



**Course Syllabus  
Winter 2014**

**Hebrew Exegesis II  
OLDT 0712**

January 13-April 14  
Mondays 1:00 pm - 3:50 pm

**Instructor: Dr. John Kessler**  
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**Office hours:**

**Mondays 10:00-11:30; Tuesdays 1:00-3:00; Wednesdays, 10:00-11:30.**

I will usually be available at these times, and briefly after class, but not always. It is best to e-mail me and set up an appointment in advance. To book an appointment, please leave me your preferred day and time, and a possible second choice, and I will confirm with you. Please contact me via e-mail: [jkessler@tyndale.ca](mailto:jkessler@tyndale.ca). If e-mail is unavailable, please call 416-226-6620, ext. 6724.

General questions about the course can be addressed to my research assistant Mari Leesment at [leesmentmar@mytyndale.ca](mailto:leesmentmar@mytyndale.ca)

To access your course materials, please go to [www.mytyndale.ca](http://www.mytyndale.ca). Note that all official Tyndale correspondence will be sent to your [@MyTyndale.ca](mailto:@MyTyndale.ca) e-mail account. For information how to access and forward Tyndale emails to your personal account, see [www.tyndale.ca/it/live-at-edu](http://www.tyndale.ca/it/live-at-edu).

NOTE: This is a draft Version of the Syllabus. Slight changes may be made before the start of semester. Be sure to download a fresh copy of the syllabus just before the first class.

**COURSE PREREQUISITES**

Required: **Hebrew Exegesis I (OLDT 0711) & Biblical Interpretation (BIBL 0501)**

## I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The continuation of OLD 711. A study of selected prophetic, poetic, and wisdom passages stressing exegetical method, hermeneutics, and contemporary application in preaching and teaching.

This course is designed to supplement Old Testament Hebrew Exegesis I (OLD 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. COURSE OUTCOME OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this course, the student will:

1. demonstrate competence in the comprehension and translation of intermediate texts of Biblical Hebrew, in both prose and poetry.
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 AND EVALUATION

### A. REQUIRED TEXTS

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 GRADING:

#### **Reading, 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 **March 3, 2014**.

On the last day of class (no extensions) students will indicate whether or not R. E. Murphy, *The Gift of the Psalms*, and the reading handouts have been completed.

### **Exegetical Notebook (40%)**

**DUE: March 24, 2014.**

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

### **Paper OR Paper & Class Presentation (40%)**

**DUE: April 7, 2014.**

#### **1. Exegetical Methodology Option**

The purpose of this assignment is *to practice the methodology learned in OLDT 0711.*

The student will present a paper on **any OT pericope or any Psalm not studied this semester**, using the following format.

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.

A fuller description of this assignment may be found on the course mainpage.

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 formal written essay and a class presentation. The formal written essay should resemble a scholarly article, or section of a commentary.

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.

### C. General Guidelines for the Submission of Written Work

#### 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.

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 online. An excerpt is attached with this syllabus for easy reference.

#### 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.

#### D. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Work in RBH, Translations, Readings	20 %
Exegetical Notebook	40 %
Major Presentation and Paper	40 %
Total Grade	100%

#### IV. LECTURE, TRANSLATION AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

##### WEEK 1 (JAN 13)

###### **Class Content:**

Course Introduction  
 Discussion of Final Assignment in 711  
 Provisional Controlling Purpose

###### **Assignment for next week:**

>Translate passages and prepare materials in RBH 2.1  
 >Article(s) of the week

##### WEEK 2 (JAN 20)

###### **Class Content:**

Reading and discussion of RBH passages

###### **Assignment for next week:**

>Translate passages and prepare materials in RBH 2.3  
 >Article(s) of the week

##### WEEK 3 (JAN 27)

###### **Class Content:**

Reading and discussion of RBH passages

###### **Assignment for next week:**

>Translate passages and prepare materials in RBH 3.3  
 >Reading: Murphy and Article(s) of the week

##### WEEK 4 (FEB 3)

###### **Class Content:**

Reading and discussion of RBH passages  
 Hebrew Poetry I

**Assignment for next week:**

- >Translate passages and prepare materials in RBH 4.1
- >Reading: Murphy and Article(s) of the week

**WEEK 5 (FEB 10)****Class Content:**

Reading and discussion of RBH passages  
Hebrew Poetry II

**Assignment for next week:**

- >Translate Psalm 1, and prepare cast of characters and rhetorical analysis of printed text.
- >Reading: Murphy and Article(s) of the week

**FEB 17: No Class. Family Day****WEEK 6: (FEB 24)****Class Content:**

Reading and discussion of Psalm 1

**Assignment for next week:**

- > Translate Psalm 12, and prepare cast of characters and rhetorical analysis of printed text.
- >Reading: Murphy and Article(s) of the week

**WEEK 7 (MARCH 3)****Class Content:**

Reading and discussion of Psalm 12

- >Reading: Murphy and Article(s) of the week

**Assignment for next class:**

- > Translate Psalm 30, and prepare cast of characters and rhetorical analysis of printed text.
- >Reading: Murphy and Article(s) of the week

**MARCH 10: NO CLASS READING WEEK****WEEK 8 (MAR 17)****Class Content:**

Reading and discussion of Ps 30

**Assignment for next week:**

- > Translate Psalm 73, and prepare cast of characters and rhetorical analysis of printed text.
- >Reading: Murphy and Article(s) of the week

**WEEK 9 (MAR 24)****Class Content:**

Reading and discussion of Ps. 73 (1)

**Assignment for next week:**

>Reading: Murphy and Article(s) of the week

**WEEK 10 (MAR 31)****Class Content:**

Reading and discussion of Ps. 73(2)

**WEEK 11 (APR 7)****Class Content:**

Student Presentations

**WEEK 12 (APR 14)****Class Content:**

Student Presentations