



OT 505 – OLD TESTAMENT EXEGESIS I

Fall 2018 • 2 Semester Hours

Mark A. House, Ph.D. • mhouse@newgeneva.org

I. PURPOSE

Learning to read the Scriptures in their original languages is similar to watching a sports game on a high-definition screen. A standard television screen will enable you to follow the game adequately, but "hi-def" is so much more detailed and life-like. In the same way, English translations of the OT do an admirable job of bringing God's word to contemporary readers, but reading the Hebrew Bible can give the text a greater sharpness and clarity that can add richness and color to your preaching or teaching ministry. Assuming that you have studied the basics of Hebrew grammar, this course takes you to the next level by giving you more experience with translating and exegeting the Hebrew text. As you review the basic word forms and grammatical categories of biblical Hebrew, you will study the more advanced concepts of Hebrew syntax and expand your grasp of Hebrew vocabulary as you work your way through the original text of the book of Jonah.

II. EDUCATIONAL AND PERSONAL OBJECTIVES

- To review the fundamentals of vocabulary, grammar, and syntax covered in first-year Hebrew;
- To expand your knowledge of Hebrew vocabulary to include the 500 most frequently-used words in the OT;
- To be introduced to more advanced concepts of Hebrew syntax and to sentence diagramming as a way of doing syntactical analysis;
- To work through and become familiar with the original Hebrew text of the book of Jonah;
- To be enriched and strengthened in your devotional life and walk with God through the study of the Scriptures in their original language.

III. ONLINE COURSE FORMAT

Modules: You have up to fifteen weeks to complete this online course. The course is divided into thirteen modules, designed to be completed in order over the course of 13-14 weeks. To see a detailed outline of the structure, click the "Modules" link on the left side of the Canvas main page. Assignments, quizzes, and exams for the course will be completed online using the Canvas Learning Management System.

Conferences: Your course instructor will want to meet with you at least monthly using the conferencing capabilities of Canvas. Contact your instructor about setting up a conference within the first couple of weeks of the course.

Mentor: As you proceed through this course, you will need to obtain the services of a course mentor who will meet with you on a monthly basis to interact with you regarding your studies and to proctor the course exams. (The quizzes may be taken without supervision.) Ideally, your course mentor will be a pastor, youth pastor, or other spiritual authority in your church who can guide and counsel you as you pursue biblical and theological training. In the course materials there is a mentor agreement form that your mentor will need to sign and return to New Geneva Seminary before you begin the course.

IV. RESOURCES

The course will employ two primary resources—the Williams *Hebrew Syntax* and the *Workbook for Intermediate Hebrew* by Chisholm (see textbook list below). Williams will provide you with an ordered and comprehensive overview of Hebrew syntactical structures and concepts. Chisholm will take you through a verse-by-verse analysis of the book of Jonah that provides a review of first-year syntax and the

introduction of new grammatical items related specifically to the text of Jonah. Weekly syntactical analysis and diagramming assignments will supplement the material in the Workbook. In addition to the two textbook resources, a set of Quizlet electronic vocabulary flashcards will be used to help you review basic vocabulary and to learn new words.

All work for the class, including Hebrew, will be completed in the Canvas Learning Management System and submitted online. A system for Unicode Hebrew keyboarding will also be taught in class. (If you've taken Beginning Hebrew from me, you'll already be familiar with this.) Electronic access to a morphologically analyzed Hebrew text of the book of Jonah will greatly facilitate the completion of class assignments and exams.

V. STUDENT PRESENTATION

Each student will be responsible to present a 20-minute exegetical analysis of a brief (5-10 verse) passage from Jonah. The focus of the presentation will be on how an understanding of the vocabulary and language of the Hebrew text sheds light on the meaning of the passage, and how these insights can be used in preaching and teaching. You should provide your fellow students with an outline of the presentation, including a Hebrew synopsis and syntactical array, the evening of your presentation. The use of audio-visual media is optional. Presentation dates will be assigned randomly and will be announced on Sept. 13.

VI. EXAMINATIONS

Two examinations will be given during the semester. Both will require that you do an exegetical analysis (parsing, translation, and syntactical analysis) of a short passage of the book of Jonah following the methods covered in class. The Jonah passage for the first exam will be taken from Jonah 1-2 and the second from Jonah 3-4. The exams will be completed online via Canvas. The exams may be completed with "open book" and "open notes" and must be returned by email before midnight of the exam date.

VII. ATTENDANCE AND GRADING

Attendance at each class session is expected and will be monitored. However, to allow for unanticipated circumstances, two unexcused absences will be allowed without penalty. Each unexcused absence beyond the two will result in a 5% penalty against the final grade. Excuses may be granted for personal or family emergencies only. Emergencies include such things as the hospitalization of yourself or an immediate family member but do not include such things as work-related scheduling conflicts.

Letter grades will be assigned using the scale presented in the seminary catalog. Your grade for this course will be weighted as follows:

- 25%: Weekly Workbook and Syntax Assignments
- 25%: Weekly Quizzes
- 25%: Student Presentation
- 25%: Exams

VIII. TEXTBOOKS

Required Resources:

Ronald J. Williams and John C. Beckman, *Williams' Hebrew Syntax*, 3rd ed. (University of Toronto Press, 2007).

Robert B. Chisholm, *A Workbook for Intermediate Hebrew: Grammar, Exegesis, and Commentary on Jonah and Ruth* (Kregel, 2006).

William L. Holladay, ed. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Eerdmans, 1988).

Recommended Supplementary Resources:

A. Philip Brown II and Bryan W. Smith, Eds., *A Reader's Hebrew Bible* (Zondervan, 2008) or an electronic Hebrew Bible.

Gary D. Pratico and Miles V. Van Pelt, *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar* (Zondervan, 2007).

Bruce K. Waltke and M. O'Connor, *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax* (Eisenbrauns, 1993).

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Fall 2018 Assignment Schedule 2018

WEEK	REVIEW: VOCABULARY & FORMS	SYNTAX (WILLIAMS)	JONAH (CHISHOLM)
1	Course Introduction		
2	Vocabulary: 900-1999 Forms: Noun, Article	Syntax of Nominals: Number–Directive ן, pp. 1-25	Jonah 1:1-3 pp. 23-30
3	Vocabulary: 700-899 Forms: Adjective, Prepositions	Syntax of Nominals: Adjectives–Pronouns, 25-55	Jonah 1:4-6 31-39
4	Vocabulary: 500-699 Pronouns, Pronoun Suffixes	Syntax of Verbs: Stem–Conjugation, 56-80	Jonah 1:7-11 40-47
5	Vocabulary: 400-499 Forms: Construct Chain, Numbers	Syntax of Verbs: Volitive Moods–Synchronism, 81-95	Jonah 1:12-16 47-53
6	Vocabulary: 300-399 Forms: Qal Verb	Syntax of Particles: Prepositions–Adverbs, 96-141	Jonah 2:1-6 54-61
7	Vocabulary: 240-299 Forms: Qal Verb	First Exam	
8	Vocabulary: 210-239 Forms: Qal Perf. (Strong & Weak)	Syntax of Particles: Negatives–Exis. Particle, 142-171	Jonah 2:7-11 61-68
9	Vocabulary: 180-209 Forms: Qal Impf. (Strong & Weak)	Syntax of Clauses: Subst.–Temp. Clauses, 172-179	Jonah 3:1-4 69-72
10	Vocabulary: 160-179 Forms: Verbs: Impv., Cohor., Jussive	Syntax of Clauses: Conditional–Causal Clauses, 180-189	Jonah 3:5-10 73-79
11	Vocabulary: 140-159 Forms: Infin. Constr. & Absol.; Pron. Suffixes; Qal Ptcp.	Syntax of Clauses: Relative–Equational Clauses, 190-199	Jonah 4:1-5 80-86
12	Vocabulary: 130-139 Forms: Strong verb: non-qal diagnostic forms	Syntax of Clauses: Existential Clause–Ellipsis, 200-212	Jonah 4:6-11 87-94
13	Presentations		
	Vocabulary: 120-129	Second Exam	