



# On-Campus Course Syllabus

## HEB630 L1

### Hebrew Exegetical Method II

#### Spring 2021

#### Class Information

**Day and Time:** Wednesday 8:00-10:45 am

**Room Number:** E205

#### Contact Information

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

**Instructor Email:** kwarstler@criswell.edu

**Instructor Phone:** 214-818-1331

**Instructor Office Hours:** Tuesday 1:00-3:00 pm; Thursday 2:00-4:00 pm

#### 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. Futato, Mark D. *Interpreting the Psalms: An Exegetical Handbook*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic, 2007. (978-0825427657)
4. Smith, Gary V. *Interpreting the Prophetic Books*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic, 2014. (978-0825443633)

## Course Requirements and Assignments

1. Textbook and Supplemental Reading (15%): 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 (10%): 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 (30%): 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 (30%): 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 Wednesday, March 3. 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. The final paper is due at the end of the semester.

## 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. Instructors are not obliged to allow students to make up missed work. Per their independent discretion, individual instructors may determine how attendance affects students' ability to meet course learning objectives and whether attendance affects course grades.

## Grading Scale

			Grade Definitions (optional)
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 instructors 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 close of the term or semester in which the grade was awarded, 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 Assessment

Material submitted by students in this course may be used for assessment of the college's academic programs. Since programmatic and institutional assessment is done without reference to specific students, the results of these assessments have no effect on a student's course grade or academic standing at the college. Before

submitting a student's work for this type of assessment, the course instructor redacts the work to remove anything that identifies the student.

## **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 instructor, 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 Supports**

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:deanofstudents@criswell.edu).

Wallace Library: Students can access academic resources and obtain research assistance by contacting or visiting the Wallace Library, which is located on campus. For more information, email the Wallace Library at

[library@criswell.edu](mailto:library@criswell.edu). Offsite login information is available in Canvas in the “Criswell Student Training Course” under “Library Information.”

**Tutoring Center:** Students are encouraged to consult with tutors to improve and enhance their skills and confidence in any subject matter taught at the college. Tutors have been recommended by the faculty to ensure that the tutor(s) are qualified to serve the student body. Every tutor brings experience and expertise in an effort to provide the proper resources for the subject matter at hand. To consult with a tutor, students can visit the Tutoring Center located on the second floor in room E203, or schedule an appointment by emailing [tutoringcenter@criswell.edu](mailto:tutoringcenter@criswell.edu) or by calling 214.818.1373.

## Course Outline/Calendar

Week	Date	In-Class Topic/Assignment Due	Bible Text Translation	Textbook Reading Due
1	January 20	Introduction to the Course, Syllabus		
2	January 27	Introduction to Hebrew Poetry	Psalm 23	Alter, Ch. 1–2
3	February 3	Parallelism and Imagery	Psalm 29	Alter, Ch. 3; Futato, Ch. 1
4	February 10	Form Criticism and the Psalms	Psalm 12	Futato, Ch. 2, 4
5	February 17	Hymns	Psalm 8	Alter, Ch. 5
6	February 24	Lament Psalms <b>Psalm 6 Assignment Due</b>	Psalm 6	Futato, Ch. 3
7	March 3	Thanksgiving Psalms <b>Exegetical Paper Selection</b>	Psalms 30 & 146	Futato, Ch. 5
8	March 10	Psalms of Confidence <b>Psalm 16 Assignment Due</b>	Psalm 16	Futato, Ch. 6
	March 15–19	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS		
9	March 24	Hebrew Wisdom Literature, Part 1 <b>Preliminary Exegetical Paper Due</b>	Proverbs 3:1-20	Alter, Ch. 4; Curtis, Ch. 1–2
10	March 31	Hebrew Wisdom Literature, Part 2 <b>Proverbs 30 Assignment Due</b>	Proverbs 30:21-28	Alter, Ch. 7; Curtis, Ch. 3–4
11	April 7	Hebrew Wisdom Literature, Part 3	Ecclesiastes 1:1-11; 3:9-15	Alter, Ch. 8–9; Curtis, Ch. 5–6
12	April 14	Introduction to Hebrew Prophetic Literature	Isaiah 1:2-20	Alter, Ch. 6; Smith, Ch. 1
13	April 21	The Nature of Prophetic Language <b>Isaiah 40 Assignment Due</b>	Isaiah 40:1-11	Smith, Ch. 2–3
14	April 28	Messianic Prophecy <b>Isaiah 7 Assignment Due</b>	Isaiah 7:10-17	Smith, Ch. 4–5
15	May 5	The NT Usage of OT Prophetic Texts <b>Amos 9 Assignment Due</b>	Amos 9:11-15	Smith, Ch. 6

	May 13–17	NO CLASS Final Exegetical Paper Due May 17		
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## Selected Bibliography

### Resources for Textual Criticism

- Brotzman, Ellis R., and Eric J. Tully. *Old Testament Textual Criticism: A Practical Introduction*. 2<sup>nd</sup> 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*. 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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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.

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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.





## **On-Campus Course Syllabus Addendum for HEB 630 L1 Hebrew Exegetical Method II Spring 2021**

To students: In the event of a closure of the campus for on-campus classes, this addendum will be in effect from that point forward until the end of the semester. This addendum specifies how your instructor has adjusted the course in order to allow students to meet the course objectives.

The course requirements, assignments, and attendance requirements from the syllabus are pasted below.

### **Course Requirements and Assignments**

All assignments for this course will remain as indicated on the original syllabus. This includes the readings, translations, assignments, and exegetical paper. Everything will be completed or turned in through Canvas.

### **Class Attendance**

Since we are not meeting regularly in person, it is important that you participate in our online activities related to the class. The most important of these is to connect using the Zoom conference feature in Canvas during our normally scheduled class time (beginning at 8:00 am on Wednesdays). By class time, there will be a link provided on Canvas to connect. It will be identified with the date of class. We will plan to use this feature for the remainder of the closed campus situation so it is important that you make sure you have a device that can connect using this feature (wifi access, camera, and microphone). My request is that you utilize the camera and not just the audio feature so that it will facilitate better attention and class discussions.