



BL 622 Advanced Hebrew Exegesis (Psalms) (3)
Winter 2005
Instructor: R. R. Remin

Contacting the Instructor

Office: 723

Class Times: M 1:00-3:45

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Class Location: 753

Course Description

An advanced study of Hebrew grammar for the purpose of gaining insight into the meaning of the Old Testament Text. This study will enable the student to understand a text in more detail as well as how the grammatical structure of Hebrew may have lent themselves to different interpretations. This year Psalms will be the book studied for this course.

Student Outcomes

1. The student will review and learn grammatical elements of biblical Hebrew as well as the distinguishing characteristics of Hebrew poetry.
2. The student will begin to learn how to analyze Hebrew poetry in terms its literary and rhetorical characteristics so as to understand how Hebrew poetry communicates and what it communicates. This study includes an analysis of the various genres of the Psalms.
3. The student will be challenged to develop effective strategies to communicate the meaning and messages of the Psalms to a modern audience by means of teaching and preaching.

Required Texts

Students are required to have regular access to the following texts.

Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia, ed. K. Elliger and W. Rudolf (Stuttgart, Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1967- 1977).

Brown, Francis, Driver, S.R., Briggs, Charles A. *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Clarendon Press, 1907).

John Joseph Owens, *Analytical Key to the Old Testament* (Baker, 1989).

Course Schedule

We begin by reading, translating and discussing the Hebrew text of Psalms 1, 2, 5, 8, 23 and 45, and then proceed to read as many Psalms as time will allow.

Interspersed with each class's discussion of a Psalm will be lectures on the nature of Hebrew poetry, genres of various Psalms, Hebrew grammar and lexicography as well as opportunity to reflect on how we use the Psalms in worship and ministry.

Course Requirements

The student is required to:

1. Read and prepare selected Psalms for translation and discussion in class. Discussion in class will focus on points of grammar, characteristics of Hebrew poetry, the meaning of the individual psalms, as well as a strategy for effective communication of this message to a modern audience.
2. Independent from the readings in class read in Hebrew and prepare concise exegetical notes on another six (6) psalms in addition to those listed above. These exegetical notes shall include a concise treatment of contextual (genre), syntactical (parallelism), and verbal (one word study) analyses as well as theological reflection and homiletical notes.
3. Read at least 500 pages in secondary literature on the Psalms as directed by the professor as well as various handouts provided to the student. The following list is intended to be illustrative but not exhaustive. Keep a record of your reading.
 - a. Kathleen Norris, "Why the Psalms Scare Us," *Christianity Today*, (July 15, 1996) 19-24.
 - b. Daniel J. Estes, "The Hermeneutics of Biblical Lyric Poetry," *Bibliotheca Sacra* 152 (October-December 1995) 413-430.
 - c. Peter C. Craigie, *Psalms 1-50* (Word Biblical Commentary, 1983).
 - d. Thomas G. Long, *Preaching and the Literary Forms of the Bible* (Fortress, 1989). Relevant chapters.
 - e. Walter Brueggemann, *The Message of the Psalms* (Augsburg, 1984).
 - f. Walter Brueggemann, *The Psalms & the Life of Faith* (ed. Patrick D. Miller, Fortress, 1995).
 - g. Patrick D. Miller, *Interpreting the Psalms* (Fortress, 1986).
 - h. Claus Westermann, *The Psalms, Structure, Content & Message* (Augsburg, 1980).
 - i. Various articles from journals, the *Anchor Bible Dictionary* and the *Interpreter's Bible Dictionary*.

Course Grade

The final grade will be determined as follows:

- 40% -- for preparation of the Hebrew text and participation in discussion with the professor
- 40% -- for the exegetical notes for six psalms.
- 20% -- for reading in secondary sources.

Important Notes

1. Remember The Rules For The Class

Have fun!

Make mistakes!

Ask dumb questions! There are no dumb questions!

Cheat in class!

Consider this classroom a safe zone! There are no topics which are off limit.

2. Office hours for your professor.

- Monday around meetings and/or by appointment
- Tuesday or Thursday between classes or in the afternoon.
- Wednesday and Friday only by appointment.

3. Email in the office:

rremin@auc-nuc.ca

a. Email at home:

remindachs@telus.net

b. Voice in the office:

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c. Voice at home:

946-4635

4. Absences are intolerable because of the nature of the subject being learned and the manner in which this course is taught, namely the inductive method. If you must miss a class please work through the lesson(s) missed and then come to the instructor with any problems or questions. In the event you cannot be prepared, you are better being in class unprepared than not in class at all.

5. The instructor shall comply with all academic regulations as printed in the current *Catalogue* and *Student Handbook*, and it is the student's responsibility to be familiar with these regulations. The following policies and regulations are particularly important.

a. Add/Drop Policy: Students wishing to add a course should refer to the current academic calendar for the last day to officially enter the class. Students intending to withdraw from a course must complete the relevant Registration Revision form. The dates by which students may voluntarily withdraw from a course without penalty are contained in the Calendar of Events in the academic calendar.

b. Course Extensions or Alternative Examination Requests: Students may not turn in course work after the date of the scheduled final examination for the course

unless they have received permission for a “Course Extension.” Alternative times for final examinations cannot be scheduled without prior approval. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination times must be submitted to the Registrar’s Office two weeks prior to examination week (noted as the “Last Day for Alternative Exam or Course Extension Requests” on the academic calendar). Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise “due to circumstances beyond the student’s control.”

- c. **Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty.** The seminary maintains a zero tolerance policy on plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Plagiarism and academic dishonesty can result in a failing grade for an assignment for the course, or immediate dismissal from the seminary. Even unintentional plagiarism is to be avoided at all costs. Students are expected to be familiar with the policy statements in the current academic calendar and the student handbook that deal with plagiarism, academic dishonesty (cheating), and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean.