



# BIBS 213/313

## Hebrew Old Testament Exegesis

### Course Outline 2019

#### FULL YEAR 2019

**Lectures:**

Mon, Tues

5:00-5:50pm

**Location:** AVC 1

**Lecturer:**

*Dr Katie Marcar*

[katie.marcar@otago.ac.nz](mailto:katie.marcar@otago.ac.nz)

#### LECTURER'S INTRODUCTION

Welcome! I'm looking forward to getting to know you as we study Biblical Hebrew.

In this course, you will study passages of the Hebrew Scriptures in their original language. Studying the Scriptures in Hebrew goes hand in hand with studying the texts, history, and thought world of Ancient Israel. This course will help you develop your facility with biblical Hebrew, as well as your skills to use grammars, lexicons, and other resources in biblical scholarship.

From time to time, you may feel anxious about your study progress, and it is important that these anxieties be resolved promptly. If you have any queries about this paper, please get in touch with the lecturer.

**We recommend that you contact the Department as soon as possible if you have any problems participating in the course or accessing resources. Please remember to check your University email account regularly for updates and announcements.**

#### OFFICE HOUR

The office hour this year is 1:15-2:15 on Friday. Each semester the lecturer will keep an office hour during which students are welcome to come and discuss the course or ask for help. If you are not able to make that time, another time can be arranged. Special arrangements can be made for distance students upon request.

#### LEARNING OUTCOMES

##### Learning Objectives at 200 and 300 level:

At the completion of the course students will be able:

- to translate Genesis 37-45 and Deuteronomy 1-5 from Hebrew into English;

- to undertake a close analysis of the grammatical, syntactical, and text-critical elements of these texts;
- to write assignments on these passages that develop research skills such as using lexicons, grammatical works, and other scholarly literature

### Specific Learning Objectives at 300 level:

- to critically assess the text-critical factors for translation and exegesis;
- to interact critically with scholarship regarding the technical issues of translation and exegesis.

## REFERENCES FOR THIS COURSE

### Required Texts:

Biblical texts will be read from K. Elliger and W. Rudolph (eds.), *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* (4th ed.; Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1969/77).

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

### Two Recommended Handbooks

Both of these are small and affordable, and will prove to be very useful.

- Murphy, Todd J. *Pocket Dictionary for the Study of Biblical Hebrew*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2003.
- Van Pelt, Miles V. *Biblical Hebrew: A Compact Guide*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.

### Recommended Commentaries (in alphabetical order):

The commentaries listed below by no means exhaust the supply of reputable commentaries on Genesis and Deuteronomy. These commentaries are listed as a way to help you get started.

#### For Genesis:

- Baker, David West and Jason A. Riley. *Genesis 37-50: A Handbook on the Hebrew Text*. Waco: Baylor, 2014.
- Hamilton, Victor P. *The Book of Genesis*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990.
- Wenham, Gordon J. *Genesis 16-50*. Word Biblical Commentary. Nashville: Nelson, 1987.
- Westermann, Claus. *Genesis 37-50: A Commentary*. Trans. J. J. Scullion. Continental Commentary. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1984.

#### For Deuteronomy:

- Christensen, Duane L. *Deuteronomy*. Word Biblical Commentary. Nashville: Nelson, 1999.

- Craigie, Peter C. *The Book of Deuteronomy*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1976.
- Nelson, Richard D. *Deuteronomy*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2002.
- Robson, James E. *Deuteronomy 1-11: A Handbook on the Hebrew Text*. Waco: Baylor, 2016.
- Tigay, Jeffrey H. *Deuteronomy: The Traditional Hebrew Text with the New JPS Translation*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society of America, 1996.
- Weinfeld, Moshe. *Deuteronomy 1-11*. Anchor Yale Bible. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1991.

### Recommended Hebrew Grammars:

- Waltke, B.K. and M. O'Connor. *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 1990.
- Jouon, P. and T. Muraoka. *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew*. Rev. ed. Rome: Gregorian & Biblical Press, 2006.
- Kautzsch, E., Cowley, A.E. *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1910.
- Driver, S. R. *A Treatise on the Use of the Tenses in Hebrew*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1892.

### Recommended Hebrew Lexica (Dictionaries):

The best lexica currently available are:

- Brown, Francis, S.R. Driver, and C.A. Briggs, 1979 [1906]. *The New Brown-Driver-Briggs-Genesius Hebrew-English Lexicon with an Appendix containing the Biblical Aramaic*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson. (invaluable for serious scholars, although can be a bit difficult to navigate for new learners, and now seriously out-of-date in places)
- Clines, D.J.A., ed. *The Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*. 8 vols. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix, 1993 -2011. (An exhaustive study of every occurrence of each Hebrew word in the Bible, Ben Sira and the DSS.)
- Clines, David J.A., ed. *The Concise Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2009.
- Holladay, William L. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Leiden: Brill, 1988. (a great resource for beginners – easy to use)
- Koehler, Ludwig, and Walter Baumgartner. *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament: Study Edition*. 2 vols. Leiden: Brill, 2001. (not for the fainthearted, but wonderfully thorough – a scholar's paradise!)

### Other Useful Resources:

- vanGemeren, G. ed., *New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis*. 5 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.
- Botterweck, G., H. Ringgren, and J-H. Fabry, eds. *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament*. Trans T. Willis et al. 15 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1977.

## RESOURCES

- **Blackboard:** The Blackboard page for this course contains lots of useful information for students, such as library guides, information for distance students, and links to useful Hebrew resources. Links to the Hebrew Audio Bible and recommended Vocabulary aids are available through Blackboard.
- **Hebrew Audio Bible:** Recordings of the Hebrew Scriptures can be found at the Academy of Ancient Languages website, [http://aoal.org/hebrew\\_audiobible.html](http://aoal.org/hebrew_audiobible.html). These records are very useful for improving pronunciation. This link is also available through Blackboard under the “Web Resources” tab.
- This Course Outline which explains how the course is taught

### **THIS IS IMPORTANT!**

**Please Note:** You **must have access to Blackboard and your University email address** in order to complete this paper. You will receive access once your enrolment is complete. Communications from your lecturer regarding teaching matters will be provided **only** through Blackboard and your University email address, as outlined in the University's Student Communications Policy, and you must check these emails regularly, or arrange for them to be sent to your usual address. eVision will also send important messages through your University email. If you have any concerns about your access to Blackboard or to other course resources, please contact the lecturer or administrative staff immediately so that these can be resolved.

You will find there is a lot of helpful information and resources on the Department's website. In particular, we require you to read the section called “Essential Student Information.” You will find it here:

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/studentresources/>

This page provides a number of useful resources such as the *Study and Style Guide* and the Plagiarism Declaration Form you must attach to your assignments. It supplies detailed information on assessment and student support. In particular, it contains guidance on the topics of plagiarism and deadlines, both of which can incur penalties if not heeded. This also is where you will find instructions for submitting assignments electronically. So it is very important you make yourself familiar with this material. Our assumption is that you have read it.

We will make reference to information on the website in the following pages, so do take the time to follow the links and absorb the material. It will save you from making costly mistakes.

## **CLASS PARTICIPATION**

In preparation for each class, students are expected to have read and translated the passage assigned for that day themselves and to be able to contribute to discussions relating to parsing and grammar.

During the first semester, students should work diligently on Hebrew morphology. For example, when weak verbs are encountered in the text, students should understand why they appear as they do and be able to identify the verb's diagnostic features as explained by Pratico and Van Pelt in *Basics of Biblical Hebrew*.

Students must also have read the required pages of *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax (GBHS)* and to connect this reading with the week's translation. During the first semester, students are to apply a grammatical principal from *GBHS* to each verse. Students are encouraged to focus on the present week's reading where possible, but to use other parts of the grammar as need arises.

### **Note on Translation:**

In translating the Hebrew text both in assignments and the final exam, it is expected that students will be as literal as possible, whilst ensuring that the English translation given is reasonably smooth and fluent. The reason for this is that if the translation diverges markedly from the Hebrew in its grammatical form and style, then it can be unclear to the marker that the student is actually translating the text in front of them, rather than (for example) giving a standard translation from memory.

## **VIDEOCONFERENCING**

Distance students will join in classes using the videoconferencing software Zoom, which is easy to use and free to download. Full instructions on using Zoom, including the URL that you will need in order to join the sessions, are posted on Blackboard under 'Zoom Instructions'. If you are obliged to miss a lecture, the recording will be available on Blackboard within 24 hours. We encourage you to contact the Department if you are unable to access recordings, or if you find that one has been missed.

## LECTURE SCHEDULE

### Semester 1

Week <i>Mon, Tues</i>	Text* Genesis	Pgs. of GBHS	Other
Week 1 <i>25, 26 Feb</i>	Gen 37:1-14	1-7 <i>Intro and Nouns</i>	
Week 2 <i>4, 5 Mar</i>	Gen 37:15-30	8-13 <i>Genitive</i>	
Week 3 <i>11, 12 Mar</i>	Gen 37:31-38:8	13-21 <i>Accusative</i>	
Week 4 <i>18, 19 Mar</i>	Gen 38:9-22	21-28 <i>Apposition and Adjectives</i>	Assignment 1 Due: 19 Mar
Week 5 <i>25, 26 Mar</i>	Gen 38:23-39:6	28-35 <i>Determination and Numerals</i>	
Week 6 <i>1, 2 Apr</i>	Gen 39:7-20	36-45 <i>Qal, Niphal, and Piel</i>	
Week 7 <i>8, 9 Apr</i>	Gen39:21-40:10	46-53 <i>Pual, Hithpael, Hiphil, and Hophal</i>	
Week 8 <i>15, 16 Apr</i>	Gen 40:11-41:2	53-60 <i>Aspect</i>	Assignment 2 Due:9 Apr
<i>Easter</i>			
Week 9 <i>29, 30 Apr</i>	Gen 41:3-16	60-66 <i>Modals</i>	
Week 10 <i>6, 7 May</i>	Gen 41:17-30	66-73 <i>Nonfinites, Infinitive Construct</i>	
Week 11 <i>13, 14 May</i>	Gen 42:31-44	73-77 <i>Infinitive Absolute</i>	Assignment 3 Due: 14 May
Week 12 <i>20, 21 May</i>	Gen 42:45-42:1	77-83 <i>Participle</i>	
Week 13 <i>27, 28 May</i>	Gen 42:3-16	83-87 <i>Verbal Sequence</i>	
<i>Study Break and Examination Period</i>			

**\*Note on the Text:** These listings are approximations of the verses that will be covered in class. The actual pace of translation and exegesis may be different from this schedule. The goal is not to whizz through as much text as possible, but to translate, study and interact with the Hebrew text at a deep level.

**\* Supplemental Readings:** Supplemental readings on Genesis and Deuteronomy are available on Blackboard. These readings are not required but are strongly encouraged. You don't have to read every reading for each unit, but at least one is advised.

**Semester 2**

<b>Week TBA</b>	<b>Text Hosea</b>	<b>Pgs. of GBHS</b>	<b>Other</b>
Week 1 8, 9 July	Deut 1:1-15	87-94 <i>Verbal Sequence</i>	
Week 2 15, 16 July	Deut 1:16-30	95-106 <i>Prepositions</i>	
Week 3 22, 23 July	Deut 1:31-45	106-116 <i>Prepositions</i>	
Week 4 29, 30 July	Deut 1:46-2:15	116-126 <i>Prepositions</i>	Assignment 4 Due: 30 July
Week 5 5, 6 August	Deut 2:16-30	127-134 <i>Adverbs</i>	
Week 6 12, 13 August	Deut 2:31-3:7	134-142 <i>Adverbs</i>	
Week 7 19, 20 August	Deut 3:8-23	143-154 <i>Conjunctions</i>	Assignment 5 Due: 20 August
Aug 26-30 <i>Mid Semester Break</i>			
Week 8 2,3 September	Deut 3:24-4:10	154-161 <i>Conjunctions and Particles</i>	
Week 9 9, 10 September	Deut 4:11-25	162-170 <i>Clauses</i>	
Week 10 16, 17 September	Deut 4:26-43	171-176 <i>Clauses</i>	Assignment 6 Due: 17 September
Week 11 23, 24 Sept	Deut 4:44-5:12	176-182 <i>Clauses</i>	
Week 12 30 Sept, 1 Oct	Deut 5:13-33	182-188 <i>Clauses and Sentences</i>	
Week 13 7, 8 October			

## ASSESSMENT

### ASSIGNMENTS:

6 Assignments worth 5% each (30%), grammar comments worth 10% and one final exam worth 60%.

**Note on Assignments:** These assignments will be guided explorations into deeper topics related to Hebrew grammar, syntax, vocabulary, and textual criticism. They are designed to lead you into guided interactions with more advanced aspects of Hebrew. Each assignment will be based on the assigned passage for that semester. The assignments will vary, but will usually involve reading selected passages from Hebrew grammars or other reference works, followed by the application of these principles in the text at hand. Besides building more advanced skills, these assignments will also help you interact more deeply with the assigned texts.

### SEMESTER 1

#### **Assignment 1**

**Value:** 5% Total grade  
**Due:** Tuesday 19 March 2019  
**Topic:** Worksheet 1

#### **Assignment 2**

**Value:** 5% Total grade  
**Due:** Tuesday 9 April 2019  
**Topic:** Worksheet 2

#### **Assignment 3**

**Value:** 5% Total grade  
**Due:** Tuesday 14 May 2019  
**Topic:** Worksheet 3

### SEMESTER 2

---

#### **Assignment 5**

**Value:** 5% Total grade  
**Due:** Tuesday 30 July 2019  
**Topic:** Worksheet 4

#### **Assignment 6**

**Value:** 5% Total grade  
**Due:** Tuesday 20 August 2019  
**Topic:** Worksheet 5

#### **Assignment 7**

**Value:** 5% Total grade  
**Due:** Tuesday 17 September 2019  
**Topic:** Worksheet 6



**Criteria for assessment:**

- You must demonstrate acquisition of:
  - main principles of Hebrew grammar
  - substantial working Hebrew vocabulary
  - familiarity with biblical texts studied
- The assignment must be written in clear English with proper grammar, syntax, and tone.
- All work must be your own.

**Grammar Comments**

**Overall value:** 10% of overall grade

**Due date:** Weekly (10 out of 24 weeks)

**Instructions:** Students are required to post a short comment in the weekly Blackboard forum connecting that week's reading from the *Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax (BHS)* with the passage of text assigned for that week. These comments are expected to be short. This is an opportunity for the student to connect the learned grammar with what is encountered in the text. Students should not reproduce a comment that has been made by another student. Each comment posted on the thread should be different. If it is not possible to apply the week's readings in *BHS* with the translated texts, students may make a comment from another part of *BHS*. Comments are due by midnight on Sunday before Monday's class.

**Final examination 60% Date and location TBA (check your eVision portal)**

- The exam is 180 minutes (3 hours) in duration
- Closed book (no textbook or written notes allowed)
- The criteria for assessment
  - *The test must be set out clearly and handwriting [Hebrew] is tidy and legible.*
  - *All words must be spelled correctly.*
  - *You must demonstrate:*
    - *ability to translate Genesis 37:1-42:16 and Deuteronomy 1:1-5:33 with reference to grammatical, syntactical, and textual factors*
    - *understanding of basic interpretive issues in these chapters*

**NOTE:** The venue for Distance students is set according to the Semester Address in eVision, so please ensure this is up to date. An email will be sent to Distance students by Examinations to confirm the venue. All enquiries regarding exams should be directed to the Examinations Office: [examinations@otago.ac.nz](mailto:examinations@otago.ac.nz).

**SUBMITTING WRITTEN WORK**

All assignments must be submitted through Blackboard.

All Assignments submitted in the Department of Theology and Religion must be prefaced with a student **Plagiarism Declaration Form**. They will not be deemed to have been submitted unless and until the Plagiarism Declaration Form has been submitted.

It can be downloaded from <http://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/studentresources/>. It is also on the Blackboard site for this course.

Assignments must comply with the University of Otago's Guidelines on Plagiarism: <http://www.otago.ac.nz/study/plagiarism/>

**Late work:** Please see the *Policy on Late Submission of Assignments* on **Blackboard** for information on the grading of late work.

**All assignment grades are provisional until after the results are finalised by the Department of Theology and Religion. Final results for this Course will be posted on e:Vision.**

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity means being honest in your studying and assessments. It is the basis for ethical decision-making and behaviour in an academic context. Academic integrity is informed by the values of honesty, trust, responsibility, fairness, respect and courage. Students are expected to be aware of, and act in accordance with, the University's Academic Integrity Policy.

Academic Misconduct, such as plagiarism or cheating, is a breach of Academic Integrity and is taken very seriously by the University. Types of misconduct include plagiarism, copying, unauthorised collaboration, taking unauthorised material into a test or exam, impersonation, and assisting someone else's misconduct. A more extensive list of the types of academic misconduct and associated processes and penalties is available in the University's Student Academic Misconduct Procedures, available here <http://www.otago.ac.nz/administration/policies/otago116850.html>

It is your responsibility to be aware of and use acceptable academic practices when completing your assessments. To access the information in the Academic Integrity Policy and learn more, please visit the University's Academic Integrity website at [www.otago.ac.nz/study/academicintegrity](http://www.otago.ac.nz/study/academicintegrity) or ask at the Student Learning Centre or Library. If you have any questions, ask your lecturer. You can find the Academic Integrity Policy here <http://www.otago.ac.nz/administration/policies/otago116838.html>

## STUDENT SUPPORT

The "**Essential Information**" web page provides helpful information on how to access the University Library's resources, as well as a guide to the support services available to students at the University of Otago, including the Student Learning Centre and Disability Support.

For all **administrative and distance learning enquiries**, please contact:

The Administrative Assistant for Theology and Religion.

Email: [admin.theologyandreligion](mailto:admin.theologyandreligion)

Phone: 03 479 8516

**DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGION**  
University of Otago, PO Box 56, Dunedin 9054, New Zealand  
[www.otago.ac.nz/theology](http://www.otago.ac.nz/theology)