

Associated Canadian Theological Schools BiE 603 HEBREW EXEGESIS I

Howard G. Andersen, Ph.D.
Fall 2009
3 credit hours
Prerequisite: Two courses in Elementary
Hebrew

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Class Dates: Mondays
Class time 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

I. Course Description

This course involves careful analysis of selected portions of the Hebrew Bible with a view to developing both the student's proficiency in working with the biblical text in its original language and an exegetical method that brings to light the biblical author's intention. The various aspects of the historical-grammatical approach are highlighted and key exegetical tools are introduced in order to equip the student to preach/teach with confidence from the Old Testament.

II. Objectives

By the end of this course, each student should be able to:

1. prepare a comprehensive, methodical, meaningful, and articulate exegesis of a passage from the Hebrew Old Testament (HOT)
2. read, explain, and discuss a passage from the HOT with faculty and peers
3. describe and explain the Hebrew grammatical system
4. describe, compare, and evaluate the textual history of the HOT

III. Course Textbooks

Required:

1. Arnold, Bill T. and Choi, John H. *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge. 2003.
2. McCarter, P. Kyle. *Textual Criticism: Recovering the Text of the Hebrew Bible*. Fortress Press. Philadelphia. 1986.

3. Stuart, Douglas. *Old Testament Exegesis*. 3rd. ed. Westminster John Knox Press. Louisville. 2001.

Required software:

Either Bibleworks or Logos or Gramcord/ Accord.

Recommended:

1. Brown, F., Driver. S.R. and Briggs, C.A. *The Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*. Hendrickson Publishers. Peabody. 1996.

2. Kittel et. al. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. 5th. ed. Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft. Stuttgart. 1997.

3. Scott, William R. *A Simplified Guide to BHS*. 3rd. ed. Revised and expanded by John C. Beckham. University of Toronto Press. Toronto. 2007.

IV. Course Assignments

1. Exegetical paper. Due at or before midnight 7 December 2009.
40%

Write a 3000 word exegetical paper on a passage selected from the range offered by the prof at the first meeting of the class.

This should follow Turabian in style, should be double spaced in 12 point font, with at least 1" margins.

There should be an introduction, followed by the exegesis organized by units of text being commented on (clauses, phrases or individual words). A summative conclusion should be given.

The writing should be absolutely clear, the arguments cogent, and the paper should show enlightened and informed engagement with the text as well as constant relevance to current western culture

on a reasonably sophisticated level.

This is the main student product of the course. All other elements of the course and course assignments are meant to contribute to it.

2. Readings. Prior to each class meeting, prepare readings for discussion. Also prepare an assigned passage for exegetical discussion in class. 20%

From time to time, there may be a modest written component to the weekly assignment.

3. Test - Textual transmission and textual criticism Date:
10%

4. Test - the grammatical system and Hebrew syntax Date:
25%

5. Appendix. Specialized application customized to the career path of the student as appendix to exegetical paper in #1 above 5%

Grading Scale

| Letter Grade | Percentage | Grade Point |
|--------------|------------|-------------|
| A+ | 97-100 | 4.30 |
| A | 93-96 | 4.00 |
| A- | 90-92 | 3.70 |
| B+ | 87-89 | 3.30 |
| B | 83-86 | 3.00 |
| B- | 80-82 | 2.70 |
| C+ | 77-79 | 2.30 |
| C | 73-76 | 2.00 |
| C- | 70-72 | 1.70 |
| F | Below 70 | 0.00 |

V. Miscellaneous Notes/Policies

The class will meet for 3 hours per week (instead of 2 hours and 40 minutes) to make up for Mondays missed because of the thanksgiving holiday and modular week.

Papers should be submitted as attachments to email directed to the professor.

Tests will be written electronically but under controlled exam conditions.

VI. Course Outline

A more detailed schedule will be given at the first meeting of the class.

Supplement: Important Academic Notes from ACTS

Web Support – Student Portal <https://students.twu.ca>

All students at TWU have a TWUPass username and password. This is determined at the time of an online application or can be managed through the computing services help desk or the link on the student portal. Your student email account is also available through this student portal and is vital for communication about grades, account statements, lost passwords, sign-up instructions, etc. If you do not know your account or password, there is a link at the login area called “I forgot my password.” When you click on that link, you will be walked through the process of retrieving your account information.

Campus Closure

In the event of deteriorating weather conditions overnight or other emergency situations, every effort will be made to communicate information regarding the cancellation of classes to the radio stations CKNW (980 AM), CKWX (1130 AM), MAX (850 AM), PRAISE (106.5 FM) and KARI (550 AM) by 6:30 a.m., and an announcement will be placed on the University's switchboard as well as on the website <http://www.twu.ca/conditions/>. The first announcement regarding a closure will cover the period up to 1:00 p.m. only. If classes are to be cancelled beyond 1:00 p.m., this decision will be announced by the same means before 11:00 a.m. that day. Students and faculty should assume that all night classes will continue to operate. If the emergency continues into the evening, students and faculty may check for a closure notice on the University's switchboard and website after 3:00 p.m. that day.

Paper Formatting

Students need to adhere to Turabian Notes (Bibliography) format except in counselling courses, for which APA format is used.

Students are strongly encouraged to use RefWorks (available through the library home page www.twu.ca/library) as their bibliographical manager and as a tool for formatting bibliographies. They will need to be aware of the need to “clean up” most bibliographies generated by this program. Students are encouraged to view the documents on the following websites for format samples:

http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html or www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/. Note that in RefWorks the available formatting styles are those of Turabian (Notes), 7th edition, and APA – American Psychological Association, 5th edition. For Turabian, note that there are two formats – Notes (or Bibliography Style) and Reference List (a short format citation style). ACTS uses the Notes (Bibliography) format, not Reference List.

Counselling students are expected to purchase the APA Publications Manual. More information found at the following website. <http://www.apastyle.org/pubmanual.html>.

For free online programs that will enable you to create properly formatted bibliography

citations, go to <http://www.calvin.edu/library/knightcite/> ("Chicago stands for "Turabian") or <http://www.sourceaid.com/citationbuilder/>

CANIL students can locate this on the CANIL intranet, under the "student" side. A hard copy is given to incoming students in the fall.

Please check with your professor to see which one he/she recommends you use!!

Research Ethics

Please note that all research projects involving human participants undertaken by members of the TWU university community (including projects done by ACTS students to satisfy course or degree requirements) **MUST** be approved by the Trinity Western University Research Ethics Board. Information and forms may be found at <http://www.twu.ca/academics/research/ethics/> Those needing additional clarification may contact Dr. Bruce Guenther. Please allow at least three (3) weeks from the date of submission for a review of the application.

Academic Integrity and Avoiding Plagiarism at TWU

As Christian scholars pursuing higher education, academic integrity is a core value of the entire TWU community. Students are invited into this scholarly culture and required to abide by the principles of sound academic scholarship at TWU. This includes, but is not limited to, avoiding all forms of plagiarism and cheating in scholarly work. TWU has a strict policy on plagiarism (see academic calendar 2008-09, pp. 37-38). Further details on this subject are contained in the ACTS Student Handbook in section 4.12. The handbook is available online on the ACTS webpage (www.acts.twu.ca) at the following link: www.acts.twu.ca/Handbook.html.

Learning what constitutes plagiarism and avoiding it is the student's responsibility. An excellent resource describing plagiarism and how to avoid it has been prepared by TWU Librarian William Badke and is freely available for download (PPT file) or used as flash (self running) tutorials of varying lengths from:

<http://www.acts.twu.ca/lbr/plagiarism.ppt>

<http://www.acts.twu.ca/lbr/Plagiarism.swf> (14 minute flash tutorial)

http://www.acts.twu.ca/lbr/Plagiarism_Short.swf (8 minute flash tutorial)

Equity of Access

It is the responsibility of a student with a learning disability to inform the ACTS Director of Student Life of that fact before the beginning of a course so that necessary arrangements may be made to facilitate the student's learning experience. We are unable to accommodate any student who informs the Director of Student Life of a disability after the beginning of class.