

THEO 5214 Hebrew Exegesis

First Term 2016-17

06/09/2016 - 29/11/2016

Tue 10:30 am-13:15 pm

Theology Bldg T20

Lecturer: Dr. Li Kwan Hung Leo

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

In addition to reviewing matters introduced in Hebrew I and II, this course is designed to give you a basic knowledge of an exegetical process for interpreting the Old Testament. It includes how to use and read the basic Hebrew text, *BHS* and *BHQ*, with the knowledge of textual criticism; how to do word/lexical studies, analyze syntax and a whole discourse with appropriate tools and resources. Students will learn to apply these skills on the book of Ruth and/or various selected Hebrew narratives and psalms. At the end of the course, the students are expected to be able to evaluate different Bible translations, technical commentaries and work on biblical studies involving Biblical Hebrew. Through these primary skills, the student will be guided how to exegete theology of the texts and explore possibilities of interpretations in their future study or ministerial work.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge Outcomes:

- (1) know how to use the reference tools such as concordances, lexicons and dictionaries, Hebrew grammar books, and internet or software resources for Hebrew exegesis
- (2) know how to use *BHS* and *BHQ* and explain how to do textual criticism with a given Hebrew text
- (3) know how to do lexical study on a given Hebrew word
- (4) analyze syntax with a given Hebrew text
- (5) apply exegetical guidelines to exegete a given Hebrew text
- (6) recognize how syntax, textual criticism and traditions can affect the interpretation of texts
- (7) analyze and evaluate different Bible translations and technical commentaries

Attitude Outcomes:

- (1) develop an appreciation for the long history and tradition of the transmission of texts
- (2) be confident in using appropriate tools for specific needs to interpreting texts
- (3) be confident in reading and exegeting Biblical Hebrew texts
- (4) inculcate respect for meticulous scholarship to interpret a text

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Class attendance and participation is absolutely necessary. As this class is designed on a step-by-step and hands-on learning experience, students are expected to participate in all class sessions and every class assignment must be punctual as well. Please regularly check for class notes and announcements whether from the lecturer or from your classmates' contribution to the course from <http://elearn.cuhk.edu.hk>.

Weekly Assignments

You are to complete the weekly assignments in accordance with the Course Lectures and Assignments Schedule below. All assignments must be completed by the beginning of the class period they are due. **[10%]**

Written Assignments

You are to do the following written assignments:

- (1) Textual Criticism Assignment **[15%]**
See Chapter 2, *From Exegesis to Exposition*, pp.19-29.
Due date: **25th Oct 2016**.
- (2) Word Study Assignment **[20%]**
See Chapter 4, *From Exegesis to Exposition*, pp.31-56.
Due date: **8th Nov 2016**.
- (3) Evaluative Report on Commentaries **[15%]**
Write a 1,000-1,500 words report commenting (either positive or critical) on the commentary/ies you have utilized in the course of studying the book of Ruth or Psalms. Remember to give reasons and examples to support your statements.
Due date: **22th Nov 2016**.
- (4) You are to do the term exegesis project on Psalm 19, 95, 127 (or any Psalm approved by the instructor). This assignment will be completed in three stages: (a) an initial evaluation of the text-critical apparatus of the BHS text of the Psalm and a proposal of the versification of the Psalm [Due: **11th Oct**], (b) a preliminary translation of and commentary on the Psalm [Due: **1st Nov**], and (c) the final paper commenting on the structure, form and theme of the Psalm [Due: **9th Dec**] For more detailed instructions, see the supplement Instructions for Psalm Term Project. The Psalm project counts 40% of the course grade (for details on how each stage of the project is weighted in grading, see Instructions for Psalm Project). See Chapter 8, *From Exegesis to Exposition*, pp.187-220 .
[40%]

COURSE POLICIES

Academic honesty and plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>.

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed [declaration](#) that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADING

Weekly Assignments	10%
Textual Criticism Assignment	15%
Word Study Assignment	20%
Evaluative Report on Commentaries	15%
Exegesis Project	40%

*Excessive absences and handing in written assignments late can affect one's grade negatively. See the policies stated below under the headings Late Assignments and Absences, respectively.

COURSE LECTURES AND ASSIGNMENTS SCHEDULE

<i>Class</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Class discussion/ Weekly Assignment(s) due</i>
1	6/9	Introduction to course/Introduction to Hebrew Poetry READ Chisholm, <i>Workbook</i> , 12-15 Text-critical method READ Brotzman, 97-132; Chisholm, <i>From Exegesis to Exposition (EE)</i> , Ch. 3 [How to do the Textual Criticism Assignment]
2	13/9	Ruth 1:1-6 Jonah Scene 1 and 2 due READ Chisholm, <i>Workbook</i> , 9-12, 15-17; Chisholm, <i>Ruth</i> , Introduction and vv. 1-6; Brotzman, 133-35 Reading Hebrew narrative: Structural features [How to do the Exegesis Project]
3	20/9	Ruth 1:7-13 Ruth 1:1-6; 7-13 due READ Chisholm, <i>Ruth</i> , vv. 7-13 and the comments; Brotzman, 135-37 Reading Hebrew narrative: Foreshadowing and Parallelism Interpreting Figures of Speech READ Chisholm, <i>EE</i> , 169-76 (Poetic Literature) Textual Criticism: Chisholm, <i>EE</i> , Ch.2

		[How to Evaluate a commentary]
4	27/9	Ruth 1:14-19a, 19b-22 Ruth 1:14-19a and 1:19b-22 due READ Chisholm, <i>Ruth</i> , vv. 14-22 and the comments; Brotzman, 137-42 Reading Hebrew narrative: Allusion and Echoing Word Study: Chisholm <i>EE</i> , Ch. 4 [How to do the Word Study Assignment]
5	4/10	Ruth 2:1-7, 8-15 Ruth 2:1-7 and 2:8-15 due READ Chisholm, <i>Ruth</i> , vv. 1-15 and the comments; Brotzman, 142-45 Reading Hebrew narrative: Key word repetition
6	11/10	Ruth 2:16-23 Ruth 2:16-23 due READ Chisholm, <i>Ruth</i> , vv. 16-23 and the comments; Brotzman, 145-49
7	18/10	Ruth 3:1-5 Ruth 3:1-5 due READ Chisholm, <i>Ruth</i> , vv. 1-5 and the comments; Brotzman, 149-51 Ruth 3:6-10, 11-18 Ruth 3:6-10 and 3:11-18 due READ Chisholm, <i>Ruth</i> , vv. 6-18 and the comments; Brotzman, 151-57
8	25/10	Ruth 4:1-6, 7-12 Ruth 4:1-6 and 4:7-12 due READ Chisholm, <i>Ruth</i> , vv. 1-12 and the comments; Brotzman, 157-62 Ruth 4:13-17/The Message and Theology of Ruth Ruth 4:13-17 due READ Chisholm, <i>Ruth</i> , vv. 13-17 and the comments; Brotzman, 163-65 [Textual Study Assignment]
9	1/11	Psalms 19
10	8/11	Psalms 95; [WORD STUDY Assignment]
11	15/11	Psalms 127
12	22/11	Paper Presentations [Evaluation on commentaries]

****This Course Outline is subjected to change according to class size, participant's proficiency of Hebrew language and knowledge of Hebrew Bible, and other circumstances. The set text and scope of reading will be decided in the first few lessons.**

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

Required Texts

Brotzman, Ellis R. *Old Testament Textual Criticism*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994.

Chisholm, Robert. *From Exegesis to Exposition*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.

Chisholm, Robert. *Interactive Workbook for Intermediate Hebrew: Grammar, Exegesis, and Commentary on Jonah and Ruth*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2006.

Chisholm, Robert. *A Commentary on Judges and Ruth*, Kregel Exegetical Library. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2013. (Note: the translation is similar to the NET Bible)

Hebrew Text

Schenker, Adrian, et al., eds. *Biblia Hebraica Quinta: Fascicle 18: General Introduction and Megilloth*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 2004. [BHQ]

Elliger, K. and W. Rudolph. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1983. [BHS]

Scott, William R., *A Simplified Guide to BHS: Critical Apparatus, Masora, Accents Unusual Letters & Other Markings*. Berkeley, California: Bibal Press, 1987, Second Edition, 1990. Also in this cover: *An English Key to the Latin Words and Abbreviations and the Symbols of Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* by H. P. Rüger.

Suggested Texts

Arnold, Bill T., and John H. Choi. *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Cambridge: Cambridge University, 2003.

Brown, F., and S. R. Driver, and C. A. Briggs. *A Hebrew & English Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Reprinted; Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1979.

Koehler, L. and W. Baumgartner, eds. *Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Translated and edited by M. Richardson. 2 vols. Leiden: Brill, 2001.

Mitchel, Larry A. *A Student's Vocabulary for Biblical Hebrew and Aramaic*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984.

Steck, Odil Hannes, *Old Testament Exegesis*. Trans. James D. Nogalski; Resources for Biblical Studies, 39; Georgia, Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1998.

Vance, Donald R. *A Hebrew Reader for Ruth*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2012 [2003].

Wegner, Paul D. *Using Old Testament Hebrew in Preaching: A Guide for Students and Pastors*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2009.

Wegner, Paul D. *A Student's Guide to Textual Criticism of the Bible*. Illinois: IVP, 2006.

Supplementary Bibliography

Bush, Frederic. *Ruth-Esther*, WBC. Dallas: Word, 1996.

Chisholm, Robert. *Interpreting the Historical Books*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2006.

Stuart, Douglas. *Old Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors*. 3rd ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2001.

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

You may find it helpful to consult the following commentaries when completing the written assignments on Psalms:

Craigie, Peter C. *Psalms 1-50*, WBC. Waco, TX: Word, 1983.

Goldingay, John. *Psalms*. BCOTWP. 3 vols. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.

Ross, Allen P. *A Commentary on the Psalms, Volume 1 (1-41)*. Kregel Exegetical Library. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2011.

For other works covering the Book of Ruth, check the bibliographies in Bush's commentaries.

Suggested for anyone with a weak background in English grammar:

Long, Gary A. *Grammatical Concepts 101 for Biblical Hebrew: Learning Biblical Hebrew Grammatical Concepts through English Grammar*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2002.

A student who used it commented, "It has been VERY helpful in my understanding of English-to-Hebrew terms. I really like the way it breaks down what the terms are in English—with examples. Then it gives you the same thing in Hebrew—with examples. Pure genius in my book! I would definitely recommend this book to any student who is having trouble with grammar."

Miscellaneous Items of Interest

Vocabulary, Parsing, and Quiz Website made by a DTS student with the needs of DTS students in mind: <http://www.creativemargin.com/learn/iParsing/>

Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia: A Reader's Edition. Peabody: Hendrickson, 2014.

This book provides the same Hebrew text as BHS but without the text-critical apparatus. At the bottom of each page are parsing and meanings for the words on the page that appear fewer than 70 times in the OT or those having a weak verb root. A glossary at the back gives meanings for words used over 70 times. (A person might consider having this as a paper copy of the Hebrew Bible and an electronic version of BHS with its apparatus. Think about what might work best for you.)

"Old Testament Hebrew Vocabulary." 2 audio CDs, from Jonathan T. Pennington. Goes over vocabulary in order of frequency of use.

iVocab Biblical Hebrew, from Kregel Publications, for use on iPod, phone, and computer. Contact kregelbooks@kregel.com or 800.733.2607.

Vocabulary Website, called ProVoc (has Hebrew and other languages also).

It is for Mac OS X <http://www.arizona-software.ch/provoc/>

Vocabulary Website: <http://www.animatedhebrew.com>

"A curriculum developer at Briercrest has written a nice interactive program for Ross's vocabulary, verb paradigms, and lessons (with flash). It downloads freestanding for a PC, but Macs can access an online version. Online, you have to wait a minute for some modules to load." —John Hilber

Another Vocabulary & Paradigm Website:

http://www.lionelwindsor.net/language_tools_hebrew.html

Quiz Website: <http://quizlet.com/subject/hebrew/>

The student who found this says, "It has flash cards, tests, and other helps. It is very user friendly! It has vocabulary for Jonah on flash cards, the Mitchel vocabulary, and more." You can scroll through lists of items offered (for both modern and biblical Hebrew), or you can use the search bar at the top of the page to find items you might like to try, for example: Mitchel flash cards: <http://quizlet.com/subject/hebrew-mitchel/> and Jonah flash cards: <http://quizlet.com/subject/hebrew-jonah/>

Font Website: <http://scripts.sil.org/SILEzra>

Font Website: http://www.sbl-site.org/Resources/Resources_BiblicalFonts.aspx

For reading in Hebrew or Greek with assistance: Being developed by John Dyer at DTS, an online Hebrew and Greek reader's Bible <<http://bible.johndyer.name/>> . You type the reference of the OT or NT verse or verses that you want to read and the level of vocabulary assistance you want; it has other features also.

Audio Website: <http://www.audiotreasure.com/>. This site has the Bible read in various languages (Russian, Italian, Mandarin, Hindi, etc.). Here is the direct link to Hebrew:
<http://www.audiotreasure.com/mp3/Hebrew/Hebrew.htm>

Audio Website: audioscriptures.org provides free access to the Bible read in a large number of languages, including Hebrew.

Audio Website: <http://www.talkingbibles.net/files/0123/OT/OT.html>

Audio Website: This one has the OT read aloud and is especially easy to use.

http://www.aoal.org/hebrew_audiobible.htm

Audio Website: OT read in Hebrew available in Mp3 format here:

<http://www.mechon-mamre.org/p/pt/pt00.htm>

Audio Website: Charles Grebe at animatedhebrew.com said,

“You can get an excellent recording of the entire Hebrew Bible by Shlomo Bertonov from [The Central Library for the Blind](#) in Israel. The last time I checked the cost was US\$50. They also have a sample of the recording on the web site. This same recording (by Shlomo Bertonov) is also available from resellers in the US e.g. (hebrewworld.com, solomonstreasurechest.com). You will probably also find an audio editor useful to give you better playback control. Especially when you are just starting, the audio recordings will be too fast for you to follow. With an audio editor you can select short portions of the recording to playback repeatedly. I recommend [Audacity](#). It's free, open source, cross-platform and easy to use.”

Aleppo Codex Website: <http://www.aleppocodex.org>

Isaiah Scroll Website: http://www.imj.org.il/shrine_center/Isaiah_Scrolling/index.html
 <http://www.imj.org.il/shrine_center/Isaiah_Scrolling/index.html>

Leningrad Codex Website: http://archive.org/stream/Leningrad_Codex

Leningrad Codex table of contents, two websites:

<http://www.echoofeden.com/digest/slaveofone/2010/04/28/leningrad---codex---facsimile---online---toc/>

http://openlibrary.org/books/OL24998735M/The_Leningrad_Codex

Bible Search Software Websites:

<http://accordancebible.com/>

<http://www.bibleworks.com/>

<http://www.logos.com/>