

Syllabus for
GBIB 561—Old Testament Hermeneutics and Exegesis (Hebrew)
3 Credit Hours
Fall 2022

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An exegetical study of selected Old Testament passages. Involves sound exegetical method and critical problems and hermeneutics of the passages. Includes doctrinal significance.

Prerequisites: GBIB 511 and proficiency in Hebrew as demonstrated by examination PRF 052.

II. COURSE GOALS

The purpose of this course is to enable the student to do the following:

- A. Learn to use prerequisite Hebrew proficiency in a study of Old Testament literature.
- B. Develop a sound understanding of the exegetical problems of various types of literature in the Old Testament.
- C. Achieve increased ability to interpret the Old Testament relevantly to the present age.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- A. Demonstrate a level of mastery of the skills required to translate the text of the Old Testament, either orally or in writing.
- B. Illustrate and explain the importance of contextual exegesis for the interpretation of the text.
- C. Discuss the importance of sound exegetical/hermeneutical method in interpreting and presenting the theological emphasis of the Old Testament to the twenty-first-century Church.

IV. ASSOCIATED PROGRAMS

See back page for associated programs and outcomes.

V. UNIVERSITY OUTCOMES

This course aligns with the following University Outcomes as indicated on the last page.

- A. Spiritual Integrity
- B. Personal Resilience
- C. Intellectual Pursuit
- D. Global Engagement
- E. Bold Vision

VI. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING MATERIALS

- A. Required Materials

Elliger, Karl, and Willhelm Rudolph, eds. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. 5th ed.
American Bible Society. 1997. (ISBN: 9781598561630)

- Brotzman, Ellis R., and Eric J. Tully. *Old Testament Textual Criticism: A Practical Introduction*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2016. (ISBN: 9780801097539)
- Holladay, William L. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1971. (ISBN: 9780802834133)
- Murphy, Todd J. *Pocket Dictionary for the Study of Biblical Hebrew*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2003. (9780830814589)
- Pratico, Gary D., and Miles V. Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew: Grammar*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007. (ISBN: 9780310520672)
- Pratico, Gary D., and Miles V. Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew: Workbook*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007. (ISBN: 9780310270225)
- Pratico, Gary D., and Miles V. Van Pelt. *The Vocabulary Guide to Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007. (ISBN: 9780310250722)
- Pratico, Gary D., and Miles V. Van Pelt. *Old Testament Hebrew Vocabulary Cards*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007. (ISBN: 9780310533559)
- Van Pelt, M., and G. Pratico. *Graded Reader of Biblical Hebrew: A Guide to Reading the Hebrew Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006. (ISBN: 9780310251576)

B. Optional Materials

- Arnold, Bill T., and John H Choi. *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003. (ISBN: 978-0521533485)
- Davidson, A. B. *Hebrew Syntax*. 3rd ed. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1901. (ISBN: 978-7952229)
- Gesenius, W. *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar as Edited and Enlarged by the late E. Kautzsch*. Translated by A. E. Cowley. 2nd Ed. Oxford: Clarendon, 1910. (ISBN: 9780198154068)
- Kelley, Page H., et al. *The Masorah of the Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998. (ISBN: 0802843638)
- Scott, William R. *A Simplified Guide to BHS*. Berkley: Bibal Press, 1987. (ISBN: 0941037355)
- Tov, Emanuel. *Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible*. 4th ed. Revised and Expanded. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2012. (ISBN: 9781506483481; available 11/2022)
- Wonneberger, Reinhard. *Understanding BHS: A Manual for Users of Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. 4th ed. Rome: Biblical Institute Press, 1984. (ISBN: 978-1930566682)

VII. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Plagiarism statement: <https://syllabi.oru.edu>
2. Disability Services: <https://oru.edu/current-students/my-services/disability-services/index.php>

B. Graduate School of Theology and Ministry Policies and Procedures

1. **Completion of Assignments**

Assignments are due on the dates established in the course calendar, which is published in the syllabus. **Any assignments turned in after the scheduled due date are penalized five percent (5%) of the original value per day including weekends, breaks, and holidays.** All work turned in two weeks after the assignment deadline is received but is granted a grade of zero for that assignment. **No work** is accepted after the final date of regular classes.

2. **Incompletes**

On rare occasions, the grade of “I” may be given for work that is incomplete at the end of the course semester due to a catastrophic event.

- a. The student must establish with the instructor and the academic dean that work is incomplete for good cause and submit a Petition for Incomplete Grade, with documentation.
- b. **The Petition must be submitted at least two weeks prior to the end of the semester or summer course session, not exam week.**
- c. **The submission of a petition does not automatically ensure the granting of an Incomplete.**
- d. The petition must be approved by the academic committee of the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry.
- e. It is the responsibility of the student to initiate the petition, make up any incomplete work, and submit a completed Request for Grade Change form (which has been signed by the course professor) to the academic office.
- f. If the work is not completed by the end of the subsequent semester, the incomplete will automatically convert to an “F,” unless an extension is formally granted.

3. **Examinations**

- a. Early examinations **are not** allowed. Late examinations without grade penalty are administered only when extenuating circumstances are present (such as a death in the family the week before exams or a sudden and major illness the week of exams that is documented by a physician).
- b. A Petition for Late Examination must be submitted to the academic dean’s office. A **\$15 fee**, plus proper documentation, must accompany the petition. The academic committee reviews each petition and grade penalties are assessed. (Late exam fee is not a grade penalty.)
- c. Students taking late exams should expect alternate versions of the original exams.
- d. **Not being present for the final examination automatically results in failure of the course.**

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures

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|-------------------------|-----|
| a. Reading and Homework | 20% |
| b. Quizzes & Exams | 40% |
| c. Memory Verses | 20% |
| d. Paper | 20% |

e. The grading scale is as follows:

A = 100-90; B = 89-80; C = 79-70; D = 69-60; F = Below 60

2. Additional Paper Information

- Prepare an exegetical paper on 4–8 verses from the Hebrew Bible (*subject to professor's approval*).
- Parse all *significant* verbal constructions and identify any *significant* elements of the passage (including unique nouns, adjectives, pronouns; literary constructions, etc.).
- For the best grades, use lexicons, grammars, dictionaries, commentaries, journal articles, etc. in your research, *and* present the paper in proper format.

3. Whole Person Assessment Requirements:

All students, regardless of degree program, must submit the exegetical paper for GBIB 561 to the course professor on D2L

V. COURSE SCHEDULE¹

Note: Homework assignments will be due as we complete each chapter throughout the semester.

Week 1	Review Hebrew Grammar and Vocabulary (ch. 1–11)
Week 2	Review Hebrew Grammar and Vocabulary (ch. 1–11; cont.); Quiz
Week 3	Review Hebrew Grammar, Vocabulary, and Translation (ch. 12–23); Quiz
Week 4	Niphal Strong Verb (HW ² due Friday in class)
Week 5	Niphal Weak Verb (HW due)
Week 6	Hiphil Strong Verb (HW due)
Week 7	Hiphil Weak Verb (HW due); Exam chs 24–27
Week 8	Hophal Strong Verb (HW due)
Week 9	Hophal Weak Verb (Num 6:24–26 due) ³
Week 10	Piel strong Verb (HW due)
Week 11	Piel Weak Verb (HW due)
Week 12	Pual Strong & Weak Verbs; Exam: chs 28–33

¹ **Note:** The Course Schedule will be adjusted to reflect the class progress in Pratico and Van Pelt's Grammar in the previous semester. Following a brief grammar and vocabulary review, the class will continue its study of Biblical Hebrew grammar from where we finished the previous spring, and then progress into Hebrew Bible hermeneutical issues.

² HW = Homework from Pratico and Van Pelt, *Basics of Biblical Hebrew: Workbook*.

³ No homework due; memory verses due instead in weeks 9 and 14.

- Week 13 Hithpael Strong Verbs
- Week 14 Hithpael Weak Verbs (Deut 6:4–6 due Wed.)
- Week 15 **Finals Week**

**Inventory for Student Learning Outcomes
Graduate School of Theology and Ministry**

Master of Arts Biblical Literature

GBIB 561 Old Testament Hermeneutics and Exegesis (Hebrew)

Dr. William Lyons, Instructor

Fall 2022

This course contributes to student learning outcomes for the M. A. Biblical Literature degree as indicated below:

Significant Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

Moderate Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

Minimal Contribution – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

No Contribution – Does not address the outcome.

Degree Program Outcomes		Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
1	Translation, Biblical Language				
	Demonstrate proficiency in translating the Hebrew Old Testament and Greek New Testament	X			
2	Critical Methods of Exegesis				
	Display ability to employ critical methods of exegesis from an informed theological-hermeneutical perspective using biblical languages.	X			
3	Major Old Testament Themes				
	Correlate the major Old Testament themes and formulate a coherent Old Testament theology.		X		
4	Major New Testament Themes				
	Correlate the major New Testament themes and formulate a coherent New Testament theology.			X	
5	Scripture in Cultural Context				
	Apply the results of the critical study of Scripture in its cultural contexts to selected contemporary contexts.	X			
6	Tools/Methods of Research				
	Write an advanced research MA thesis in Old Testament/New Testament using biblical critical tools and methods.		X		

M.A. Biblical Literature
GBIB 561 Old Testament Hermeneutics and Exegesis (Hebrew)
Fall 2022

This course contributes to the University and program outcomes as indicated below:

Significant Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

Moderate Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

Minimal Contribution – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

OUTCOMES	Significant	Moderate	Minimal
Spiritual Integrity			
C Discuss the importance of sound exegetical/hermeneutical method in interpreting and presenting the theological emphasis of the Old Testament to the twenty-first-century Church.	x		

Intellectual Pursuit			
A Demonstrate a level of mastery of the skills required to translate the text of the Old Testament, either orally or in writing.	x		
B Illustrate and explain the importance of contextual exegesis for the interpretation of the text.	x		
C Discuss the importance of sound exegetical/hermeneutical method in interpreting and presenting the theological emphasis of the Old Testament to the twenty-first-century Church.	x		
M.A. Biblical Literature Outcome 1: Demonstrate proficiency in translating the Hebrew OT and Greek NT.	x		