

WESTERN SEMINARY - SACRAMENTO

Functional Application of Hebrew
OTS 502M: 3 credit hours + 1 hour lab

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Syllabus – Spring 2010

COURSE SCHEDULE

Jan. 4 – Apr. 12 (Mondays, 5:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.): Jan. 4, 11, 25; Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22; Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22; April 5, 12

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Functional Application of Hebrew OTS 502M.

This class will give attention to Hebrew syntax through reading the required textbook in class. Further, in order to gain an exposure to the Hebrew Bible in its original language, this class will read selected sections of the BHS with the help of Bibleworks. Moreover, students will develop a greater facility in biblical interpretation, based on careful study of the Hebrew text. The Book of Ruth will serve as the backdrop for which careful exegetical skill will be applied.

By the end of the course students will have read approximately 10 chapters of BHS.

Students will demonstrate skills gained by drafting a 10-12 page exegetical paper.

COURSE CONTRIBUTION TO STATED DEGREE OUTCOMES

The objectives of this course are tied directly to the desired outcomes constructed specifically for the four seminary degrees for which this course is a requirement. Below is an excerpt of the degree outcomes to which this course relates:

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BE ABLE TO interpret and apply biblical texts using sound hermeneutical principles and the biblical languages.

- knows the basic vocabulary and structure (grammar and syntax) of Greek and Hebrew; (NTS 501, NTS 502, NTS 508, NTS 509; OTS 501, OTS 508, OTS 509)
- able to translate and to interact theologically with the original text; (NTS 501, NTS 502, NTS 508, NTS 509; OTS 501, OTS 508, OTS 509)
- able to use effectively the best print and electronic tools. (NTS 501, NTS 502, NTS 508, NTS 509, OTS 501, OTS 508, OTS 509)

BE ABLE TO think biblically and critically so that various truth claims can be effectively evaluated.

- has embraced a biblical world view; (THS 501, THS 502, THS 503, THS 508; overarching)
- able to apply the basic elements of critical analysis and sound reasoning; (MFM 500; overarching)
- sensitive to cultural variations in styles of thinking; (overarching)
- reflects an appropriately humble and charitable spirit in applying biblical criteria for truth. (overarching)

BE A true life-long learner, building upon his/her seminary training.

- committed to pursuing growth and learning in key areas of need; (MFM 500, overarching)
- able to access and manage information (including that available via computer/online resources) so that it is readily available when needed. (overarching)

TEXTBOOKS

Please support your seminary by using the following link for all your Amazon purchases – a minimum of 4% comes to Western Seminary. Click [here](#) to order texts and other products.

Required

- Arnold, Bill T. & Choi, John H. *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003. ISBN-10 0-521-53348-1 paperback or 978-0-521-53348-5 paperback
- Bible Works 7.0

Recommended

- A Commentary on the Book of Ruth
- Stuart, Douglas. *Old Testament Exegesis—A Handbook for Students and Pastors*. Third Edition. Louisville, KY: John Knox Press, 2001. ISBN-13: 978-0-664-22315-1 or ISBN-10: 0-664-22315-X
- *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*, ISBN-10: 1598561634

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Assignments

At the end of each session, the instructor will assign readings for the week. Students are to use Bibleworks to prepare the assigned reading. Though it is recommended that students divide the reading material and read it on a daily basis, this is not a requirement. Preparation for reading assignments and class participation will be counted as 15% of the final grade.

Quizzes

There will be a quiz at the beginning of each session (excluding the last four sessions). Please make every effort to be in class on time. The quizzes represent 40% of the final grade. Students, who miss a quiz, shall arrange a time to take the quiz.

The average time spent on assignments and quiz preparation will approximate 6 hours per week.

Exegesis Paper

The instructions for writing the exegesis paper will be given on a separate handout. It is due on April 5, 2010, and constitutes 25% of the final grade. Students should spend about 25 hours to complete the paper.

Final

The final examination is cumulative in nature and will constitute 20% of the final grade.

Activity	Percent of Final Grade	Estimated Time to Prepare and Complete
Lessons and Lab		60 hours
Reading Assignments and Class Participation	15%	60 hours (including preparation for quizzes)
Quizzes	40%	---
Exegesis Paper	25%	25 hours
Final	20%	5 hours
Total	100%	150 hours

COURSE OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Assignment
Jan. 4	Discourse Analysis & Waw Job 1	Job 1
Jan. 11	Job 1	Job 1

Jan. 25	Issues Regarding Hebrew Exegesis Issues Regarding the Course Paper II Kings 4:8-24	II Kings 4:8-24
Feb. 1	II Kings 4:8-24	II Kings 4:8-24
Feb. 8	II Kings 4:25-37	II King 4:25-37
Feb. 15	Gen. 4:1-14; 27:1-12	Gen. 4:1-14; 27:1-12
Feb. 22	Ruth 1	Ruth 1
Mar. 1	Ruth 2	Ruth 2
Mar. 8	Ruth 3 & 4	Ruth 3 & 4
Mar. 15	Jonah 3	Continue Drafting the Paper
Mar. 22	Jonah 4	Continue Drafting the Paper
Apr. 5	Psalm 8, 23 Exegesis paper due	Preparation for the Final
Apr. 12	Final	

CLASS POLICIES

Cover page: To safeguard confidentiality, provide a title page as a cover for all assignments. Include your student mailbox number in the upper right corner of the cover page.

Attendance and Late Assignments: Students are expected to attend all class meetings. Students who miss class are responsible for missed work. Unexcused absences and tardiness will impact a student's grade. Students who anticipate an absence should

discuss it in advance with the instructor. Students who miss two or more classes will not pass the course, without a request for and the completion of additional assignments. Assignments submitted after the due date and time constitutes a drop in the student's letter grade for that assignment.

Enrichment Students: Enrichment students are encouraged, but not obligated, to participate in assignments and class discussions. Professors are not obligated to grade participation for these students, but may opt to do so depending on class size.

Incompletes: Faculty members determine their own procedures and due dates for the completion of course assignments. The final deadline for submitting all course work is the last day of the semester as noted in the Academic Calendar and in the Sacramento class schedule. In the case of serious illness, family emergency, or similar extenuating circumstances, the instructor may, **if it is initiated by the student**, grant an extension. A 1-3 week extension is typical in all except the most extreme cases, and in all cases the standard decrease of a full letter grade for late work applies. Extensions desired by the student beyond 3 weeks, with prof support, must be approved by the Sacramento Academic Coordinator, with 5 weeks after the end of the course being the longest possible extension for work being due to the prof; for this semester that date is **Saturday, 5/29/10**. (This allows a 6th week for the grading of work and a grade change request to be filed.) A temporary notation of "I" (incomplete) is assigned until a final grade can be determined. Under no circumstances may the six-week period (allots 1 week to the prof for grading and grade change petition) be extended except by petition and approval of the Administrative Committee in Portland.

The Availability of Disability Services at Western Seminary: Western Seminary is committed to responding to the needs of students with disabilities as outlined in both the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Western students are assisted individually as their needs dictate. It is the responsibility of students with disabilities to identify themselves and the nature of the disability. Any student who has a disability should contact the seminary's Disability (Section 504) Coordinator, Ken Epp, at 503-517-1815/1-877-517-1800, ext. 1815. His office is at the Portland campus. Students at the northern California campuses may contact Carrie Priest (Student Services Coordinator – San José) or PJ Oswald (Director of Student Development – Sacramento), or they may contact Dr. Epp directly. Appropriate forms will be provided and must be submitted to the Disability Coordinator's office.

LIBRARY AND INTERNET RESEARCH – SACRAMENTO

All class assignments with a research element require library research annotated as such in the bibliography. A minimum of two resources must be from a physical library. Note the physical location of each resource as an addendum to each bibliographical entry.

For complete library information including: hours of operation, interlibrary loan, local library resources, etc., please:

- Visit www.westernseminary.edu/sacramento
- Click the link “Library Services” in the right navigation pane.

Reserve Collection

The library carries all required readings for this course.

Print Resources

Use the Western-Arcade Library catalog to find books and other materials. To search the library collection:

- Visit <http://www.westernseminary.edu/Library/SAC> .
- Click the link “Search the Library Collection Online”.

Periodical & Research Databases

As you complete your assignments for this course, don’t forget about the resources in the Western research databases. Remember to evaluate and cite your information too. To access the Western research databases:

- Visit <http://www.westernseminary.edu/Library/SAC> .
- Click the link “Research Databases” from the bottom menu.
- Click the link “Ebsco Host Research Databases”.
- Log in. [**User ID:** westsem / **Password:** seminary]
- Click the link “EBSCOhost Web”.
- Click the database(s) you wish to use. Start with *ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials*.

To cite your information, consider the following MLA composers:

<http://www.noodletools.com> and <http://www.citationmachine.net>

Western-Arcade Library offers a variety of ministry related software for student use including BibleWorks, Logos Bible Software, and SeminaryLibrary.

Course Packs (if applicable)

To access the course pack(s) for this course:

1. Go to the library homepage: <http://www.westernseminary.edu/Library/SAC>
2. Click the link ‘Course Packs’.

Reference and Research Contact Information

David Holifield, M.A., M.L.S. / (916) 488-3720, ext. 7 /
dholfield@westernseminary.edu

STANDARDS FOR WRITTEN WORK (MLA)

Papers must be written to a near-thesis standard. That is, minimum format standards must be met, as defined below. English grammar, idiom, and spelling must be up to graduate level. Always include a strong introduction paragraph (declare what you intend to show

the reader) and conclusion paragraph. Qualities valued include clarity, succinctness, and precision.

This course employs the MLA (Modern Language Association) style guide. The basic elements are:

- Double-spacing, except for block quotes
- Single space block quotes
- Page numbers appear at the upper right on every text page
- Use footnotes or parenthetical citations.
- Footnotes and parenthetical references follow standard format.

Helpful web sites on MLA style include:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>

<http://www.cws.illinois.edu/workshop/writers/citation/>

[These websites are expanded and pasted into Western Seminary's "How to Write a Research Paper" located at

<http://www.westernseminary.edu/papers/Faculty/WGuideNu.doc>]

A good website with footnote/bibliography entries is:

<http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/Documentation.html>

For assignments that require the use of non-course texts and include a bibliography, of the resources mentioned in the bibliography for your project/paper, two must be from a physical library. Note the physical location of each book as an addendum to each bibliographical entry.

All work must reflect master's level use of the English language. Plagiarism will result in failure of assignment.