

George Gunn

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## I. Course Description:

Selected OT Hebrew passages are examined to see how the Grammatical-Historical method produces a sound interpretation which is grounded in detailed exegesis of the biblical text. Different genre forms are handled to demonstrate the truth that any departure from a consistent method is unwarranted.

## II. Course Objectives

1. Understand the distinctive features of a dispensational approach to interpreting the Old Testament.
2. Be able to articulate the hermeneutical principles necessary for faithfully interpreting the Old Testament.
3. Be able to critique the methods of literary criticism as related to the interpretation of the Old Testament.
4. Construct accurate exegetical diagrams from a variety of Old Testament genres.

## III. Course Textbooks

Required Texts:

Ronald J. Williams, *Williams' Hebrew Syntax*, third edition, revised, University of Toronto Press, 2007, ISBN: 978-0-8020-9429-2

Lynell Zogbo and Ernst R. Wendland, *Hebrew Poetry in the Bible: A Guide for Understanding and Translating*, United Bible Societies 2000, ISBN: 978-0-8267-0037-7

Journal Articles (copy with questions provided to student):

Dale A. Brueggemann, "Brevard Childs' Canon Criticism: An Example of Post-Critical Naiveté," *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*, September 1989.

R. Christopher Heard, "Narrative Criticism and the Hebrew Scriptures: A Review and Assessment," *Restoration Quarterly*, 38/1 (1996).

Jeremiah Loubet, "Genre Override in Genesis 1-2," *Journal of Dispensational Theology*, December 2011.

Recommended Texts for Additional Study:

Robert L. Thomas, *Evangelical Hermeneutics: The New Versus the Old*, Kregel Academic & Professional, 2003  
ISBN: 978-0825438394

## IV. Evaluation of Student Performance

1. **Class Attendance** – for Campus students, due to the concentrated nature of the lectures, one unexcused class absence will reduce final grade by a letter grade. A 2nd unexcused absence will result in an additional research assignment required for a passing grade. A 3rd unexcused absence will result in a failing grade. Online students must listen to the recorded lectures in their entirety and must fulfill all other format-specific requirements in order to receive a passing grade, including occasional interaction with the Advising Professor/Instructor. If the Online student is not responsive to Advising Professor/Instructor communication, the student may become inactive and receive a grade of incomplete on the course (I).
2. **Reading Assignments and Accountability** – All students will:
  - a. For each chapter assigned in *Hebrew Poetry in the Bible*, the student will write thoughtful and carefully prepared answers to the "Questions for Reflection" found at the end of those chapters.
  - b. The student will prepare a useful outline of *Williams' Hebrew Syntax*, using either standard (I, A, 1, a) or legal (1, 1.1, 1.1.1) outlining. The outline should list each syntactical category, the definition of each category (not necessarily *verbatim* from Williams, but accurate and helpful to the student), the page number and section number. It is not necessary to reproduce the examples.
  - c. The three articles assigned ("Brevard Childs' Canon Criticism," "Narrative Criticism and the Hebrew Scriptures" and "Genre Override in Genesis 1-2") each have questions listed at the end of the articles. The student will write thoughtful, critical answers to these questions.

3. **Research Assignments** – All students will write an exegetical paper based on an Old Testament passage of your choice. The passage must be one that is written in Hebrew poetry, though not necessarily from the “Poetic Books” of the Old Testament. All students will write a 12-15 page paper.
4. **Course Exams** – There will be no exams for this course.
5. **Online Interaction** – Online students will have three online assignments each module: (1) email reading accountability to the Advising Professor/Instructor; (2) email a brief (50-75 words) observation of a key point from that module’s lecture; and (3) respond to Advising Professor/Instructor questions and observations.
6. **Campus students** will submit assignments as directed by the Professor.  
**Online Students** will submit assignments directly to Advising Professor/Instructor.
7. **Scoring Rubric**

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Campus</u>	<u>Online</u>
Attendance or Online Participation	Pass/Fail/Reduction	25
Reading Component (Reading & Accountability)	30 (40 if no exams)	25
Research Component (Papers & Projects)	40 (60 if no exams)	25 (50 if no exams)
Exam Component (if applicable)	30 (if applicable)	25 (if applicable)
<b>Total Points:</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

## **V. Course Outline & Assignments**

### **Class 1 – Introduction.**

**The 3 great foundational hermeneutical principles: Authorial Intent, Single Meaning, Perspicuity**

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### **Class 2 – The Place of Progressive Revelation in Hermeneutics: Later revelation often based on earlier revelation, Relationship of OT to the NT**

Reading Component – *Hebrew Poetry in the Bible*, ch. 1 (answer Questions for Reflection on p. 9); *Williams’ Hebrew Syntax*, read pp. 1-26 (outline pp. 1-26)

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### **Class 3 – Problems associated with modern critical approaches: Canonical Criticism, Narrative Criticism, Rhetorical Criticism, Genre Override in Narrative, Poetry and Prophecy**

Reading Component – *Hebrew Poetry in the Bible*, ch. 2 (answer Questions for Reflection on pp. 16-17); *Williams’ Hebrew Syntax*, read pp. 26-55 (outline pp. 26-55)

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### **Class 4 – Recognizing Messianic Psalms. Sample exegesis of Pss. 2 & 110**

Reading Component – *Hebrew Poetry in the Bible*, ch. 3 (answer Questions for Reflection on p. 60); *Williams’ Hebrew Syntax*, read pp. 56-81 (outline pp. 56-81)

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### **Class 5 – Syntactical Classifications of Biblical Hebrew, Part I: Nouns and Verbs**

Reading Component – *Hebrew Poetry in the Bible*, ch. 7 (answer Questions for Reflection on pp. 162-163); *Williams’ Hebrew Syntax*, read pp. 81-112 (outline pp. 81-112)

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### **Class 6 – Syntactical Classifications of Biblical Hebrew, Part II: Particles and Clauses**

Reading Component – *Williams’ Hebrew Syntax*, read pp. 112-137 (outline pp. 112-137); Read “Canon Criticism”-Brueggemann (answer questions at end of article).

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### **Class 7 – Structure of Hebrew Poetry, Part I**

Reading Component – *Williams' Hebrew Syntax*, read pp. 137-163 (outline pp. 137-163); Read “Narrative Criticism”-Heard (answer questions at end of article).

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### **Class 8 – Structure of Hebrew Poetry, Part II**

Reading Component – *Williams' Hebrew Syntax*, read pp. 163-190 (outline pp. 163-190); Read “Genre Override in Narrative Texts”-Loubet (answer questions at end of article).

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### **Class 9 – Diagramming and Outlining**

Reading Component – *Williams' Hebrew Syntax*, read pp. 190-211 (outline pp. 190-211).

Research Component – Exegetical Paper due.

## **VI. Tyndale General Policies and Procedures**

### **Assignment Format**

All assignments and coursework are to be turned in via student Tyndale email. Students are not required to turn in assignments in hard copy. Students must send any required notes, questions, papers, etc. via email as separate attachments in .doc, docx, or pdf format.

Coursework should be submitted directly to the Professor/Instructor (for Campus and Learning Center students) or to the Advising Professor/Instructor (for Online students). The subject line for all submitted coursework should be formatted as follows to ensure receipt of the material:

*Campus Students:* Professor Name, Class # & Name, Student Name, Assignment Title  
(e.g.: C, Johnson, BIBL2301 Hermeneutics, Smith, Paper #1)

*Learning Center Students:* LC Location, Campus Prof. Name, Class # & Name, Student Name  
(e.g.: Mason, Johnson, BIBL2301 Hermeneutics, Smith)

*Online Students:* Online Prof. Name, Class # & Name, Student Name, Assignment Title  
(e.g.: O, Johnson, BIBL2301 Hermeneutics, Smith, Paper #1)

Electronically submitted coursework will be returned along with a final grade via email after the course has been graded.

### **Assignment Due Dates**

**Campus/Learning Center** students will submit all assignments according to the schedule as outlined in the syllabus. Final assignments are to be submitted no later than the last class period of the semester.

**Online** students will submit all assignments at their own pace, but must maintain interaction with Advising Professor/Instructor throughout the duration of the course.

### **Writing Guidelines**

All research papers and theses are to follow Turabian guidelines as found in Kate L. Turabian *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations 7<sup>th</sup> Ed.* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007). All students are required to purchase a copy of *A Manual for Writers* to ensure the proper format. All work is to follow these guidelines:

1. Font & Font Size: Times New Roman, 12 point
2. Double space
3. 1-inch margins (File – Page Setup – Margins)
4. Indent paragraphs .5 inch (Format– Paragraph – Indent left)
5. Page numbers – lower center or upper right –beginning with the first page of text, but not on title page; Arabic numbers only (e.g., 1, 2; not Roman numerals); no other header or footer
6. Title page; then title again on page one (for formal papers)

7. In essay-type papers, ALWAYS write logically, persuasively, focused on the assigned topic; include a succinct introduction that informs the reader concerning the subject of your paper, and a succinct conclusion that summarizes your main points and expresses your resulting conclusion.
8. Use footnotes rather than endnotes, except in dissertation/thesis, where section endnotes are also acceptable.
9. All work should be proofread, as errors in spelling, grammar, and syntax will reduce assignment grade.

**Plagiarism Policy**

Plagiarism is against Tyndale policy, and any act of plagiarism will result in disciplinary action up to student dismissal from further study at Tyndale. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to quoting materials without proper citing or reference. Cutting and pasting of online and other materials requires proper citing via quotation marks and footnote.

**Contact**

If you anticipate difficulty in meeting any of these requirements, please contact your Professor (for Campus/Learning Center students) or your Advising Professor/Instructor (Online students) as soon as possible. A complete review of all Tyndale policies and procedures can be found in the [Tyndale Theological Seminary and Biblical Institute Academic Catalog](#).