

## **BETHEL SEMINARY SD**

### **OT 531—Intermediate Hebrew Course Syllabus, Spring 2008**

Instructor: Daniel Watson [Office 225 Ext. 224  
Time: Thursdays, 7:15-10pm *d-watson@bethel.edu*

#### **Content and Purpose**

With the (presumed) successful completion of OT 521-522, students are ready to learn the finer points of Hebrew grammar. The purpose of this course is to build upon the students' understanding of Hebrew language structure and to extend the range of their vocabulary, thereby increasing proficiency and enhancing ability to read not only with comprehension but with insight. This will be accomplished by guided reading, translation, and analysis of several substantive texts from various genres over the course of the term.

#### **Textbooks**

Ben Zvi, Ehud, et. al. *Readings in Biblical Hebrew: an Intermediate Textbook*. New Haven: Yale, 1993.

Mitchel, Larry A. *A Student's Vocabulary for Biblical Hebrew and Aramaic*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984.

Arnold, Bill T. and John H. Choi. *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Cambridge: University Press, 2003.

Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. *Preaching and Teaching from the Old Testament: a Guide for the Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2003.

The Instructor assumes students already are in possession of a text (BHS), the BDB lexicon, and a grammar. Students also should have one of the main English versions on hand (NKJV, NRSV, NAS, ESV, NAB, NIV, etc.: avoid paraphrases, "amplified," or other "contemporary" versions). Students also should provide themselves with four colored pens or pencils in the following colors: red, green, orange, and blue.

## Requirements

1. Faithful, punctual, and active attendance.
2. Written preparation of the assigned texts for oral recitation, translation, and discussion in the manner prescribed by the Instructor, which is to be maintained in a translation notebook.
3. Reading of Arnold-Choi's *Guide* in its entirety over the term and Kaiser's *Preaching* as assigned.
4. Two exams: a Midterm and a Final, on a designated text. Each exam will involve the vocalization, translation, exegetical analysis, and theological reflection of an unvocalized text.

## Grade

1. The course grade is the average of three grades: the two exams and the evaluation of the translation notebook.
2. Each grade consists of a number score from 0 to 4.0, using the scale listed in the Seminary catalog under "Academic Information and Policies"). This system is designed to assess the *quality level* of your work in the judgment of the Instructor. Some errors are minor, some are major, and beyond a certain minimal level *how many* things the student gets right is less important than *what kinds* of things the student gets right.
3. Extensions are negotiable within Seminary policy but should not be sought unless actually needed. The Instructor reserves the right to grant or deny such requests at his discretion of the instructor, basing that decision on perceptions about *actual inability* to complete the work on time versus *simple failure* to do so. For an extension to be granted, the student must fill out the Incomplete Contract, available from the Associate Registrar. Under no circumstances will the extension date be set or extended beyond 31 August 2008 without the approval of the Dean. Furthermore, there should be no presumption on the part of students that similar cases will be treated similarly; each situation is evaluated separately on a case by case basis.
4. Students who require special arrangements for course participation due to disability should promptly contact either the Instructor or the Access Coordinator for the Bethel Office of Disability Services (see the *Student Handbook*, p. 22).
5. As all Christian learning is to be ruled by a reverence for Truth, students are expected to observe the principles and precepts of academic integrity as set forth in the Seminary catalog.

**Course Schedule**

Apr 3—Orientation; Genesis 12:1-3 Grammatical Commentary

Apr 10—I Samuel 1:1ff

Apr 17—I Samuel 1 (cont'd)

Apr 24—II Kings 14:23-29

May 1—Deuteronomy 24:14-22

*Midterm Exam Period: May 2-9*

*Text: Leviticus 5:20-26*

May 8—Reading Week: No Class

May 15—Psalm 1

May 22—Psalm 15

May 29—Proverbs 3:13-26

June 5—Ezekiel 37:1-14

June 12—Ezekiel 37 (cont'd)

*Final Exam Period: June 13-20*

*Text: Isaiah 49:1-6*