



Course Syllabus HEB630 L00.A Hebrew Exegetical Method II Spring 2019

Class Information

Day and Time: Monday 4:15-6:45 pm

Room Number: E209

Contact Information

Instructor Name: Kevin R. Warstler, Ph.D.

Instructor Email: kwarstler@criswell.edu

Instructor Phone: 214.818.1331

Instructor Office Hours: Monday 1-4pm; Tuesday 10-11am, 4-6pm; Thursday 10-11am

Course Description and Prerequisites

An advanced study of Hebrew grammar and syntax, with special attention given to exegesis and exposition of Old Testament poetic texts. Topics include the interpretation of figurative language, parallelism, and meter in the exegesis of poetic texts. (*Prerequisite:* HEB 620)

Course Objectives

At the end of this course, the student should demonstrate the following:

1. Translate and analyze poetic texts of the Hebrew Bible, noting the major and minor breaks in the texts based on Masoretic accentuation;
2. Identify important textual, lexical, and grammatical issues within poetic texts and explain their significance for understanding the meaning of the texts;
3. Design a strategy for solving the major exegetical issues within Hebrew poetic texts;
4. Identify and explain figures of speech in poetic texts, showing how they relate to a proper understanding of the meaning of the texts;
5. Use the form-critical method to classify biblical poetic and prophetic texts and to identify the main structure of those texts; and
6. Develop a full exegetical discussion on a poetic text from the Hebrew Bible.

Required Textbooks

1. Alter, Robert. *The Art of Biblical Poetry: Revised and Updated*. 2nd ed. New York: Basic Books, 2011. (978-0465022564)
2. Curtis, Edward M. *Interpreting the Wisdom Books: An Exegetical Handbook*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic, 2017. (978-0825442308)
3. Elliger, K., and W. Rudolph. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1997, 2006. (paperback: 978-1598561623; or hardback: 978-1598561630)
4. Futato, Mark D. *Interpreting the Psalms: An Exegetical Handbook*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic, 2007. (978-0825427657)

5. Sandy, D. Brent. *Plowshares and Pruning Hooks: Rethinking the Language of Biblical Prophecy and Apocalyptic*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2002. (978-0830826537)

Course Requirements and Assignments

1. Textbook and Supplemental Reading

Weekly readings will be selected from the four textbooks: Alter, *Art of Biblical Poetry*; Curtis, *Interpreting the Wisdom Books*; Futato, *Interpreting the Psalms*; and Sandy, *Plowshares and Pruning Hooks*. Supplemental reading will include handouts provided throughout the semester. All reading requirements will be listed on weekly study guides that will be provided throughout the semester. A final report on the percentage of completion of the reading of the textbooks and the supplemental material will be turned in at the end of the semester.

2. Translation and Class Participation

On most class days there will be Bible texts to translate and work through in class. You will need to be prepared to translate the text and discuss it in class so you are responsible to write out a translation for every text that we discuss. This will be turned in at the end of class. If the text is part of an assignment that already requires a translation, you do not need to turn in a separate translation of the text. Completing the assignment is sufficient enough.

3. Exegetical Assignments

There are six assignments all of which are mandatory (i.e., no drops). Two of them are from the Psalms (6 and 16); one is from Proverbs 30; and three of them are from the prophets (Isaiah 7 and 40 and Amos 9). The assignments consist of a translation of the Hebrew text along with several questions regarding some of the textual, lexical, grammatical, and exegetical issues related to the text. In many cases, you will need access to sources other than those you own so you will need to plan ahead in order to spend time in the library or online where necessary.

4. Exegetical Paper

You will select a passage consisting of a poetic text from the Hebrew Bible that does not include any of the passages that we will study in class (based on the exegetical assignments mentioned above). This may include a psalm, a section in the book of Proverbs, or a prophetic text. The passage must be approved by the professor no later than Monday, February 25.

The paper will consist of two different assignments that will be handed in separately. The first of these will be the preliminary paper, which will include only questions that will need to be answered in the final paper. The questions should include text-critical, lexical, grammatical, and interpretive issues relevant to the passage. There should also be some questions related to issues in poetic genre such as form criticism and figures of speech. This paper is due Monday, April 15.

The final paper will include the following: 1) a dynamic translation of the text in poetic form that clearly shows the major and minor breaks in the text as well as the parallelism within the text, 2) footnotes under the translation on the rationale for specific text-critical decisions as well as relevant lexical and syntactical choices, 3) a section of the form-critical identification and elements (the sub-structure) of the text, 4) an exposition of the text with specific exegetical details as well as interaction with commentaries and other scholarly sources included in footnotes, 5) a summary of the main literary-theological theme or lesson that can be derived from the text (Chisholm's Step 6, *EE*, 190-191, handout), and 6) a specific application to your own life or ministry from the message of the text. This paper is due Friday, May 17.

Class Attendance

Students are responsible for enrolling in courses for which they anticipate being able to attend every class session on the day and time appearing on course schedules, and then making every effort to do so. When unavoidable situations result in absence or tardiness, students are responsible for acquiring any information missed. Professors are not obliged to allow students to make up missed work. Per their independent discretion, individual professors may determine how attendance affects students' ability to meet course learning objectives and whether attendance affects course grades.

Grading Scale

A	97-100	4.0 grade points per semester hour
A-	93-96	3.7 grade points per semester hour
B+	91-92	3.3 grade points per semester hour
B	88-90	3.0 grade points per semester hour
B-	86-87	2.7 grade points per semester hour
C+	83-85	2.3 grade points per semester hour
C	80-82	2.0 grade points per semester hour
C-	78-79	1.7 grade points per semester hour
D+	75-77	1.3 grade points per semester hour
D	72-74	1.0 grade point per semester hour
D-	70-71	0.7 grade points per semester hour
F	0-69	0.0 grade points per semester hour

Incomplete Grades

Students requesting a grade of Incomplete (I) must understand that incomplete grades may be given only upon approval of the faculty member involved. An "I" may be assigned only when a student is currently passing a course and in situations involving extended illness, serious injury, death in the family, or employment or government reassignment, not student neglect.

Students are responsible for contacting their professors prior to the end of the semester, plus filing the appropriate completed and approved academic request form with the Registrar's Office. The "I" must be removed (by completing the remaining course requirements) no later than 60 calendar days after the grade was assigned, or the "I" will become an "F."

Academic Honesty

Absolute truth is an essential belief and basis of behavior for those who believe in a God who cannot lie and forbids falsehood. Academic honesty is the application of the principle of truth in the classroom setting. Academic honesty

includes the basic premise that all work submitted by students must be their own and any ideas derived or copied from elsewhere must be carefully documented.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- cheating of any kind,
- submitting, without proper approval, work originally prepared by the student for another course,
- plagiarism, which is the submitting of work prepared by someone else as if it were his own, and
- failing to credit sources properly in written work.

Institutional Email Policy

All official college email communications to students enrolled in this course will be sent exclusively to students' institutional email accounts. Students are expected to check their student email accounts regularly and to respond in an appropriate and timely manner to all communications from faculty and administrative departments.

Students are permitted to setup automatic forwarding of emails from their student email accounts to one or more personal email accounts. The student is responsible to setup and maintain email forwarding without assistance from college staff. If a student chooses to use this forwarding option, he/she will continue to be responsible for responding appropriately to all communications from faculty and administrative departments of the college. Criswell College bears no responsibility for the use of emails that have been forwarded from student email accounts to other email accounts.

Disabilities

In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations (e.g., tape recorders, special adaptive equipment, special note-taking or test-taking needs) is strongly encouraged to contact the instructor at the beginning of the course, or if a student has a learning disability, please inform the professor so assistance can be provided.

Intellectual Property Rights

Unless otherwise specifically instructed in writing by the professor, students must neither materially nor digitally reproduce materials from any course offered by Criswell College for or with the significant possibility of distribution.

Resources and Support

Blackboard and CAMS: Criswell College uses Blackboard as its web-based learning tool and CAMS for student data. Students needing assistance with either of these resources should contact the Campus Software Manager at cbutler@criswell.edu.

Student Services: The Student Services Office exists to foster and encourage success in all areas of life—physical, intellectual, spiritual, social, and emotional. Students are encouraged to reach out for assistance by contacting the office at 214.818.1332 or studentservices@criswell.edu. Pastoral and certified counseling services are also available to Criswell students. Appointments are scheduled through the Dean of Students Jeff Campbell, at jcampbell@criswell.edu.

Wallace Library: Students can access academic resources and obtain research assistance by visiting the Wallace Library, which is located on campus. For more information, students can email the Wallace Library at library@criswell.edu or call 214.818.1348.

Writing Center: Students are encouraged to consult with writing tutors to improve and enhance their skills and confidence by practicing techniques of clear and effective writing. To consult with a tutor, students can visit the Writing Center located on the first floor near the Computer Lab, or they can schedule an appointment by emailing writingcenter@criswell.edu or calling 214.818.1373.

Course Outline/Calendar

Week	Date	In-Class Topic	Bible Text Translation	Assignment Due
1	January 28	Introduction to the Course, Syllabus		
2	February 4	Introduction to Hebrew Poetry	Psalms 23	
3	February 11	Parallelism and Imagery	Psalms 29	
4	February 18	Form Criticism and the Psalms	Psalms 12	
5	February 25	Hymns	Psalms 8	Passage for Exegetical Paper
6	March 4	Lament Psalms	Psalms 6	Psalms 6
	March 11–15	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS		
7	March 18	Thanksgiving Psalms	Psalms 30 & 146	
8	March 25	Psalms of Confidence	Psalms 16	Psalms 16
9	April 1	Hebrew Wisdom Literature, Part 1	Proverbs 3:1-20	
10	April 8	Hebrew Wisdom Literature, Part 2	Proverbs 30:21-28	Proverbs 30
11	April 15	Introduction to Hebrew Prophetic Literature	Isaiah 1:2-20	Preliminary Exegetical Paper
12	April 22	The Nature of Prophetic Language	Isaiah 40:1-11	Isaiah 40 (part 1 or part 2)
13	April 29	Messianic Prophecy	Isaiah 7:10-17	Isaiah 7
14	May 8	The NT Usage of OT Prophetic Texts	Amos 9:11-15	Amos 9
15	May 13–17 FINAL EXAM WEEK	NO CLASS; Final Exegetical Paper Due by Friday, May 17		Final Exegetical Paper

Selected Bibliography

Resources for Textual Criticism

- Brotzman, Ellis R., and Eric J. Tully. *Old Testament Textual Criticism: A Practical Introduction*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2016.
- Kelley, Page H., Daniel S. Mynatt, and Timothy G. Crawford. *The Masorah of Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.
- McCarter, P. Kyle Jr. *Textual Criticism: Recovering the Text of the Hebrew Bible*. Guides to Biblical Scholarship, ed. Gene M. Tucker. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1986.
- Scott, William R. *A Simplified Guide to BHS*, 3d ed. North Richland Hills, TX: BIBAL, 1995.
- Tov, Emanuel. *Text-critical Use of the Septuagint in Biblical Research*. Jerusalem: Simor, 1981.
- _____. *Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible*. 2d edition. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2001.
- Wonneberger, Reinhard. *Understanding BHS: A Manual for the Users of Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. 2d ed. Subsidia Biblica, no. 8. Translated by Dwight R. Daniels. Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute Press, 1990.
- Würthwein, Ernst. *The Text of the Old Testament: An Introduction to the Biblia Hebraica*. 2d edition. Trans. Erroll F. Rhodes. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.

Resources for Lexical Analysis

- Armstrong, Terry A., Douglas L. Busby, and Cyril F. Carr. *A Reader's Hebrew-English Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1989.
- Barr, James. *Comparative Philology and the Text of the Old Testament*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1968.
- _____. *Semantics of Biblical Language*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1961.
- Botterweck, G. Johannes, Helmer Ringgren, and Heinz-Josef Fabry, eds. *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament*. 13 volumes. Translated by John T. Willis, Geoffrey W. Bromiley, David E. Green, and Douglas W. Stott. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1974-. (TDOT)
- Clines, David J. A. *The Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*. 8 vols. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic, 1993–2011. (DCH)
- Jenni, Ernst, and Claus Westermann. *Theological Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Translated by Mark E. Biddle. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1997. (TLOT)
- Karni, Schlomo. *Dictionary of Basic Biblical Hebrew*. Jerusalem: Carta, 2002.
- Köhler, Ludwig, and Walter Baumgartner. *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Revised by Walter Baumgartner and Johann J. Stamm. Translated and edited by M. E. J. Richardson et al. 5 vols. Leiden: Brill, 1994-2000. (HALOT)
- Pratico, Gary D. and Miles Van Pelt. *Vocabulary Guide to Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.
- VanGemeren, Willem, ed. *New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis*. 5 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997. (NIDOTTE)

Resources for Hebrew Language and Syntactical Analysis

- Arnold, Bill T. and John H. Choi. *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.
- Bergen, Robert D. *Biblical Hebrew and Discourse Linguistics*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1994.
- Bodine, Walter R., editor. *Linguistics and Biblical Hebrew*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1992.
- Driver, S. R. *A Treatise on the Use of the Tenses in Hebrew and Some Other Syntactical Questions*. The Biblical Resource Series, ed. Astrid B. Beck and David Noel Freedman. London: Oxford University Press, 1874. Reprint, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.
- Garrett, Duane A. *A Modern Grammar for Classical Hebrew*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2002.
- Joüon, Paul. *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew*. 2 vols. Trans. T. Muraoka. Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1996.
- Kautsch, E., ed. *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar*. 2d ed. Trans. A. E. Cowley. Oxford: Clarendon, 1910. (GKC)
- Lambdin, Thomas O. *Introduction to Biblical Hebrew*. NY: Scribner's, 1971.
- Murphy, Todd J. *Pocket Dictionary for the Study of Biblical Hebrew*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2003.
- Price, James D. *The Syntax of Masoretic Accents in the Hebrew Bible*. Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellin, 1990.
- Putnam, Frederic Clarke. *A Cumulative Index to the Grammar and Syntax of Biblical Hebrew*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1996.
- van der Merwe, Christo H. J., Jackie A. Naudé, and Jan H. Kroeze. *Biblical Hebrew Reference Grammar*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic, 1999.
- Waltke, Bruce K., and M. O'Connor. *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1990.
- Wegner, Paul D. *Using Old Testament Hebrew in Preaching: A Guide for Students and Pastors*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2009.
- Wickes, William. *Two Treatises on the Accentuation of the Old Testament*. The Library of Biblical Studies, edited by Harry M. Orlinsky. New York: Ktav, 1970.
- Williams, Ronald J. *Hebrew Syntax: An Outline*. 2d edition. Toronto: University of Toronto, 1976.
- Alter, Robert. *The Art of Biblical Poetry: Revised and Expanded Edition*. 2nd ed. New York: Basic Books, 2011.

Resources for Exegetical Method

- Boer, Pieter Arie Hendrik de, *Select Studies in Old Testament Exegesis*. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1991.
- Broyles, Craig, ed. *Interpreting the Old Testament: A Guide for Exegesis*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.
- Chisholm, Robert B. Jr. *From Exegesis to Exposition: A Practical Guide to Using Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998.
- _____. *A Workbook for Intermediate Hebrew: Grammar, Exegesis, and Commentary on Jonah and Ruth*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2006.

- Gorman, Michael J. *Elements of Biblical Exegesis: A Basic Guide for Students and Ministers*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2001.
- Hamilton, Victor P. *Handbook on the Historical Books*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001.
- Hayes, John H., and Carl R. Holladay. *Biblical Exegesis: A Beginner's Handbook*. 3d ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2007.
- Kaiser, Walter C. Jr. *Toward and Exegetical Theology: Biblical Exegesis for Preaching and Teaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1981.
- Longman, Tremper III. *Literary Approaches to Biblical Interpretation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1987.
- Ryken, Leland. *How to Read the Bible as Literature*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1984.
- Ryken, Leland and Tremper Longman III. *Complete Literary Guide to the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1993.
- Steck, Odil Hannes. *Old Testament Exegesis: A Guide to the Methodology*. 2d edition. Trans. James D. Nogalski. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1998.
- Stuart, Douglas K. *Old Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors*. 3rd edition. Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.

Resources for Hebrew Poetry

- Bullinger, E. W. *Figures of Speech Used in the Bible: Explained and Illustrated*. London: Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, 1898. Reprint, Grand Rapids: Baker, 1968.
- Bullock, C. Hassell. *An Introduction to the Old Testament Poetic Books: The Wisdom and Songs of Israel*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1979.
- Caird, G. B. *The Language and Imagery of the Bible*. London: Duckworth, 1980.
- Fokkelman, J. P. *Reading Biblical Poetry: An Introductory Guide*. Translated by Ineke Smit. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.
- Kugel, James L. *The Idea of Biblical Poetry: Parallelism and Its History*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1981.
- O'Connor, M. *Hebrew Verse Structure*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1997.
- Petersen, David L., and Kent Harold Richards. *Interpreting Hebrew Poetry*. Guides to Biblical Scholarship, ed. Gene M. Tucker. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1992.
- Watson, Wilfred G. E. *Classical Hebrew Poetry: A Guide to Its Techniques*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1984.

Resources for the Book of Psalms

- Bullock, C. Hassell. *Encountering the Book of Psalms: A Literary and Theological Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.
- Estes, Daniel J. *Handbook on the Wisdom Books and the Psalms*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2010.
- Futato, Mark D. *Interpreting the Psalms: An Exegetical Handbook*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2007.
- Gunkel, Hermann. *An Introduction to the Psalms: The Genres of the Religious Lyric of Israel*. Translated by James D. Nogalski. Reprint, Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 1998.
- Mosinckel, Sigmund. *The Psalms in Israel's Worship*. Biblical Resource Series. Reprint, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004.

Resources for Hebrew Wisdom Literature

- Crenshaw, James L. *Old Testament Wisdom: An Introduction*. Revised ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1998.
- Curtis, Edward M. *Interpreting the Wisdom Books: An Exegetical Handbook*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic, 2017.
- Estes, Daniel J. *Handbook on the Wisdom Books and the Psalms*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2010.
- Perdue, Leo G. *Wisdom Literature: A Theological History*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2007.

Resources for Hebrew Prophetic Literature

- Chisholm, Robert B. Jr. *Handbook on the Prophets*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2002.
- Sandy, D. Brent. *Plowshares and Pruning Hooks: Rethinking the Language of Biblical Prophecy and Apocalyptic*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2002.
- Smith, Gary. *Interpreting the Prophetic Books: An Exegetical Handbook*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic, 2014.
- Westermann, Claus. *Basic Forms of Prophetic Speech*. Translated by Hugh Clayton White. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1991.