

UNIVERSITY OF DUBUQUE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
BI 624 – BIBLICAL HEBREW EXEGESIS
SPRING SEMESTER 2021

FACULTY INFORMATION:

Professor: Matthew R. Schlimm, Ph.D.
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

(3 credits)
Prerequisites: BI 400/500D and BI411/511D
Grading: Letter grade or pass/fail for those taking this course as an elective
This course is a continuation of BI 400/500D, providing further introduction to the basics of biblical Hebrew. It also involves the application of exegetical methods with the Hebrew text. This course is highly recommended for certain denominational requirements (please check with your governing body) and may be taken as an elective.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

During this course students will continue the objectives of BI 400/500D:

1. Develop a thorough understanding of the fundamentals of biblical Hebrew grammar.
2. Assimilate basic biblical Hebrew vocabulary.
3. Become proficient in translating passages from the Hebrew Bible using morphological aids.
4. Demonstrate competence working with Hebrew exegetical tools.
5. Acquire a conceptual framework for further learning.

In keeping with the stated purpose of the M.Div. degree (“to serve the one God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – and prepare women and men for faithful, compassionate, and effective pastoral ministry”), this course meets the following M.Div. curricular objectives:

- Interpret the Christian Scriptures through faithful exegesis and in light of the Christian tradition.
- Preach the Word of God with faithfulness and clarity.

It also contributes to the following M.A.M.C. curricular objective:

- Articulate and reflect critically and constructively on the biblical and theological foundations of God’s mission to the world.

TEXT(S), READINGS, AND MATERIALS:

Required Textbooks from Last Semester:

1. Futato, Mark D. *Beginning Biblical Hebrew*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2005. ISBN: 978-1575060224.
2. Pratico, Gary D., and Miles V. Van Pelt. *Zondervan Get an A! Study Guides: Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005. ISBN: 978-0310262954.

3. Schlimm, Matthew R. *70 Hebrew Words Every Christian Should Know*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2018. ISBN: 978-1426799969.

Additional Required Textbooks for This Semester:

4. Davis, Ellen F., and Margaret Adams Parker. *Who Are You, My Daughter? Reading Ruth through Image and Text*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2003. ISBN: 978-0664231835.
5. Holladay, William Lee. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1972. ISBN: 978-0802834133.
6. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Accepted publishers include the American Bible Society and the German Bible Society (ISBN: 978-1598561609 or 978-1598561630). Please *avoid* the one with the subtitle “A Reader’s Edition” as it will not work. If the cost of this volume is prohibitive, consider co-purchasing with a classmate and sharing.

Note: Students are *not* expected to purchase expensive software. The internet offers several free resources for working with Hebrew.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

The final grade for the course is based on [1] quizzes (25%), [2] translation homework (20%), and [3] exegetical homework (40%), and [4] a final exam (15%). See also the note below on class participation.

Quizzes (25%): Students will take one closed-book review quiz (due 2/7) and four closed-book quizzes on material from Futato and vocabulary from Ruth (due 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/5). See esp. course objectives 1 & 2.

Weekly Translation Homework (40%): Starting March 12, students should use Moodle to answer a set of questions on the translation passage assigned for the previous week. See esp. course objectives 3, 4, & 5.

Weekly Exegetical Homework (35%): Starting March 19, students should use Moodle to answer a set of exegetical questions assigned for the previous week. See esp. course objectives 3, 4, & 5.

Class participation: Class participation is assumed. Thus, students should watch all lectures. Failing to do so can result in a significant reduction of the final grade. Similarly, students should abide by UDT’s Netiquette Guidelines (or face grade penalization). Students who ask questions or answer them on Moodle can increase their overall grade, particularly when posts are made frequently and display high quality (e.g., are clear and without errors). See esp. course objectives 3, 4, & 5.

GRADING:

There are three components by which students are graded: [1] quizzes (25%), [2] translation homework (40%), and [3] exegetical homework (35%).

| <i>Component</i> | <i>Percent of Final Grade</i> |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Quizzes (5 @ 5% each) | 25% |
| Translation Homework (8 @ 5% each) | 40% |
| Exegetical Homework (7 @ 5% each) | 35% |

The grading scale is as follows:

| | | | |
|-----------|----|----------|----|
| 93 – 100% | A | 87 – 89% | B+ |
| 90 – 92% | A- | 83 – 86% | B |

| | | | |
|----------|----|-----------|----|
| 80 – 82% | B- | 67 – 69% | D+ |
| 77 – 79% | C+ | 63 – 66% | D |
| 73 – 76% | C | 60 – 62% | D- |
| 70 – 72% | C- | Below 59% | F |