology	Sentence Typology Exercise #2 (Isaiah 54:10–17) – Hand in
Week 10	Advanced Syntax	Bound Structure/Noun Phrases
		<i>ABHRG</i> , 220–232
		Beckman, 96–151
NO CLASS	Advanced Syntax	Prepositional Phrases
		<i>ABHRG</i> , 323–378
		Beckman, 152–211
	Hebrew Reading	Isaiah 46:3–47:7
Week 11	Syntactic Analysis – Discussion	Fine Syntactic Analysis Exercise #1 (Isaiah 54:1–9) – Hand in
	Hebrew Reading	Isaiah 47:8–48:7
	Poetic Analysis	Waltke, “Figures of Speech” handout
Week 12	Syntactic Analysis – Discussion	Fine Syntactic Analysis Exercise #2 (Isaiah 54:10–17) – Hand in
	Literary Structure	Lecture on O’Connor’s Method
		O’Connor, <i>Hebrew Verse Structure</i> pp. 297-320
		Watson, <i>Classical Hebrew Poetry</i>
	Hebrew Reading	Isaiah 48:8–49:4

Week 13	Literary Structure	Application of O'Connor's Method
	Hebrew Reading	Isaiah 49:5-20
	Reading Days – no class	
	Happy Thanksgiving – no class	
Week 14	Hebrew Reading	Isaiah 49:21-50:8
		Hand in Exegetical Paper (Isaiah 54)
Week 15	Final Exam	