Course Syllabus

(DRAFT SYLLABUS: FINAL VERSION WITH MINOR CHANGES WILL BE POSTED BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF THE COURSE)

FALL 2019
HEBREW EXEGESIS I
OLDT 0711

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE:
READINGS IN BIBLICAL HEBREW I
HEBR 3023

SEPTEMBER 10 – DECEMBER 10, 2019
TUESDAYS, 2:15 – 5:05 PM

INSTRUCTOR: DR. REBECCA G. S. IDESTROM
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Wednesdays 2:00-3:00 PM, by appointment

Access course material at http://classes.tyndale.ca/
Course-related emails ONLY will be sent to your @MyTyndale.ca e-mail account.
Learn how to access and forward emails to your personal account.

The mission of Tyndale Seminary is to provide Christ-centred graduate theological education for leaders in the church and society whose lives are marked by intellectual maturity, spiritual vigour and moral integrity, and whose witness will faithfully engage culture with the Gospel.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Through the in-depth study of selected passages of Biblical Hebrew Narrative, students will learn various foundational methods essential for OT exegesis. While geared toward teaching
and preaching, the course also provides the student with a solid foundation for further advanced academic study.

Prerequisites: BIBL 0501 and OLDT 0612.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course, the student will be able to:

A. Knowledge and Understanding
   1. demonstrate a working knowledge of the grammar, vocabulary and syntax of Biblical Hebrew.
   2. exegete a passage of Scripture in Hebrew.
   3. read Hebrew with greater proficiency and understanding.
   4. analyze the genre, structure, and techniques of Hebrew narrative.
   5. describe the basic hermeneutical considerations involved in Old Testament interpretation.

B. Discipline-specific Skills
   1. parse and translate verbal forms and understand syntactical categories studied, especially as it relates to verbal translation values and causal relationships.
   2. master the technique of interpretive questioning.
   3. analyze and explain Hebrew word meanings responsibly.
   4. use Hebrew lexicons, concordances, grammars, theological dictionaries and commentaries effectively for doing Bible study, word study, exegesis, and sermon preparation.

C. Transferable Skills
   1. use the available resources for studying Biblical Hebrew.
   2. foster the ability to read biblical texts carefully, paying close attention to detail.
   3. foster a desire for life-long learning of the Hebrew language.
   4. learn self-disciplined study habits and the ability to meet fixed deadlines as set out by the course outline.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED TEXTS


Revised: May 3, 2019


The STEP Bible (a helpful Hebrew and Greek online resource) https://www.stepbible.org/ Tyndale recommends this free and reputable online resource developed by Tyndale House (Cambridge, England) for word searches of original language texts, as well as for topical searches, interlinear texts, dictionaries, etc. Refer to the Library for other online resources for Biblical Studies

You will also need a Hebrew Bible and a Hebrew Lexicon. For a Hebrew Bible I recommend: *A Reader’s Hebrew Bible* (Zondervan), or the *BHS (Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia)*, or *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia: A Reader’s Edition* (Hendrickson). For a Hebrew Lexicon, I recommend David Clines’ *Concise Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*, W. L. Holladay, *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* or the *BDB (The Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon)*. Electronic versions of the Hebrew lexicons are also acceptable.

**B. RECOMMENDED TEXTS**

*It is highly recommended that students purchase Hebrew and Greek capable Bible software and learn to use it. It will greatly aid in the completion of assignments, and will enable the student to keep using Hebrew long after graduation.* Accordance, Bibleworks, and Logos are the best three Bible software programs for the biblical languages. If the student has not already purchased one of the above, the professor has negotiated a special student price (40% off) for the Accordance software program, which functions on both Mac and PC. Accordance offers various packages for Hebrew and Greek software. Further information on how to order from Accordance with the student discount code, please go to the Hebrew Exegesis Course page. Students who want to order it also need to email me their personal email address for me to confirm with Accordance that you are a student in my class. Owning this software will enable the student to make a giant leap forward both in the course itself, and in future work both in other Tyndale courses, and beyond.


C. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

The following written assignments will help foster the skills of critical analysis and doing biblical exegesis from the Hebrew Bible. Through doing the practical exercises, the student will learn how to ask interpretive questions, do Hebrew word studies, and analyze Hebrew narrative.

1. Word Study: Due on October 8, 2019; 10% of final grade.

Instructions for doing the Hebrew word study will be given in class. Length: 3-4 pages double-spaced.
2. **Interpretive Questions and Answers Assignment:** Due on November 5, 2019; 20 % of final grade.

Draw up a Hebrew term chart of Genesis 22:1–19. Select approximately 20–25 (or more) Hebrew words or phrases from the passage and list them in the chart. In the appropriate columns identify significant features of the text and ask insightful and pertinent interpretive questions. Then respond to some of the questions you have asked. More detailed instructions on interpretative questions will be given in class. The primary sources you should use to answer these questions are: Concordances, Hebrew Grammars and Syntax Books, Bible Dictionaries and Encyclopedias, Specialized Articles on Verbal and Thematic Studies, and Commentaries. Ask different kinds of questions from the various categories outlined in the detailed instructions about interpretative questions. Some questions will require longer answers, whereas others can be answered in one or two sentences. You do not need to answer every question you have posed. Be selective and spend your energy on the most critical and relevant questions. Try to answer a variety of types of questions suggested from the different kinds of interpretative questions outlined in the Interpretative Questions Handout. Be sure to indicate the source of your answers on the term chart. For example, use author and page citations (e.g. Hamilton, p. 56) in the chart or use footnotes, and include a full bibliography at the end. The length of the paper should be approximately 7-10 pages, not including bibliography.

3. **Exegetical Paper.** Due on December 3, 2019; 30 % of final grade.

For this assignment, you need to do your own translation of the passage from Hebrew into English, parse all the verbs, and submit this along with the exegesis paper.

Full instructions on how to do an exegetical paper will be given in class.

4. **Completion of Translation Exercises:** Due dates vary; 15 % of final grade.

Throughout the semester we will be doing translation from the Hebrew Bible. The focus of the translation and parsing for the fall semester is on Hebrew narrative. The student is responsible to complete the translation exercises before each class when they are due and to come prepared to discuss them in class. The student should keep a log of when they completed the translations of the assigned passages and hand in the log on the final day of class, December 3, 2019. See class schedule below of passages to be translated.

5. **Final Exam:** 15 % of final grade. Date to be confirmed by the Office of the Registrar.

There will be an exam based on the Hebrew passages translated for class. This exam will involve translating and parsing the Hebrew and commenting on any grammatical features or theological and thematic questions. This exam will be held during the exam week. Extra time will not be allowed for late arrivals. If the student misses the exam, the exam will be counted as zero unless the student missed the exam due to illness. In such a case, the student needs to
fill out an Exam Reschedule Form and submit it to the Office of the Registrar along with a doctor’s note within 48 hours of the originally scheduled exam time.

6. Participation and Reading Assignment: Due December 3, 2019; 10 % of final grade.

The student is required to read the textbooks and assigned readings for the course. See reading schedule below. As part of the reading assignment, the student should read two Hebrew devotions twice a week as part of their personal devotions. Any passage of Scripture from the Hebrew Bible is acceptable. The student should try to meditate on the Hebrew verse as part of their devotional time, so that learning Hebrew becomes more than just an academic exercise. At the end of the course, the student will hand in a log of the Scriptures used for the Hebrew devotions, as well as all the readings that were completed during the semester. The student is also required to listen to the Hebrew Scripture passages read aloud from the Academy of Ancient Languages online website (http://www.aoal.org/hebrew_audiobible.htm) for the biblical texts listed each week according to the Course Schedule. The ultimate goal is that the student will be able to understand the passage orally and improve their own reading skill of reading Hebrew.

The student is also encouraged to participate in class. Periodically we will break into small groups and the class will work on an exercise together. Each student is also required to join a study group comprised of two to four members. These study groups are required to meet once a week to assist each other in learning the language and to practice reading Hebrew together. Twenty to thirty minutes a week should be spent practicing reading biblical Hebrew together as a group. Each person needs to keep a reading log indicating the date, the time spent and what passage was read. This needs to be handed in on the last day of class. The rest of the study group time can be spent going over the homework, reviewing vocabulary and grammar, and helping each other grapple with any questions or problems. Homework may be done as a group; however, the “divide and copy” method (i.e. you translate verses 1–5 and I will do 6–10, and then copy each other’s answers) is expressly prohibited. Your study group is one of your most important assets in this course. It can provide mutual support and encouragement. If you and your study group is not a good match and is not working out, please tell the professor immediately.

Before turning to an interlinear Bible or computer translation and parsing guides or programs please try to do your translation work first, unless you are completely stuck. These, however, may be used after a reasonable attempt has been made (3 minutes) to locate the term in Clines, Holladay, or BDB or with using Computer software. The use of Zondervan’s A Reader’s Hebrew Bible or Armstrong, Busby, Carr, A Reader’s Hebrew-English Lexicon of the Old Testament is encouraged as well as the use of Hebrew vocabulary cards or aids for practicing vocabulary. If you do not own a Hebrew computer program to check your work, you may consult J. J. Owens, Analytical Key to the Old Testament (4 vols; Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1989-92), available in the reference section of the library.
Please NOTE: Going over the allowable page limit by several pages on the papers will result in a reduction in the grade.

D. EQUITY OF ACCESS

Students with permanent or temporary disabilities who need academic accommodations must contact the Accessibility Services at the Centre for Academic Excellence to register and discuss their specific needs. New students must self-identify and register with the Accessibility Office at the beginning of the semester or as early as possible to access appropriate services. Current students must renew their plans as early as possible to have active accommodations in place.

E. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment #1: Word Study</th>
<th>10 %</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignment # 2: Interpretive Questions and Answers Assignment</td>
<td>20 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment # 3: Exegetical Paper</td>
<td>30 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Completion of Translation Exercises</td>
<td>15 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam on the Translation Passages</td>
<td>15 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation and Reading Assignment</td>
<td>10 %</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Grade</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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F. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

1. Your work should demonstrate the following characteristics:

   **Accuracy** (a fair and accurate presentation of scholarly judgment on the issues) – Is what I say correct? Is it valid? Have I understood the topic or question?

   **Critical Analysis** – Have I understood the main issues? Have I done sufficient research on the topic? Does my paper show critical reflection, interaction and dialogue with the biblical text and with authors writing on the subject?

   **Organization** – Does my paper follow a clear outline? Does my paper have a thesis statement? Is there a clear progression and development of an idea or an argument in the paper? Does my argument have a meaningful order?

   **Clarity** – Does what I say make sense? Will others clearly understand what I am seeking to express?

   **Good Grammar and Writing** – Is my paper clean of spelling mistakes? Is the text punctuated correctly? Does the sentence structure consistently adhere to basic rules of good grammar? Do I use inclusive language?

   **Well Documented** (thorough) – Is my work complete? Does my bibliography reflect sufficient research? Have I fully and accurately documented where I have relied upon the work of
others? Have I provided complete information about my research sources? Will others be able to locate these sources on the strength of my documentation?

2. Matters of Style


For proper citation style, consult the *Chicago-Style Quick Guide* (Tyndale e-resource) or the full edition of the *Chicago Manual of Style Online*, especially ch. 14. For citing scripture texts, refer to sections 10.44 to 10.48 and 14.238 to 14.241.

Written work ought to be free of spelling mistakes, punctuated correctly, and adhere to basic rules of grammar. It is expected that written work will be submitted in a clear, straight-forward style of academic prose (cf. the guidelines in Strunk and White, *Elements of Style*). Written work ought to betray clear organization, argument and coherent thought. The use of inclusive language is expected.

The title page for all written work ought to include the following:
The title of the paper, name of the course, name of the professor, date of submission, and your name.

Students are encouraged to consult writing resources.

Students should also consult the current Academic Calendar for academic polices on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System.

Research Ethics
All course-based assignments involving human participants requires ethical review and approval by the Tyndale Research Ethics Board (REB). Check with the Seminary Office (Room B302; aau@tyndale.ca) before proceeding.

3. Academic Integrity

Integrity in academic work is required of all our students. Academic dishonesty is any breach of this integrity, and includes such practices as cheating (the use of unauthorized material on tests and examinations), submitting the same work for different classes without permission of the instructors; using false information (including false references to secondary sources) in an assignment; improper or unacknowledged collaboration with other students, and plagiarism. Tyndale University College & Seminary takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty.
In all work, you are obliged to pay careful attention to matters of intellectual property, honesty and integrity. Plagiarism is to be avoided at all costs and will not be tolerated in any form whatsoever. Plagiarism, by definition, is the use of the work of another person without proper acknowledgement. Examples of plagiarism include (but are not limited to) the following: copying a sentence or part of a sentence from a book or article without using quotation marks and citing the source; rephrasing another person’s words without giving credit for the idea that you have borrowed by citing the source; copying the work of someone else and handing it in as your own. It is assumed that each assignment required for this course will be written independently. Please note that plagiarism in any form on any assignment will automatically result in a grade of “F” for the assignment with no opportunity for resubmission.

4. Late Assignments

The assumption is, of course, that all written work will be submitted on and before the corresponding due dates. Should this not occur, the following policy shall govern the evaluation of your work. For every week late, the grade will be reduced by 5 %, a half a letter grade (i.e. one week late: 82 % A- becomes 77 % B+; two weeks late, 82 % becomes 72 % B-, etc.). Please note that the deduction is accumulated weekly, not daily, and so a student will receive the same penalty whether the assignment is one or six days late.

Extensions will be considered only in cases such as a death in the family, the hospitalization of yourself or a member of your immediate family, or an illness for which you require treatment by a physician. Reference to heavy work load, other assignments, professional or ministry obligations, or holidays do not constitute legitimate grounds for an extension.

Requests for extensions must be submitted in writing to the professor explaining the reason why the extension is needed. Such requests need to be submitted prior to the due date.

All assignments must be handed in by the last day of exams (Dec 13, 2019). No assignments will be accepted after that date, unless the student has a valid reason for an extension. In that case, the student must apply for an extension to the Registrar and not to the professor.

5. Criteria for the Evaluation of Written Work

Your work will be evaluated on whether you answered the specific questions given and whether you followed the general guidelines for submitting written work.

6. Submission of Written Work

Students are required to retain a copy of all assignments (hard copy or electronic version). If a student wishes to submit written work by mail, they must be mailed directed to the Professor, c/o Tyndale Seminary. Alternatively, work may be given directly to the Professor in class on the due date. If the student wishes to have all written work returned to them (after
the semester is over), they must submit the written work with a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Otherwise assignments will be returned to the main Tyndale reception and the student can pick them from the receptionist.

G. COURSE EVALUATION

Tyndale Seminary values quality in the courses it offers its students. End-of-course evaluations provide valuable student feedback and are one of the ways that Tyndale Seminary works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student’s learning experience. Student involvement in this process is critical to enhance the general quality of teaching and learning.

Before the end of the course, students will receive a MyTyndale email with a link to the online course evaluation. The link can also be found in the left column on the course page. The evaluation period is 2 weeks; after the evaluation period has ended, it cannot be reopened.

Course Evaluation results will not be disclosed to the instructor before final grades in the course have been submitted and processed. Student names will be kept confidential and the instructor will only see the aggregated results of the class.

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS

Sept 10  Introduction and Review
Sept 17  Review Continued and Introduction to Syntax
         Tools and Exegetical Aids
         Come to class having completed the following:
         Read *From Exegesis to Exposition (EE)* chs. 1–2 (pp. 7–18)
         Do 2 Hebrew Devotions
         Prepare Translation of Ruth 1:1-7
         Listen to Ruth 1 on the Academy of Ancient Languages website (AAL)
Sept 24  How to do a Hebrew Word Study
         Read *EE* (ch. 4, pp. 31–56)
         Do 2 Hebrew Devotions
         Prepare Translation of Ruth 1:8–15
         Listen to Ruth 1 on the Academy of Ancient Languages website (AAL)
Oct 1    Introduction to Textual Criticism
         Read *EE* (ch. 3, pp. 19–29)
         Do 2 Hebrew Devotions
         Translation of Ruth 1:16-22
         Listen to Ruth 1 on the Academy of Ancient Languages website (AAL)
Oct 8  Assignment # 1: Word Study Due
Introduction to Interpretative Questions
Read EE (ch. 5, pp. 57–75)
Do 2 Hebrew Devotions
Translation of Ruth 2:1–8
Listen to Ruth 1-2 and Genesis 22 on the Academy of Ancient Languages website (AAL)

Oct 15  Read EE (ch. 5 cont., pp. 76–94)
Do 2 Hebrew Devotions
Translation of Ruth 2:9–18
Listen to Ruth 1-2 and Genesis 22 on the Academy of Ancient Languages website (AAL)

Oct 22  NO CLASS: READING DAYS

Oct 29  Introduction to Hebrew Narrative
Read EE (ch. 5 cont., pp. 94–117)
Read chs. 1–2 in Adele Berlin, Poetics and Interpretation of Biblical Narrative (pp. 13-42)
Do 2 Hebrew Devotions
Translation of Ruth 2:19–23; 3:1–4
Listen to Ruth 1-2 and Genesis 22 on the Academy of Ancient Languages website (AAL)

Nov 5   Assignment # 2: Interpretive Questions and Answers Assignment Due
Instructions for doing a Hebrew Exegesis Paper
Read EE (ch. 6, pp. 119–138)
Read ch. 3 in Adele Berlin, Poetics and Interpretation (pp. 43–82)
Do 2 Hebrew Devotions

Nov 12  Read EE (ch 6 cont., pp. 139–147)
Read ch. 4 in Adele Berlin, Poetics and Interpretation (pp. 83–110)
Do 2 Hebrew Devotions
Translation of Ruth 3:5–14
Listen to Ruth 1-3 on the Academy of Ancient Languages website (AAL)

Nov 19  Read EE (ch 7, pp. 149–186)
Do 2 Hebrew Devotions
Translation of Ruth 3:15–18; 4:1–8
Listen to Ruth 1-4 on the Academy of Ancient Languages website (AAL)

Nov 26  Student Led Class
Read EE (ch. 8, pp.187–220)
Do 2 Hebrew Devotions
Translation of Ruth 4:9–22
Listen to Ruth 1-4 on the Academy of Ancient Languages website (AAL)

Dec 3
Complete the Course Evaluation Online
Read EE (ch 9, pp. 221–278)
Do 2 Hebrew Devotions
Assignment # 3: Exegetical Paper Due
Participation in Study Groups and Reading Log Due
Completion of Bible Translations Log Due

Dec 10?
Final Exam on the Hebrew Translation Passages
(To be confirmed by the Office of the Registrar)

V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

(Tyndale Library supports this course with e-journals and e-books. See the Library FAQ page.)

Introductory Grammars:


More Advanced Grammars:


Dictionaries/Lexicons:


**Concordances:**


**Other Lexical Aids:**


Biblical Hebrew Vocabulary Cards. Visual Education Association, 581 West Leffel Lane, P.O. Box 1666, Springfield, Ohio 45501, USA.

Revised: May 3, 2019


There is a lot of computer software available as well for learning Hebrew and doing lexical and grammatical searches of the Hebrew Bible. Accordance and Bibleworks are recommended.


Tyndale Library Research Guides for biblical languages:
http://libguides.tyndale.ca/content.php?pid=130812

Helpful websites for Hebrew:
Academy of Ancient Languages:
http://aoal.org/
http://www.aoal.org/hebrew_audiobible.htm
http://www.animatedhebrew.com/
http://www.mechon-mamre.org
http://torahforme.org
http://www.learningbiblicalhebrewinteractively.com/
http://bakerpublishinggroup.com/books/beginning-biblical-hebrew/342630/esources
http://dailydoseofhebrew.com/
https://www.stepbible.org/
https://biblehub.com/interlinear/
https://scholarsgateway.com/
https://www.blueletterbible.org/
http://qbible.com/
http://openscriptures.github.io/morphhb/index.html
http://obohu.cz/bible/index.php?wlc_en=ano&amp;k=Gn&amp;styl=OSH&amp;kap=1
Bible Society in Israel: BSI Hebrew Bible with Lexicon and Parsing:  
http://haktuvim.co.il/en/study/

A list of additional resources can be found on the Biblical Studies website:  
http://tyndale.ca/seminary/biblical-studies.