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# OT 651 Intermediate Hebrew: Readings in Narrative and Poetry

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## **OT 651 INTERMEDIATE HEBREW: READINGS IN NARRATIVE AND POETRY**

Fall 2002—A Three Hour Course    Instructor: Lawson G. Stone

Meets: Tuesday/Thursday 9:30-10:45 AM BC 322

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**Course Description:** An intermediate level readings class in which students will read the Hebrew Bible in a seminar setting twice per week. Selections will come primarily from prose narratives in order to reinforce standard grammatical principles. The last several weeks of the course will focus upon poetry. Class preparation will be complemented by weekly quizzing on vocabulary and verbal distinctives, a midterm, and a final exam.

### **Course Objectives:**

**After successfully completing this course, the student will be able to:**

- 1) Read chapter-length passages of biblical Hebrew prose rapidly
- 2) Describe the morphological and syntactical features of BH learned in beginning Hebrew in the context of the assigned passages
- 3) Recognize words appearing more than 50 times in the Hebrew OT.
- 4) Describe the understanding of the Hebrew text implicit in the accentual system
- 5) Use the Masora Parva and textual notes of BHS to assess the state of preservation of a particular OT passage.
- 6) Read simple poetry and describe the basic mechanisms of poetry in the OT.
- 7) Describe in specific detail the contribution of a reading knowledge of BH to the understanding of the classic passages and motifs of the OT
- 8) HAVE FUN and LOVE HEBREW!.

### **Grading and Requirements:**

Presence, preparedness and participation: 25%

*Weekly* vocabulary & distinctives quizzes: 25%

Midterm Exam: 25%

Final Exam: 25%

### **Note on Exams:**

Exams will take a variety of forms. Students will be asked to translate passages assigned in class without helps of any kind, and will be asked to answer questions about the text, grammar, and translation. *The Final Exam will feature a sight-reading passage for which you may bring a dictionary. This must be a "paper" dictionary, not electronic.* The sight-reading will account for 25% of the final exam grade.

**Textbooks:**Required

- BHS** Rudolph, W. and H.P. Ruger, eds. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1984.
- BDB** Brown, Francis. *The New Brown-Driver-Briggs-Gesenius Hebrew-English Lexicon*. Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson Publishers, 1979. Freely included in many biblical exegesis software packages.

Note that this work is **extremely old and out of date**. It is used in the department with great reservations because it is readily and inexpensively available. No interpretation based solely on BDB can be considered valid, however, and students going beyond mere reading will need to consult a more current work such as Köhler-Baumgartner's *Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon to the Old Testament*

**Lambdin/Seow**

EITHER Seow, C.L., *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1995  
OR Lambdin, Thomas O., *Introduction to Biblical Hebrew*. NY: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1971.

- Arnold/Choi:** Xeroxed manuscript on Hebrew Syntax available at the bookstore
- Landes**, George M. *A Student's Vocabulary of Biblical Hebrew*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1961.
- Scott**, William R. *A Simplified Guide to BHS*. Berkeley, CA: BIBAL Press, 1987.
- Wurthwein**, Ernst. *The Text of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1979.

Recommended

- Armstrong, Busby, Carr, *A Reader's Hebrew-English Lexicon of the Old Testament*, 3 vol.s.  
 Grand Rapids: Regency Reference Library, Zondervan, most recent
- Gesenius, Kautzsch & Cowley, *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1985.
- Kelley, P., D. S. Mynatt, and T. G. Crawford, *The Masorah of Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*.  
 Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.
- Köhler-Baumgartner, *Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon to the Old Testament (5 Vols)*
- Waltke/O'Connor, *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 1990.
- Tov, Emanuel. *Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1992.

**Class Schedule  
Or  
“The Old Testament’s Greatest Hits”**

Class Dates	BHS	Secondary Readings			Vocabulary Landes	
		Lamb	Seow	Scott		
9/3	Introduction	SS, 1	1, 2, 3	<i>Accents</i> pp. 1, 2, 23-34	p. 3, IA	
9/5	<i>Creation Week: Genesis 1:1-15</i>	2, 3	5, 6, 7		p. 35, IIIA	
9/10 <i>Quiz</i>	Gen 1:16-31	4-6	4, 8		p. 4, IB	
9/12	<i>Garden Narrative: Gen 2:1-12</i>	7, 8	10		p. 35, IIIB	
9/17 <i>Quiz</i>	Gen 2:13-25	9	13		p. 5, IC, #1-25	
9/19	<i>The Fall: Gen 3:1-12</i>	10, 11	14		p. 36, IIIC	
9/24 <i>Quiz</i>	Gen 3:13-24	12, 13	17.2		p. 6, IC, #26-51	
9/26	The Binding of Isaac: Gen 22:1-10	14, 15			<i>Masora parva:</i> pp. 7-15 (ref. pp. 35- 51)	p. 36, IIID, #1-10
10/1 <i>Quiz</i>	Gen. 22:11-19	16-18	11			p. 7, IC, #52-64
10/3	<i>Sinai Theophany: Exod. 19:1-12</i>	19, 52-54	9, 17, 22.1			p. 36, IIID, #11-20
10/8 <i>Quiz</i>	Exod. 19:13-25	20	12	p. 3 IA, 45+		
10/10	<i>Joshua’s Commission Josh 1:1-9</i>	21, 22	18	p. 4, IB, 45+		
10/15 <i>Quiz</i>	Josh 1:10-18	23, 24	19, 20	p. 36, IIID, #21-31		
10/17	Mid Term Exam					
10/22 <i>Quiz</i>	In Rahab’s House: Josh. 2:1-12	25, 26	21			
10/24	Josh 2:13-24					

Class Dates	BHS	Secondary Readings			Vocabulary Landes
		Lamb	Seow	Scott	
10/29	Gideon: Judg. 6:1-12			<i>Text Critical</i>  p. 16-22 (ref. pp. 58-85);  <i>Wurthwein,</i> pp. 47-68  <i>Kugel article</i>	p. 5, IC, #1-37, 45+
10/31	Judg 6:13-24	27, 28	23		p. 6, IC, #38-64, 45+
10/29 <i>Quiz</i>	Judg. 6:25-40	29, 30			p. 37, IIIE
10/31	David and Bathsheba 2 Sam 11:1-13	31, 32			p. 37, IIIF
11/5 <i>Quiz</i>	2 Sam 11:14-27	33	28		breath ☺
11/7	2 Sam 12:1-15	34	22.3		p. 8, ID, #1-25
11/12 <i>Quiz</i>	2 Sam 12:16-31	35			p. 9, ID, #26-44
11/14	Poetry: Psalm 15				p. 8, ID, 45+
11 /19	Psalm 23	36, 55	29.3, 4 25.6; 27.8		p. 9, IE, #1-25
11/21 <i>Quiz</i>	Psalm 27				p. 10, IE, #26-50
11/25-29 Reading Week					
12/3	Psalm 84:1-12				p. 9, IE, 45+
12/5 <i>Quiz</i>	Catch-Up				

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**12/10****Final Exam  
9-11 AMm**

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