
OLD TESTAMENT LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE COURSES

Because the Old Testament contains the foundational revelation of God to man in written form and since these thirty-nine books, in our present divisions and numbering, constituted the Bible of our Lord, His apostles, and the early church, a basic understanding of these books is indispensable for any thoroughly equipped minister of the gospel. Accordingly, all candidates for graduation are required to acquire a broad familiarity with the contents of the Old Testament as seen against its historical and cultural backgrounds, an ability to translate biblical Hebrew with the use of appropriate language tools, and some practical skills in exegetical and expositional methodologies.

All of the courses listed under this heading, and designated by OT in the course identification, require extensive use of the Hebrew language.

OT 503 • Hebrew Grammar I

An introduction to biblical Hebrew designed to equip the student with a basic vocabulary and an understanding of the essential principles of phonology, morphology, and syntax.

Four hours.

OT 504 • Hebrew Grammar II

A continuation of the grammatical studies begun in OT 503 with emphasis on reading selected portions of the Hebrew Old Testament (with a view towards greater dexterity in handling the Hebrew text), increasing vocabulary, learning the basic use of language tools, and providing exposure to the major genres of the Old Testament. Prerequisite: OT 503.

Four hours.

OT 505 • Modern Hebrew (IBEX)

An introduction to modern Hebrew with attention given to reading and conversation skills.

Two hours.

OT 603, 604 • Hebrew Exegesis I & II

Designed to prepare the student for independent exegesis of the Hebrew text. Emphasizes principles of translation, syntactical analysis, and procedures in lexical word studies. Includes introduction to textual criticism, literary analysis, and relationship of ancient near eastern backgrounds to exegesis. Focuses on exegetical methodology with exposition as the goal. Prerequisite: OT 504.

Two hours each.

OT 650 • Worship in the Old Testament

An examination of worship in the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, with a view to develop a theology of worship that is consistent with the teachings of Scripture and applicable for the church in our own time.

Two hours.

OT 686 • Hebrew Readings

Geared for students having completed first year of Hebrew, this course emphasizes reading, translation and parsing, with attention given to exegetical observations. Prerequisite: OT 504.

Two hours.

OT 738 • M.Div. Thesis in Old Testament Exegesis

Students who have completed 60 hours of seminary studies with a grade point average of 3.25 or higher may write a thesis dealing with the exegesis of some brief portion of the Old Testament or with some technical topic of significance to Old Testament studies. A general commentary on an Old Testament book or passage is not permitted. All seminary policies and deadlines for the entire thesis project must be strictly observed. Prerequisite: OT 603.

Four hours.

OT 741 • Old Testament Theology

A systematic study of the revelation of God through the religion, life, and history of Israel as contained in the Old Testament. Special attention is given to the development of Old Testament theology, revelation, inspiration, sin, redemption, and eschatology.

Two hours.

OT 752 • Exegesis of Amos

An exegetical study of this significant book dealing primarily with social injustice in the time of Amos. Prerequisite: OT 603.

Two hours.

OT 753 • Exegesis of Zechariah

Careful exegetical and theological procedures are employed in examining the text of this important prophetic book for the purpose of exposing its meaning and significance for Zechariah's day, for the present, and for the future. Prerequisite: OT 603.

Two hours.

OT 754 • Exegesis of Great Texts

A study designed to introduce and illustrate intensive exegetical study of the Hebrew texts of selected key passages in the Old Testament. Combines insight from lexical studies, syntactic phenomena, and systematic theology. Prerequisite: OT 603.

Two hours.

OT 755 • Exegesis in Isaiah

Exegesis of selected portions of this book, one of the major literary and prophetic works of the Old Testament. The issues concerning historical background, authorship, and style are evaluated, but primary attention is focused on the key Messianic sections of the book. Prerequisite: OT 603.

Two hours.

OT 756 • Exegesis in Habakkuk and Selected Readings

An exegetical and theological study of Habakkuk and other Old Testament texts dealing with sovereign providence. Prerequisite: OT 603.

Two hours.

OT 757 • Exegesis of Deuteronomy

Exegesis of selected portions, with special emphasis upon God's covenantal dealings with Israel. Prerequisite: OT 603.

Two hours.

OT 758 • Exegesis of Kings

Exegesis of selected portions of 1 and 2 Kings with an emphasis on clues for interpreting narrative/historical literature. Prerequisite: OT 603.

Two hours.

OT 760 • Exegesis of Jonah and Obadiah

An exegesis of these books with careful attention to historical and theological issues. Prerequisite: OT 603.

Two hours.

OT 761 • Exegesis of Genesis 1–11

An exegetical analysis of the first eleven chapters of Genesis with emphasis on problems having interpretive and theological significance. Prerequisite: OT 603.

Two hours.

OT 765, 766, 767, 768 • Exegesis of Selected Psalms I–IV

An examination of the structure of the Psalter, the nature and forms of Hebrew poetry, and an exegesis of a number of consecutive psalms. Prerequisite: OT 603.

Two hours.

OT 769 • Exegesis of Haggai and Malachi

An exegetical examination of these post-exilic books. Careful attention is given to introductory, exegetical, and theological issues. Prerequisite: OT 603.

Two hours.

OT 774 • Exegesis of Selected Proverbs

Selected Proverbs are examined in relation to biblical wisdom and law. Prerequisite: OT 603.

Two hours.

OT 775 • Exegesis of Ecclesiastes

An exegetical examination of the text, with comparisons to other wisdom literature, especially to Job. Special attention is given to the numerous textual allusions to Genesis 3, as well as the introductory matters of authorship and historical milieu. Prerequisite: OT 603.

Two hours.

OT 776 • Exegesis of Ruth and Judges

An exegetical study of the Book of Ruth and Judges chapters 12, 17, 18 and 19. Attention is given to their common historical and geographical setting. Other studies include the elements of the Hebrew short story and the concepts of levirate marriage and kinsman-redeemer. Prerequisite: OT 603.

Two hours.

OT 779 • History of Israel

An examination of the history of God's chosen nation, Old Testament chronology, international relations, great national leaders, and the place of the prophets, beginning with the call of Abraham and ending with the Persian period (see BI 779).

Two hours.

OT 796 • Old Testament Introduction

The course addresses the historical and cultural environment of the OT (Hebrew Bible), the composition of the OT and its literary genres, and the canonical development of the OT. Major contemporary interpretive and theological issues are discussed, including an examination and evaluation of the contribution of the modern critical approaches. Prerequisite: OT 503.

Three hours.

OT 799 • Old Testament Exegetical Research

A limited number of credit hours may be earned by satisfactory completion of guided independent research. The special problem or area of investigation must relate closely to the course title, must be precisely stated in written form and must be pursued under faculty supervision and with the approval of the Vice President for Academic Administration. A fully documented research paper and a reading report are required. Because instruction and interaction within a classroom setting are significant elements of seminary course work, research courses are permitted only when a particular course that is needed for graduation or for additional expertise is not offered, or when a faculty member recommends such a course as an aid both to himself and to the student. Information regarding requirements, procedures, and grading is available from the Administration office. Prerequisite: OT 603, one OT exegesis course, and two years of seminary study (60 hours) with at least one year at The Master's Seminary (30 hours). Number of hours (not to exceed four) to be determined, prior to registration, by the faculty member involved.

On demand, one to four hours.

OT 825 • Ancient Near Eastern History

A summary of the historical, cultural, and geographical context of ancient Israel.

Two hours.

OT 832, 834 • Old Testament Research Seminars I & II

A specific topic of contemporary significance in the area of Old Testament studies will be selected by the Old Testament faculty for each seminar. Students will present assigned papers with responses by fellow students and faculty. Prerequisite: OT 603.

Two hours.

OT 838 • Th.M. Thesis

Four hours.

OT 840 • Old Testament Textual Criticism

A study of the history of the Old Testament text in the Hebrew manuscripts and in the ancient translations. Various theories of textual criticism will be evaluated and a viable methodology developed. Application will be made to a variety of Old Testament textual problems. Prerequisite: OT 603 and one OT exegesis course.

Two hours.

OT 842 • Septuagint

Introduction to the Greek grammar of the Septuagint and selected readings in the text of the Septuagint. The contribution of the Septuagint to both Old and New Testament studies is presented. Prerequisites: NT 853, NT 854, OT 603 and one exegesis course in both NT and OT. (See NT 842.)

Two hours.

OT 843 • Old Testament Theological Research Methods

An introduction to accessing primary and secondary source materials essential to Old Testament research. The course is designed to initiate the Th.M research. Prerequisite: OT 603 and one OT exegesis course.

Two hours.

OT 853 • Advanced Hebrew Grammar

Advanced studies in exegetically significant elements of Hebrew grammar and syntax. Readings in major Hebrew grammatical materials including periodical literature. Illustrated by selected readings in the Hebrew Bible. Prerequisite: OT 603 and one OT exegesis course.

Two hours.

OT 868 • Studies in Qumran Literature

A survey of the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, the origin of the Qumran community, and its beliefs and practices. Readings in selected Qumran texts. Special attention is given to the literature found at Qumran and its relationship to Old and New Testament studies. Prerequisite: OT 603, OT 686, and one OT exegesis course.

Two hours.

OT 871 • Advanced Hebrew Readings

Translation of various passages in the Old Testament selected from various genres including narrative, prophetic, poetic, and apocalyptic. Prerequisite: OT 603.

Two hours.

OT 872 • Biblical Aramaic

An introduction to the grammar of biblical Aramaic. Includes translation of the Aramaic portions of the Old Testament. Prerequisite: OT 603.

Two hours.

OT 873 • Akkadian I

Introduction to Akkadian cuneiform signs and grammar. Contributions of Akkadian studies to the interpretation of the Old Testament are presented and evaluated. Prerequisite: OT 853.

Two hours.

OT 874 • Akkadian II

Reading in selected Akkadian texts and additional studies in signs and grammar. Prerequisite: OT 873.

Two hours.

OT 875 • Ugaritic

Introduction to Ugaritic grammar and reading in selected texts. Contributions of Ugaritic studies to the interpretation of the Old Testament are presented and evaluated. Prerequisite: OT 853.

Two hours.

OT 878 • Advanced Old Testament Introduction Seminar

An in-depth examination of the critical problems of the canon and text of the Old Testament, along with a consideration of the composition, authorship, date and design of each book. Prerequisite: OT 796.

Two hours.

OT 888 • Contemporary Old Testament Theology

An examination of the basis, task, and method of Old Testament theology as conceived by certain influential contemporary Old Testament theologians along with a survey of the contributions of these individuals to the understanding of the theological content of the Old Testament. Prerequisite: OT 796.

Two hours.

OT 899 • Old Testament Exegetical Research

A limited number of credit hours may be earned by satisfactory completion of guided independent research. The special problem or area of investigation must relate closely to the course title, must be precisely stated in written form and must be pursued under faculty supervision and with the approval of the Vice President for Academic Administration. A fully documented research paper and a reading report are required. Because instruction and interaction within a classroom setting are significant elements of seminary course work, research courses are permitted only when a particular course that is needed for graduation or for additional expertise is not offered, or when a faculty member recommends such a course as an aid both to himself and to the student. Information regarding requirements, procedures, and grading is available from the Administration office.

On demand, one to four hours.

OT 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906 • Th.D. Qualifying Exams I–VI

Following acceptance into the Doctor of Theology degree program, a student must register for this course during any semester he intends to write one or more qualifying exams.

OT 941 • Doctoral Dissertation Prospectus

This course is designed to launch the student's doctoral residency. Under the adviser's supervision, the student is expected to refine the dissertation topic, establish its need, defend its choice, and outline the procedure for its undertaking. Preparation of an extensive bibliography is also one of the course requirements.

Four hours.

OT 942, 943, 944, 945, 946 • Dissertation Research I–V

Once the Dissertation Prospectus Course has been completed, the student is expected to register for this course for each subsequent semester of residency during which the dissertation is being researched and written.

Four hours each.

NEW TESTAMENT LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE COURSES

Because the New Testament is the culmination of divine revelation in written form, and therefore the major source of Christian truth, it is important for students to invest intensive study in comprehending and applying its vital contents. For this reason a significant part of the seminary curriculum focuses on a study of the Greek language in which the New Testament was written. Grammatical and syntactical studies are emphasized with the goal of equipping students for life-long effectiveness in the study and exposition of this essential part of God's revelation to man.

As a part of the orientation program beginning each semester, a Greek Proficiency Exam is given to all entering students who have taken Greek at the undergraduate level. Students have one opportunity to pass the Greek proficiency exam, that is the time when they first enter the seminary. Anyone not passing the proficiency exam at their first sitting or anyone not taking the exam when offered at the start of their first semester on campus will be required to enroll in and pass NT 401/402, or NT 403 as part of his seminary curriculum before enrolling in NT 603. Grades earned will be factored into the student's grade point average. Those who pass the exam are expected to enroll in Greek Exegesis I and II for the first year and in Hebrew Grammar I and II for the second year. Those entering seminary without having taken Greek, as well as those who do not pass the exam, are expected to enroll in Hebrew Grammar I and II for the first year, in Beginning Greek during the summer between the first and second year, and in Greek Exegesis I and II during the second year.

All of the courses listed under this heading, and designated by NT in the course identification, require extensive use of the Greek language.

NT 400 • Beginning Greek I and II (Summer only)

An introductory study of the basic elements of New Testament Greek designed for those who have not had Greek and for those who have had some exposure to Greek but are unable to pass the proficiency examination. Emphasizes vocabulary, grammar, the basic principles of Greek syntax, and the effective use of lexical, grammatical, and syntactical tools. Includes translation of portions of the Greek New Testament. Permission to enter NT 603 is granted only when a minimum grade of "C" is achieved for both the final exam and the course. Credits are viewed as prerequisite and are not applicable toward degree requirements.

Four hours.