



15800 Calvary Rd
Kansas City, MO 64147

Ph.D. Syllabus

BT703 EXEGESIS IN THE HEBREW OLD TESTAMENT

Course: BT703 Exegesis in the Hebrew Old Testament
Credit: 3 credits
Semester: Spring 2025, Session 2
Dates: March 11 – May 3, 2025
Time: Wednesdays 6:00–9:00 pm Central Time
Location: Microsoft Teams
Instructor: Dr. Jeremy D. Lyon
Email: jeremy.lyon@calvary.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Advanced application of close reading of biblical Hebrew texts, which comprises an in-depth treatment of historical and comparative phonology, morphology, syntax, lexicography, and discourse and literary approaches to biblical Hebrew texts of different genres, with a view to analyzing the Old Testament within its geographical, historical, canonical, cultural, religious and theological contexts. In addition, students will move towards fluency in vocalization and translation of all genres.

This course will equip students to do exegesis in the Hebrew Old Testament. Students will learn how to identify and solve exegetical problems in the different genre of the Hebrew Old Testament. Students will learn how to do discourse analysis and write exegetical outlines of different texts. Students will translate and analyze the Hebrew syntax of the book of Jonah.

This is a blended class, meaning that both campus and online students take this class together. Campus students attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. All interaction and assignments for campus and online students are done in the online classroom.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The student who successfully completes this course will be able to . . .

1. *understand* more advanced aspects of biblical Hebrew grammar and syntax (PLO 1) (A1-9)
2. *acquire* an extended Hebrew vocabulary. (PLO 1) (A1-9)
3. *utilize* the standard *Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament (HALOT)* & other tools for study of the Hebrew text. (PLO 1) (A1-9)
4. *read and translate* material from the Hebrew Bible at an intermediate level. (PLO 1) (A1-9)
5. *understand* the basic text critical issues related to the biblical text. (PLO 1) (A1-9)
6. *critically engage* the biblical text for the purpose of exegesis and communication of the

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meaning of the text. (PLO 1-2) (A1-9)

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

BIBLE - The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (*meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages*), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB, English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

Elliger, K. and W. Rudolph, eds. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1997. (ISBN: 978-1683073529)

Lessing, R. Reed. *Jonah*. Concordia Commentary. St. Louis, Mo.: Concordia, 2007. (ISBN: 978-0758602732)

Patton, Matthew H. and Frederic Clarke Putnam. *Basics of Hebrew Discourse: A Guide to Working with Hebrew Prose and Poetry*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Academic, 2019. (ISBN: 978-0310535768)

Simon, Uriel. *Jonah: The JPS Bible Commentary*. Philadelphia, Pa.: The Jewish Publication Society, 1999. (ISBN: 978-0827606722)

Tucker Jr., W. Dennis, *Jonah: A Handbook on the Hebrew Text*. Waco, Tex.: Baylor University Press, 2006. (ISBN: 978-1481308465)

Van Pelt, Miles V. and Gary D. Pratico. *The Vocabulary Guide to Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2003. (ISBN: 978-0310532828)

Youngblood, Kevin J. *Jonah*. Exegetical Commentary on the Old Testament, vol. 28. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2013. (ISBN: 978-0310528357)

REQUIRED: ORIGINAL LANGUAGE BIBLE STUDY SOFTWARE (Accordance or Logos)
Students are required to have digital resources to engage Biblical study in the original languages, including but not limited to *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia (BHS)*, *Nestle Aland 28 (NA28)* – both including critical apparatus; *Septuaginta (LXX)*, a *Greek Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (BDAG)* by Bauer, Danker, Arndt, and Gingrich; *Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament (HALOT)* by Koehler and Baumgartner.

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment 1 – Vocabulary Quiz (50 pts.): Students will take weekly quizzes covering Hebrew vocabulary and reading.

Assignment 2 – Vocabulary Quiz (50 pts.): Students will take weekly quizzes covering Hebrew vocabulary and reading.

Assignment 3 – Vocabulary Quiz (50 pts.): Students will take weekly quizzes covering Hebrew vocabulary and reading.

Assignment 4 – Vocabulary Quiz (50 pts.): Students will take weekly quizzes covering Hebrew vocabulary and reading.

Assignment 5 – Vocabulary Quiz (50 pts.): Students will take weekly quizzes covering Hebrew vocabulary and reading.

Assignment 6 – Translation and Exegetical Commentary Project (300 pts.): Students will have weekly translation and exegesis assignments (details provided in class). The student will do a translation of the book of Jonah, along with critical commentary on each verse involving grammar, syntax, exegetical/theological issues. The project will also include a literary outline of the book.

Assignment 7 – Vocabulary Quiz (50 pts.): Students will take weekly quizzes covering Hebrew vocabulary and reading.

Assignment 8 – Student Presentation/Teaching of Select Hebrew Text (100 pts.): The student will do a presentation and lead class discussion dealing with exegesis of a select Hebrew text.

Assignment 9 – Hebrew Exegesis Paper (300 pts.): The student will develop an exegesis paper of a selected text from the Hebrew Bible. The research will include: translation, grammar/syntax issues, and detailed exegetical discussion of the text. More details provided in class.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 – Introduction and Discussion of Hebrew Syntax and Exegesis

Week 2 – Hebrew Exegesis of Jonah 1:1–9

Week 3 – Hebrew Exegesis of Jonah 1:10–2:2

Week 4 – Hebrew Exegesis of Jonah 2:3–11

Week 5 – Hebrew Exegesis of Jonah 3:1–10

Week 6 – Hebrew Exegesis of Jonah 4:1–11

Week 7 – Student Hebrew Exegesis of Select Texts in the OT

Week 8 – Student Presentations of Hebrew Exegesis Papers

HELP FOR STUDENTS

Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.

The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu) is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for Calvary University students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams, and facilitate tests. Please take

advantage of this service.

EXPECTATIONS OF ALL STUDENTS

Attend every class on time. All Ph.D. students are expected to be in every class (either in person or online in Microsoft Teams). Students are expected to let the professor know if they cannot attend class (for any reason).

Do not plagiarize. Plagiarism is defined as copying any part of a book or paper without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person's ideas or AI entity's ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. The use of AI generated content in student work is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. If a student plagiarizes the student will receive a zero (F) for the assignment and he or she will be reported to the dean of students and the chief academic officer.

Use Turabian style for all research papers. All research papers must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition.