



Class Information

Day and Time: Thursday 4:15 pm – 6:45 pm*

Room Number: E207

Contact Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Joel Reemtsma

Instructor Email: jreemtsma@criswell.edu

Instructor Phone: 907.690.1423

Instructor Office Hours: NA (meet by appointment)

Course Description and Prerequisites

A continuation of the elements of Old Testament Hebrew I and II with an emphasis on rapid reading and advanced exegesis of the Hebrew text from selected Hebrew Old Testament Books. (Course may be repeated for credit when the Bible book differs; Prerequisite: HEB 502 or equivalent.)

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course you should be able to:

1. Read the text of the Hebrew Bible, pronouncing the Hebrew forms correctly;
2. Identify a vocabulary of Hebrew words occurring more than 100 times in the Hebrew Bible;
3. Know the major resources for Hebrew exegesis such as lexicons, grammars, and text-critical resources and how to use them;
4. Analyze the syntactical relations of nouns, verbs, conjunctions, and clauses in order to understand how specific forms are functioning within sentences;
5. Resolve specific issues in the Hebrew text related to its translation by examining other English translations and by making use of lexicons, grammars, and commentaries; and
6. Compare and evaluate several English translations in order to assess the quality of execution of their stated translation philosophy and the accuracy of the translation in comparison to the Hebrew text.

Required Textbooks

Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia. Edited by K. Elliger and W. Rudolph. Stuttgart, German Bible Society, 2006.

ISBN: 978-1598561623

**Due to the small number of students in the class, the place and time of meeting for this class may be changed by consensus of the professor and students*

Course Requirements and Assignments

A. Class Participation – Reading and Translating (30%)

Class participation is an essential part of this course and is the most important requirement for meeting the course objectives. For each class you should be prepared to translate the assigned passage(s). Your class participation grade will be determined by how prepared you are for each class (in the judgment of the professor) and your level of proficiency in reading the Hebrew text with as little assistance as possible. In some cases, you will be allowed to refer to any notes or translation that you did. You are not to use any other English translations during the class readings and translations.

B. Exegetical Assignments (30%)

There will be five exegetical assignments throughout the course. These assignments will be distributed at least one week before they are due. The assignments will include questions on syntax, lexical analysis, and various interpretive issues directly related to the translation and interpretation of the assigned passage. Assignments are due on the class period in which that assigned passage is translated and discussed.

C. Vocabulary Quizzes (20%)

There are six vocabulary quizzes drawn from a list of words occurring 100 or more times in the Hebrew Bible (These will be drawn from Pratico and Van Pelt's Vocabulary Guide—the list will be distributed.) Please refer to the schedule for the content and date of these quizzes. The lowest quiz score will be dropped.

D. Translation Comparison Research Project (20%)

Each student will choose a passage of 18-20 verses selected from the assigned texts in the semester. Five English translations of that passage will be examined in order to compare the translation techniques and specific decisions each of them makes for the text. It is strongly suggested that you select at least one formal equivalence translation (i.e., more literal, such as NKJV, NASB, ESV) and one dynamic equivalence translation (such as the NLT). A paper (approximately 15 to 20 pages, double-spaced) will be written summarizing the results. The paper should include a verse-by-verse comparison for each of the translations including textual, lexical, and especially syntactical choices made in each case. A final evaluation and summary will identify how well each translation maintained its translation philosophy (usually identified and discussed in the introductions to the translations). You do not need to decide which philosophy is best, especially since each one has its own purposes for different situations and readers. Your main concern is to determine if their proposed philosophy was executed well in one particular passage. The due date for the project is Thursday, May 7.

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	93-100	4.0 grade points per semester hour
A-	90-92	3.7 grade points per semester hour
B+	87-89	3.3 grade points per semester hour
B	83-86	3.0 grade points per semester hour
B-	80-82	2.7 grade points per semester hour
C+	77-79	2.3 grade points per semester hour
C	73-76	2.0 grade points per semester hour
C-	70-72	1.7 grade points per semester hour
D+	67-69	1.3 grade points per semester hour
D	63-66	1.0 grade point per semester hour
D-	60-62	0.7 grade points per semester hour
F	0-59	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

Criswell College recognizes and supports the standards set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and similar state laws, which are designed to eliminate discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities. Criswell College is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualifying students, faculty, and employees with disabilities as required by applicable laws. For more information, please contact the Student Services Office.

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

Canvas and SONIS: Criswell College uses Canvas as its web-based learning tool and SONIS for student data. Students needing assistance with Canvas should contact the Canvas Help Support line at (844) 358-6140. Tech support is available at this number, twenty-four hours a day. Students needing help with SONIS should contact the Campus Software Manager at studenttechsupport@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, at deanofstudents@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, go to the library website, or email the Wallace Library at library@criswell.edu.

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

Date	Subject	Focus Passage	Quiz/Assignment
Jan 23	Syllabus; Intro to the Course		
Jan 30	David and Goliath	1 Sam 17	Vocab 1
Feb 6	David and Abigail	1 Sam 25	ExAsn 1
Feb 13	Saul and the Witch	1 Sam 28	Vocab 2
Feb 20	David Reacts to Saul's Death	2 Sam 1	ExAsn 2
Feb 27	Abner is Betrayed	2 Sam 3	Vocab 3
Mar 5	The Davidic Covenant	2 Sam 7	ExAsn3
Mar 12	David and Bathsheba	2 Sam 11	Vocab 4
Mar 19	Spring Break (no class)		
Mar 26	Hushai vs. Ahithophel	2 Sam 16:15–17:29	ExAsn 4
Apr 2	David's Song	2 Sam 22	Vocab 5
Apr 9	David's Census	2 Sam 24	ExAsn 5
Apr 16	Repentance	Psalm 32 & 51	Vocab 6
Apr 23	Sight-Reading Day (review)	TBD	
Apr 30	Sight-Reading Day (new)	TBD	
May 7	Sight-Reading Day (new)	TBD	Translation Paper
May 14	Final Exam Week (no class)		

**Please note that this course schedule is a plan, not a prophecy. That is, it is contingent upon our progress! However, all potential changes will give students more time to complete assignments, never less.*

Selected Bibliography

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