

**Advanced Hebrew Exegesis (The Song)**
**3 credits**
**Prerequisite(s): BL 512**

Class Information		Instructor Information		First day of classes:	Wed., Jan. 6, 2016
Days:	Monday	Instructor:	R.R. Remin	Last day to add/ drop/change to audit:	Sun., Jan. 17, 2016
Time:	6:15 -9:15 p.m.	Email:	rremin@ambrose.edu	Last day to request revised exam:	Mon., Feb. 29, 2016
Room:	L2100	Phone:	403-410-2000 ext 7906	Last day to withdraw from course:	Fri., Mar 18, 2016
Lab/Tut:	None	Office:	L2081	Last day to apply for time extension for coursework:	Mon., Mar. 28, 2016
Final Exam:	None	Office Hrs:	See below!	Last day of classes:	Wed., April 13, 2016

**Textbooks:**

There is no one required text book or text books for this course. Students are expected to use the resources of the library at Ambrose University.

Students will be provided with a select list of recommended grammars and secondary resources.

**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 The Song of Songs.

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**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.
3. The student will learn the details of the structure and the characteristics of genre(s) reflected in The Song.
4. The student will also read relevant texts from the Old Testament.
5. The student will be challenged to develop effective strategies to communicate the meaning and messages of The Song to a (post-) modern audience by means of teaching and preaching.

**Course Schedule:**

This class meets Mondays from 6:15 – 9:30 p.m.

Each class will devote time to the study of Hebrew grammar and to the study of the exegesis of the Hebrew text of The Song.

There is no class on February 15<sup>th</sup> because this is Alberta's Family Day.

The last meeting of this class for this semester is Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>.

The three written assignments are due on the first class in February, March and April.

Absolute deadline for late assignments is April 22 which is the last day of examination period and the end of the semester. If you are planning to graduate this year, your absolute deadline is one week earlier.

**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 The Song for translation and discussion in class. Discussion in class will focus on points of grammar, characteristics of Hebrew poetry, the meaning of the

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individual oracles, as well as a strategy for effective communication of this message to a modern audience.

3. 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.
4. Read in Hebrew other portions of the Hebrew Old Testament as assigned.
5. Read at least 1,200 pages in the secondary literature on The Song. Your reading must include one good authoritative critical commentary. The Anchor Bible Commentary and the Word Biblical Commentary are of the sort which meets the criteria.

**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.

**Grade Summary:**

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

Participation and preparedness for class	40%
Three Written Assignments	40%
Statement of hermeneutic	20 %.

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

The available letters for course grades are as follows:

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

Because of the nature of the Alpha 4.00 system, there can be no uniform College-wide conversion scale. The relationship between raw scores (e.g. percentages) and the resultant letter grade will depend on the nature of the course and the instructor's assessment of the level of each class, compared to similar classes taught previously.

Please note that final grades will be available on student registration system. Printed grade sheets are not mailed out.

## Other

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                Afternoon.
  - Thursday                    After chapel after my morning block class.
  - Friday                        By appointment only.
  
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),

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- 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.**

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## Policies:

### Communication

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, they will need to forward all messages from the Ambrose account to another personal account.

### Registration

During the **Registration Revision Period** students may 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 or record. 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" form or by sending an email to the Registrar's Office by the **Withdrawal Deadline**; please consult the List of Important Dates on the my.ambrose.edu website. Students will not receive a tuition refund for courses from which they withdraw after the Registration Revision period. A grade of "W" will appear on their transcript.

### Exam Scheduling

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) the student has 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 use electronics for purposes unrelated to the course during a class session. Turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. 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. Some professors will not allow the use of any electronic devices in 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 (information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual) may be required 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](mailto: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 Registrar's Office in writing and providing the basis for appeal 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. 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 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 acknowledge 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.

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