



BL 622

Advanced Hebrew Exegesis (Hosea)

Semester: Winter 2015

Days: Thurs 8:15 – 11:00 a.m.

Room: L2100

Number of credits: 3

Prerequisite:

BL 512

Instructor: R. R. Remin

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Phone: 403-410-2000, ext. 7906

Office: L2081

Office hours: By appointment; see below!

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 structures of Hebrew may have lent themselves to different interpretations. This course may be repeated for credit depending on the biblical books selected for study.

Prerequisite: BL 512

Additional Course Information:

The Old Testament book for study this semester is Hosea.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

It is the aim of the course that students acquire the following skills:

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 sub-genres of the prophetic literature.

Important Dates:

First day of classes:	January 7, 2015
Registration revision period ends:	January 18, 2015
Last day to request revised examination:	March 2, 2015
Last day to withdraw from course:	March 20, 2015
Last day to apply for time extension for coursework:	March 30, 2015
Last day of classes:	April 10, 2015

Final Exam: None

Time:

Room:

3. The student will be challenged to develop effective strategies to communicate the meaning and messages of Hosea to a (post-) modern audience by means of teaching and preaching.

Outline:

The meets every Thursday, except January 29th and February 19th until the end of the semester's scheduled classes on April 10th. This course's last class is April 9th.

April 10th is the absolute last day for the submission of assignments for this course.

We begin by reading, translating and discussing the Hebrew text of Hosea chapter one and the first verse.

Interspersed with each class's discussion of a section of Hosea will be lectures on the nature of Hebrew poetry, sub-genres of prophetic literature, Hebrew grammar and lexicography as well as opportunity to reflect on relevance of Hosea to Christian theology and the church today.

For each class we will begin by reading, translating and discussing the Hebrew text of Hosea.

Course Requirements:

In order to successfully complete this course each student will complete the following.

1. Attend all sessions of this course. Each class builds on the previous and so missing a class leaves the student at a disadvantage and questions raised because of an absence inconvenience the rest of the class. Moreover the purpose of this course is not to facilitate "an information dump" from the textbook. Learning language requires repetition, hearing, and learning from other students, all of which cannot be done in isolation. Moreover Hebrew exegesis is a skill and an art both of which improve as a result of the interaction in class between instructor and students and between students. It is in the class that students learn the methodology and catch the passion for the task at hand.
2. Read and prepare selected portions of Hosea for translation and discussion in class. Discussion in class will focus on points of grammar, characteristics of Hebrew poetry, the meaning of the individual oracles, as well as a strategy for effective communication of this message to a modern audience. Preparation for these classes means working through the text's vocabulary and syntax so that the student understands the same and must never be so simplistic as to be equated with "remembering to bring your computer and have the text set with an interlinear display or some such equivalent.
3. Read in Hebrew those portions of Hosea which are not read in class.

4. Read at least 1,000 pages in the secondary literature on Hosea. Your reading must include one good authoritative critical¹ commentary. The *Anchor Bible Commentary* and the *Word Biblical Commentary* are of the sort which meets the criteria. Be sure to learn something of the political, cultural and religious situation into which Hosea was speaking. Include in your reading various articles from journals, the *Anchor Bible Dictionary* and the *Interpreter's Bible Dictionary*. Keep a record of your reading.
5. Written assignments – forty pages in total. Consult the appendix of potential assignments for Hosea.

Submission of Assignments

1. There is no Moodle Site for this course to which students may submit assignments because there are too many issues with the electronic display of Greek and Hebrew fonts. All assignments are submitted to the professor via campus mail or directly to his office.
2. Ἰσραὴλ ῥεμῶφι θῆμαρ (Deut 4.9) All hand written tests, examinations, or any other hand written thing you hand to your professor must be written in ink! Your professor cannot and will not read anything written in pencil.
3. {ψιρββ:Δαη-τε} ξῖ αΚ:ΞιΤ-}εΠ δ(ο):μ ι!:ε:π(ν ρῖ ομ:εΥ Ἰσραὴλ ῥεμῶφι θῆμαρ (Deut 4.9) All other assignments must be submitted in hard copy. (Do not submit electronic copies and expect the instructor to print them or read them.) Follow these guidelines!
 - All printing is in black ink and on white paper. Twelve point font. There are no other colors or shading. No borders around pages.
 - There is no cover page. The following information will be listed in the upper left corner of the first page in single space format. Nothing bold, nothing fancy.
 - The name of the assignment at the top left of the page.
 - Student's full name on the second line. Do not include your student number.
 - The words Ambrose Seminary on the third line.
 - The date on the fourth line.
 - Leave a blank line and begin your paper.
 - The fonts used must be twelve point standard fonts. The basic fonts such as Times New Roman, Arial, etc.
 - Any Greek and/or Hebrew in the assignment must be in a Greek or Hebrew font. Do not put quotation marks around nor italicize any Greek or Hebrew words in Greek or Hebrew fonts. Transliteration is not acceptable except in a direct quotation or a title of a published work. Students will be provided with fonts upon request. However, it is the student's responsibility to ensure that the fonts are correctly printed before the paper is handed in. (Not all printers will correctly print all fonts.) This is the student's responsibility. Papers with incorrectly printed fonts will not be read. In the effect of "font printing failure" the Greek or Hebrew words may be hand printed in black ink. (This was how it was done from the time

¹ Critical as opposed to popular and/or devotional.

of the invention of the type writer until the passing of the same when the personal computer was invented.)

- Footnotes and bibliography must be consistent and in an acceptable format which identifies who wrote what, when and where it was published.
- One (and only one) staple in the upper left corner. Do not use plastic covers, rings, binders, etc. Think “Adam’s ale!”

Attendance:

1. **Absences** are intolerable because of the nature of the subject being learned and the manner in which this course is taught, namely a modified 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. Too many absences will affect your final grade (either by examination or adjustment by the instructor.)
2. Please do not ask for permission to be absent from class for one class or a series of classes. The student has to do what the student has to do. The instructor will do what the instructor has to do. The instructor will not give permission to any student to act in a manner which is not in the student’s best interest. Nor will I be an enabler to your addiction to absenteeism.

Evaluation:

The final grade for this course will be calculated as follows:

- 20% -- preparation and participation in class
- 20% -- reading
- 60% -- written assignments

Although no points are given for attendance, absences will result in deductions.

Grade Assignment:

The available letters for course grades are as follows:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>
A+	
A	Excellent
A-	
B+	
B	Good
B-	
C+	
C	Satisfactory
C-	
D+	
D	Minimal Pass

F Failure

Please note that your final grade will be available to you through the student portal. Printed grade sheets are no longer mailed out. Your instructor will not report grades verbally nor by email.

Textbooks

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) or an equivalent in electronic format.

Recommended Resources:

David Noel Freedman and Francis I. Andersen, *Hosea: A new translation (Anchor Bible, Vol. 24, 1980).*

This is the best commentary available – all 699 pages weighing in at 2.6 pounds.

Douglas Stuart, *Hosea-Jonah (Word Biblical Commentary, 1987).*

Andrew MacIntosh, *A Critical and exegetical commentary on Hosea* (ICC. 1997). The previous edition in this series was by W.R. Harper (1905) and is still considered very useful.

William .S. LaSor, *Handbook of Biblical Hebrew, an Inductive Approach Based on the Hebrew Text of Esther*, 2 Vol. (W.B. Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1978).

Ronald J. Williams, John C. Beckman, *Hebrew Syntax* (2007).

Ronald J. Williams, *Hebrew Syntax* (1992).

Gesenius, E. Kautzsch, A. E. Cowley, *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar* (various). *GKC* is also available on line (someone retyped the whole book) –<http://www.biblecentre.net/ot/ges/gr/hegr-Index.html>

Bruce K. Waltke, M. O'Connor, *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax* (1990).

Walter Kaiser, *Toward an Exegetical Theology* (Baker, 1981).

Douglas Stuart, *Old Testament Exegesis: A Primer for Students and Pastors* (Westminster Press, 1984).

Policies:

All students have received an Ambrose e-mail account upon registration. It is the student's responsibility to check this account regularly as the Ambrose email system will be the professor's instrument for notifying students of important matters (Cancelled class sessions, extensions, requested appointments, etc.) between class sessions. If students do not wish to use their Ambrose accounts, it is highly recommended that they forward all messages from the Ambrose account to the other account.

During the **Registration Revision Period** students may to enter a course without permission, change the designation of any class from credit to audit and /or voluntary withdraw from a course without financial or academic penalty. These courses will not appear on the student's transcript. Courses should be added or dropped on the student portal by the deadline date, please consult the List of Important Dates. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees.

Students intending to withdraw from a course after the Registration Revision Period must apply to the Office of the Registrar by submitting a Request to Withdraw from a Course by the **Withdrawal Deadline**, please consult the List of Important Dates. Withdrawal from courses after the Registration Revision period will not be eligible for tuition refund. A grade of "W" will appear on the student's transcript.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

Students, who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a **Revised Examination** Request form to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date, please consult the List of Important Dates. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; 2) three final exams within three consecutive exam time blocks; 3) the scheduled final exam slot conflicts with an exam at another institution; 4) extenuating circumstances. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

Electronic Etiquette

Students are expected to treat their instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students with respect. It is disruptive to the learning goals of a course or seminar and disrespectful to fellow students and the instructor to engage in electronically-enabled activities unrelated to the class during a class session. Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. Please do not use iPods, MP3 players, or headphones. Do not text, read, or send personal emails, go on Facebook or other social networks, search the internet, or play computer games during class. The professor has the right to disallow the student to use a laptop in future lectures and/or to ask a student to withdraw from the session if s/he does not comply with this policy. Repeat offenders will be directed to the Dean. If you are expecting communication due to an emergency, please speak with the professor before the class begins.

Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Academic Calendar. Personal information, that is information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as a requirement as part of taking this class. Any information

collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.

Extensions

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a “**Course Extension**” from the Registrar’s Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar’s Office by the deadline date, please consult the List of Important Dates. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise “due to circumstances beyond the student’s control”.

Appeal of Grade

An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar in writing within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal to review final grades. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

Academic Integrity

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University College as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else’s ideas, words, or work as one’s own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to give credit to another person’s ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student’s permanent record.

Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.

Additional Policies Imposed by the Instructor:

1. **Office Hours.** These office hours on campus are subject to meetings called by higher authorities (president, dean, registrar), previously scheduled meetings with other students, the instructor’s health (doctors’ appointments, medical emergencies), snow storms, ice storms, highway closures, automobile failure, and/or “the crick didn’t rise.” Book an appointment via email to ensure that I’m here, that you will receive notification of cancelation or you will not be preempted by another appointment (the above notwithstanding).

- Monday Afternoons
- Tuesday Not on campus. By appointment only
- Wednesday Before class at 11:00 or after 12:30.

- Thursday After chapel after my morning block class.
- Friday Before class at 11:00 or after 12:30.

2. Electronics in Class.

- Except for the legitimate purposes of this course, all laptops and electronic devices are prohibited in this course. Students must learn to write and print the languages; typing keys will not facilitate the learning of writing and printing the alphabet. Writing and printing will make your learning more efficient.
- The recording of class sessions by any means is absolutely prohibited under all circumstances.

3. Classroom Etiquette. The following activities are considered poor classroom etiquette:

- Coming in late,
- Talking while someone else is talking,
- Disruptive behavior,
- Consumption of meals as opposed to minor snacks,
(Definition of a meal. If a knife, fork, spoon or sticks are required, it's a meal!)
- Consumption of snacks in a noisy, smelly and/or disruptive manner,
- Personal grooming,
- Use of electronic devices such as cell phones, i-pods, etc.,
- Use of laptops for purposes (e.g. watching videos, playing solitaire) not directly connected to the class, and
- The practice of any behaviours considered impolite in adult company or in contravention of the laws of Alberta, specifically those prohibited while driving a motor vehicle.

Depending on the degree and/or frequency of the breach(es) of etiquette, the professor may display his displeasure in any one or more of the following manners:

- Frown, scowl, rolling eye balls (his not yours),
- Utterance of sounds of disgust,
- Sarcastic comments,
- Utterance of specific prohibitions,
- Dismissal of a student from the class,
- Ending the class prematurely, or
- In extreme cases the professor's immediate departure from the classroom.

In extreme cases, in cases where the professor determines that a student's behaviour, attitude or consumables are affecting other student's negatively, the offensive individual and "theirs" will be summarily dismissed from the classroom for a "time out" the length of which will be determined unilaterally by the professor.