



## COURSE SYLLABUS

### Hebrew Exegesis II (OLDT 0712) WINTER 2011

**Instructor: Dr. John Kessler**, Department of Biblical Studies  
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**Office hours:** MONDAYS 10:00-noon.  
WEDNESDAYS 4:00-5:15 p.m.

I am usually available at these hours, but not always. To book an appointment, please leave me your preferred day and time, and a possible second choice, and I will confirm the time. Please contact me, preferably via e-mail: [jkessler@tyndale.ca](mailto:jkessler@tyndale.ca). If e-mail is unavailable, please call 416-226-6620, ext. 6724.

### COURSE PREREQUISITES

Required: **Hebrew Exegesis I (OLDT 0711)**

### I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to supplement Old Testament Hebrew Exegesis I (OLDT 0711) by providing the student with a more detailed study of the theory and practice of OT exegesis. It seeks to meet the needs of those who desire greater competence in the use of Hebrew for preaching and teaching, as well as those who envisage advanced degree studies in OT.

### II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the conclusion of this course, the student will:

1. demonstrate competence in the comprehension and translation of intermediate texts of Biblical Hebrew (language, form, structure, literary devices).
2. demonstrate the ability to discuss the literary, rhetorical, exegetical, and theological dimensions of a Hebrew text.
3. demonstrate an intermediate knowledge of Biblical Hebrew grammar and

syntax.

4. demonstrate the ability to formulate relevant sermons and Bible Studies based on a Hebrew text.

### III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

#### A. REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

E. Ben Zvi, M. Hancock, and R. Beinert. *Readings in Biblical Hebrew*. New Haven: Yale, 1993.

R. E. Murphy, *The Gift of the Psalms*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson Publishers, 2000.

#### B. ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

##### **I. Readings, and Completion of Exercises in RBH, and Psalm Translations (20%)**

The student will complete RBH: 2.1; 2.3. 3.3 and 4.1 for in class discussion, and one other section (student's choice) except 5.1 Students will hand in their book to the professor for marking on **Feb 16, 2012**. Students will indicate whether or not Murphy and the reading handouts have been completed on the last day of class (form on mytyndale course page).

##### **II. Exegetical Notebook (40%) DUE: March 22, 2012.**

The student will prepare an exegetical notebook on Psalms 1, 12, 30, and 73. The notebook will be divided into 4 sections, one for each psalm.

Each section must include:

1. Translation and Parsing of all verbs
2. Rhetorical Analysis including
  - Rhetorical analysis of printed text (repetitions, literary structure, etc.)
  - Cast of characters
  - Division into strophes
  - Timeline
3. Interpretive Questions

##### **III. PAPER OR PAPER AND CLASS PRESENTATION (40%) DUE: April 12, by 5 pm**

###### **1. Exegetical Study Option**

The student will present a paper on any pericope or any Psalm studied this semester.

The paper must include the following elements:

1. A rough term chart with interpretive questions and answers.
2. A translation of the pericope with footnotes and detailed explanations of all key syntactical and text-critical choices. (See the translation section of any volume of the Word Biblical Commentary for an example of what is required).
3. A verse-by-verse commentary on the text.
4. Suggested applications.
5. The student may choose to prepare a 30-minute class presentation highlighting the most critical, interesting and salient aspect of his/her research. This will involve 20 minutes of presentation and 10 minutes of discussion and interaction. Handouts, PowerPoint, and other learning aids should be used if possible.
6. The student will re submit a revised paper in light of the class discussion and the professor's comments.
8. The student will submit the entire project as a final paper.

The student is expected to demonstrate a detailed knowledge of the commentaries, specialized studies, and articles relevant to his/her Psalm. The paper must include a detailed bibliography and the meticulous citing of all sources used. Footnotes must be placed at the bottom of the page.

**OR**

## **2. Exegetical or Thematic Study Option**

This assignment is intended to allow the student to undertake an in-depth study in an area of his/her interest. It could be a specific text, a theme or theological motif, or an historical, grammatical or theological issue. It will consist of a written assignment and a class presentation as follows:

1. The student will discuss potential topics with the professor and agree on a topic and methodological approach to the topic.
2. The student may choose to prepare a 30-minute class presentation highlighting the most critical, interesting and salient aspect of his/her research. This will involve 20 minutes of presentation and 10 minutes of

discussion and interaction. Handouts, overheads, and other learning aids should be used if possible.

3. The student will re submit a revised paper in light of the class discussion and the professor's comments.

4. The student will submit the entire project as a final paper.

The student is expected to demonstrate a detailed knowledge of the commentaries, specialized studies, and articles relevant to his/her pericope. The paper must include a detailed bibliography and the meticulous citing of all sources used. Footnotes must be placed at the bottom of the page.

The critical areas for this assignment are (i) careful analysis of the Hebrew text and other relevant passages; (ii) depth of thought and reflection on primary and secondary sources, (iii) depth of research on the text; (iv) logic and clarity of argument and presentation.

Note: All work must be handed in on 'hard copy'.

### **C. MARKING STANDARDS**

Please note:

The Seminary requires the Professor to identify students who display difficulties with English language skills in their assignments and refer them for further language assessment in the Tyndale Writing Centre. To help them improve in their studies, students may then be required to take the English for Academic Purposes course in conjunction with current courses. Please see the attached *Guidelines for Written Work* for further information.

Assignments will be marked according to the following general principle: papers which satisfactorily meet the professor's expectations will receive a B/75%.

Excellence or deficiency in the following areas will increase or decrease the mark assigned:

1. form and presentation (Note: correct bibliographic form must be used).
2. number and quality of primary and secondary sources cited.
3. thoroughness of historical, grammatical, syntactical, exegetical and theological investigation.
4. logical and methodological accuracy and consistency.
5. use of such foundational tools as: ANE texts and inscriptions; Hebrew grammar and syntax; specialized studies in ANE history, archaeology, culture and sociology; student's own exegetical interaction with the Hebrew text; specialized scholarly articles and studies, interaction with major commentaries.

6. quality and clarity of written English.

#### **D. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK**

Students should consult the current *Academic Calendar* for academic policies on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System. The Academic Calendar is posted at [www.tyndale.ca/registrar/calendar](http://www.tyndale.ca/registrar/calendar).

#### **E. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING**

Work in RBH, Translations, Readings	20%
Exegetical Notebook	40%
Major Presentation and Paper	40%