

Associated Canadian Theological Schools

BiL 503: COMPUTER ASSISTED HEBREW

Howard G. Andersen, Ph.D.

Spring 2010

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: none, though familiarity with language study is highly advantageous

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Class Dates: Tuesdays

Class time(s): 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

I. Course Description

This course includes all the elements of Biblical Hebrew, a study of the requirements for Hebrew exegesis, and reading through the Hebrew text of a short Old Testament book with exegetical exercises. The course uses technology in the form of Biblical software to deal with vocabulary and morphology, two of the most challenging issues in learning ancient languages. This enables the student to give special attention to Hebrew grammar and syntax with a view to developing a systematic approach to exegetical studies for a life time of meaningful and productive ministry.

II. Objectives

By the end of the course, the successful student will be able to:

1. demonstrate facility in the use of one or more of the Biblical software systems listed below
2. demonstrate substantial command of basic Hebrew grammar
3. demonstrate basic command of Hebrew syntax
4. demonstrate basic understanding of the broad issues of Hebrew textual transmission and textual criticism
5. demonstrate capacity to do meaningful exegesis using tools

III. Course Textbooks

Pratico, Gary D. and Van Pelt, Michael V. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew*. Zondervan, Grand Rapids. 2007 or latest ed. The associated workbook is not required.

Stuart, Douglas. *Old Testament Exegesis*. Westminster John Knox, Louisville.

3rd. ed. 2001.

Waltke, Bruce K. and O'Connor, M. *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Eisenbrauns, Winona Lake, 1990. Students should check their software systems to see if they contain this book.

Required Software: Full access to, and facility in the use of one or more of the systems below is required for the course. Note that while there are many programs in the marketplace for Biblical study, only those below have the functions and facility for this class. Students should expect to bring a laptop to class. The language lab will not be used for this class. In purchasing software, ask for a student discount in view of your registration at ACTS/TWU.

1. BIBLEWORKS. This system is dedicated largely to Biblical languages and has all the tools needed for the course. Check www.bibleworks.com and the TWU bookstore for purchase.

2. LOGOS. This system has excellent Biblical language tools and also features a wide variety of theological library resources. See www.logos.com. This system is becoming the standard and is recommended for new purchasers of software.

3. GRAMMCORD for pc OR accordance for MAC. This system was one of the first Biblical software systems but generally has not kept as current as the systems noted above. See www.grammcord.org.

IV. Course Assignments and Evaluation

1. Weekly quizzes	15%
2. Written tests (Grammar, Syntax, Textual Transmission and Criticism)	30%
3. Exegetical papers	
a. two word studies	15%
b. syntactical study	15%
4. Exegesis of a passage	25%

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage	Grade Point
A+	97-100	4.30
A	93-96	4.00
A-	90-92	3.70
B+	87-89	3.30
B	83-86	3.00
B-	80-82	2.70
C+	77-79	2.30
C	73-76	2.00
C-	70-72	1.70
F	Below 70	0.00

VI. Tentative Course Outline

12 Jan Introduction. BBH (*Basics of Biblical Hebrew*), chs. 1-5. HOT
(Reading Hebrew Old Testament - Jonah).

19 Quizz. BBH chs 6-11. Reading Stuart chs XXX. HOT

26 Quizz. How to do a word study. BBH ch 12. HOT

02 Feb Quizz. BBH chs 13-17. Reading Stuart chs XXX. Hand in first
word study. HOT

09 Quizz. BBH chs 18-20. Reading Stuart chs XXX. HOT

16 Quizz. BBH chs 21-23. Hand in second word study. HOT

23 Reading week. No class.

02 Mar Quizz. BBH chs 24-29. Reading Textual Transmission and
Criticism. HOT

09 Quizz. BBH chs 30-35. HOT

16 Quizz. BBH ch 36. Reading from Waltke. HOT

23 Quizz. HOT

30 Quizz. HOT

06 April Quizz. HOT

13 Wrap up. Testing XXXX???

Supplement: Important Academic Notes from ACTS

Web Support – Student Portal <https://students.twu.ca>

All students at TWU have a TWUPass username and password. This is determined at the time of an online application or can be managed through the computing services help desk or the link on the student portal. Your student email account is also available through this student portal and is vital for communication about grades, account statements, lost passwords, sign-up instructions, etc. If you do not know your account or password, there is a link at the login area called “I forgot my password.” When you click on that link, you will be walked through the process of retrieving your account information.

Campus Closure

In the event of deteriorating weather conditions overnight or other emergency situations, every effort will be made to communicate information regarding the cancellation of classes to the radio stations CKNW (980 AM), CKWX (1130 AM), MAX (850 AM), PRAISE (106.5 FM) and KARI (550 AM) by 6:30 a.m., and an announcement will be placed on the University's switchboard as well as on the website <http://www.twu.ca/conditions/>. The first announcement regarding a closure will cover the period up to 1:00 p.m. only. If classes are to be cancelled beyond 1:00 p.m., this decision will be announced by the same means before 11:00 a.m. that day. Students and faculty should assume that all night classes will continue to operate. If the emergency continues into the evening, students and faculty may check for a closure notice on the University's switchboard and website after 3:00 p.m. that day.

Paper Formatting

Students need to adhere to Turabian Notes (Bibliography) format except in counselling courses, for which APA format is used.

Students are strongly encouraged to use RefWorks (available through the library home page www.twu.ca/library) as their bibliographical manager and as a tool for formatting bibliographies. They will need to be aware of the need to “clean up” most bibliographies generated by this program. Students are encouraged to view the documents on the following websites for format samples:

http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html or www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/. Note that in RefWorks the available formatting styles are those of Turabian (Notes), 7th edition, and APA – American Psychological Association, 5th edition. For Turabian, note that there are two formats – Notes (or Bibliography Style) and Reference List (a short format citation style). ACTS uses the Notes (Bibliography) format, not Reference List.

Counselling students are expected to purchase the APA Publications Manual. More information found at the following website. <http://www.apastyle.org/pubmanual.html>.

For free online programs that will enable you to create properly formatted bibliography

citations, go to <http://www.calvin.edu/library/knightcite/> ("Chicago stands for "Turabian") or <http://www.sourceaid.com/citationbuilder/>

CANIL students can locate this on the CANIL intranet, under the "student" side. A hard copy is given to incoming students in the fall.

Please check with your professor to see which one he/she recommends you use!!

Research Ethics

Please note that all research projects involving human participants undertaken by members of the TWU university community (including projects done by ACTS students to satisfy course or degree requirements) **MUST** be approved by the Trinity Western University Research Ethics Board. Information and forms may be found at <http://www.twu.ca/academics/research/ethics/> Those needing additional clarification may contact Dr. Bruce Guenther. Please allow at least three (3) weeks from the date of submission for a review of the application.

Academic Integrity and Avoiding Plagiarism at TWU

As Christian scholars pursuing higher education, academic integrity is a core value of the entire TWU community. Students are invited into this scholarly culture and required to abide by the principles of sound academic scholarship at TWU. This includes, but is not limited to, avoiding all forms of plagiarism and cheating in scholarly work. TWU has a strict policy on plagiarism (see academic calendar 2008-09, pp. 37-38). Further details on this subject are contained in the ACTS Student Handbook in section 4.12. The handbook is available online on the ACTS webpage (www.acts.twu.ca) at the following link: www.acts.twu.ca/Handbook.html.

Learning what constitutes plagiarism and avoiding it is the student's responsibility. An excellent resource describing plagiarism and how to avoid it has been prepared by TWU Librarian William Badke and is freely available for download (PPT file) or used as flash (self running) tutorials of varying lengths from:

<http://www.acts.twu.ca/lbr/plagiarism.ppt>

<http://www.acts.twu.ca/lbr/Plagiarism.swf> (14 minute flash tutorial)

http://www.acts.twu.ca/lbr/Plagiarism_Short.swf (8 minute flash tutorial)

Equity of Access

It is the responsibility of a student with a learning disability to inform the ACTS Director of Student Life of that fact before the beginning of a course so that necessary arrangements may be made to facilitate the student's learning experience. We are unable to accommodate any student who informs the Director of Student Life of a disability after the beginning of class.

