

# **Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary**

*Intermediate Hebrew Exegesis (Fall 2005)*

OT 608

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Class meets: 4:00-6:00, Tuesdays

## **A. Class Objectives**

The goal of this course is to advance the students' knowledge of Biblical Hebrew to where they can begin to benefit in the use of their Hebrew studies in Biblical Interpretation.

## **B. The Nature of the Course**

This course will give primary attention to the relation between clauses.

## **C. Required Textbooks:**

Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia

Stuart, Douglas, Old Testament Exegesis: A Primer for Students and Pastors (Philadelphia: Westminster Press; 1980).

## **D. Helpful Resources**

Beal, Todd S.; Banks, William A., Old Testament Parsing Guide (3 volume set; Chicago: Moody Press; 1986).

Brown, Francis; S. R. Driver; Charles A. Briggs, Hebrew and English Lexicon (Oxford: Clarendon Press; 1968).

Botterweck, G. Johannes, Helmer Ringgren & Heinz-Josef Fabry, Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament (Grand Rapids; William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company; 2003)

Davidson, Benjamin, The Analytical Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon (London; Samuel Bagster, 1970).

Feyerabend, Karl, A Complete Hebrew-English Pocket-Dictionary to the Old Testament (Berlin; Langenscheidtsche Verlagsbuchhandlung)

Kautzsch, E. & Cowley, Hebrew Grammar (Oxford; Clarendon Press, 1963).

Koehler, Ludwig & Baumgartner, Walter, The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament Vols. I-V (New York; E.J. Brill, 1994-).

Waltke, Bruce K. & O'Conner, An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax (Winona Lake; Eisenbrauns, 1990).

Kelly, Page H., Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar (Grand Rapids; William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1992).

### **E. Outline of the Course**

During the first 7 weeks (until module week), we will do the following:

- Introduce the course, the syllabus, and the textbooks, etc.
- Review of Elementary Hebrew (concepts and reading practice)
- To help us review Hebrew; re-reading Gen. 12, 15, and Ruth, with Kelly, Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar.
- Work through the chapters of Kelly in order to review grammar and supplement what we learned in Hebrew I and II with a more detailed account of what is involved in the various parts of speech, grammatical constructions and verb forms. The goal is to complete our work with Hebrew grammar (using various texts for practice before modular week).
- Write a short midterm test. (Oct. 8)

During the last 7 weeks (after the two-week break in the middle of the course), we will:

- Read through Malachi
- Note: assigned readings must be prepared ahead of the class period in which they are to be discussed.
- Approximate schedule:
  - o Session 1- Malachi 1:1-14
  - o Session 2- Cont. Mal. 1:1-14
  - o Session 3- Malachi 2:1-9
  - o Session 4- Malachi 2:10-16
  - o Session 5- Malachi 3:1-12
  - o Session 6- Malachi 3:13-18
  - o Session 7- Malachi 4:1-6

## **F. Assignments for the Course**

Text Books: Students are expected to master the concepts in Kelly's "Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar"

Hebrew Reading: Students will demonstrate their ability to read Hebrew in four ways: By class participation, by their exegetical work, by a midterm test, and by the final exam.

Research Paper: Students are to write a Hebrew research paper on one OT text. This paper will consist primarily of a careful reading of the Hebrew text, in which the student explains grammatical decisions made and their implications for interpreting the text. Grammatical and/or semantic diagramming may also be used. The exegetical work or others (commentaries, etc.) should also be consulted and should be referenced, but the paper must give evidence of original work as well.

Texts should be chosen in consultation with the professor. Students are encouraged to select a text from Malachi, but may choose texts that help them with projects they are working on in academic or ministry contexts.

Parameters: 10 pages of double-spaced. **Due date:** (We will take some time on Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> in class to have students report on what their papers contain.)

Exams: There will be a short midterm test on Oct 18<sup>th</sup> and a more comprehensive final exam on Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> (an alternative date could be negotiated!)

## **G. Grading for the Course**

Research Paper: 40 %

Midterm Test: 10 %

Final Exam: 40 %

Class Participation: 10 %

(Note: this last category will be based on evidence of having mastered the concepts in the textbooks and on ability to read Hebrew, as demonstrated in classroom work.)

## **H. Academic Policies**

MBBS academic policies are described at [www.mbseminary.edu/fresno/policies](http://www.mbseminary.edu/fresno/policies). These policies provide guidance regarding matters such as academic integrity and plagiarism, incomplete course work, extensions, dates for changing registration, non-discriminatory and inclusive language, appeals, etc. Students are expected to be familiar with these policies and will be held responsible for adhering to them. If you have questions about how these policies relate to you or to a situation that you face in your studies, please speak to the professor or consult the Registrar or Academic Dean.