



OTHB6318: Adv. Hebrew Exegesis: Proverbs
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Biblical Studies
Summer, 2021 (Internet)

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Mission Statement

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His Mission.

Course Description

An advanced course giving consideration to textual, grammatical, syntactical, literary, and historical issues through verse-by-verse and paragraph-by-paragraph analysis in a variety of genres. The course will emphasize proper methods for discovering the meaning of a text and applying it in teaching and preaching. One particular genre has been chosen for emphasis this semester—poetry. We will explore various linguistic patterns and stylistic parallelisms of this genre (and compare our findings with some aspects of narrative).

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, the learner will be able to:

1. Discuss the shape and structure of the Book of Proverbs
2. Discuss selected critical issues related to the Book of Proverbs
3. Discuss the impact that Wisdom literature has on our study of the Proverbs and how that affects our understanding of the role of wisdom in the theological formation of Israel (OT into the NT, as well).
4. Identify and discuss specific topics, which are addressed holistically or otherwise, that comprise the message and theology of the Book of Proverbs.
5. Apply the lessons of the Book of Proverbs to the contemporary situation of local churches.
6. Utilize the Hebrew language in the preparation of Bible Study, in the following ways:
 - a. Demonstrate the ability to translate Hebrew from the Proverbs.
 - b. Grasp the grammar and syntax of Biblical Hebrew.
 - c. Investigate words, phrases, and literary structure of the Proverbs

Required Texts

Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia.

Waltke, Bruce K. *The Book of Proverbs*. 2 vols. NICOT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004.

Bartholomew, Craig G, and Ryan O'Dowd. *Old Testament Wisdom Literature: A Theological Introduction*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2011.

Chisholm, Robert B. *From Exegesis to Exposition: A Practical Guide to Using Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998.

Any approved Hebrew Lexicon.

Optional Texts (*Good reference tools for advanced Hebrew studies*)

Kelley, Page H., Daniel S. Mynatt, and Timothy G. Crawford. *The Masorah of Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia: Introduction and Annotated Glossary*. Grand Rapids, Mich: W.B. Eerdmans, 1998.

O'Connor, Michael Patrick. *Hebrew Verse Structure*. Winona Lake, Ind: Eisenbrauns, 1980.

Scott, William R. *A Simplified Guide to BHS: Critical Apparatus, Masora, Accents, Unusual Letters & Other Markings*. North Richland Hills, TX: Bibal Press, 2007.

Tov, Emanuel. *Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible*. 3rd ed., Revised and Expanded. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2012.

Waltke, Bruce K., and Michael Patrick O'Connor. *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Winona Lake, Ind: Eisenbrauns, 1990.

Würthwein, Ernst, and Alexander A. Fischer. *The Text of the Old Testament: An Introduction to the Biblia Hebraica*. 3rd Ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014.

Course Requirements

1. Translation: Rough and Smooth

Each student will translate ALL the required texts roughly and smoothly (approximately 120 verses). Your rough translation must be accompanied with supporting textual, grammatical, syntactical, and lexical data and are **due every Thursday**. This is a mostly a wooden translation. The smooth translation should include numerous footnotes indicating the reasons (along with scholarly support) for translation choices. These are **due by the end of the day on Saturday of each week**.

2. Reading:

- a. Students will completely read the text on Wisdom literature (Bartholomew & O'Dowd).
- b. Students will read the complete introduction of Waltke's commentary on Proverbs along with his commentary on all passages selected for weekly translation and passages chosen for journals and the Bible Study exegesis.

3. Word Study Cameos (3 pages, ss):

Word study reports. Each student will submit word study sketches on particular words in assigned verses. Sketches are not full-blown word studies, but they are intended to provide critical lexical, etymological, and usage data, along with pertinent scholarly findings. These must be posted to Blackboard and made accessible to all members of the class. Two-to-three word studies are allowed (based upon length, totaling three single-spaced pages). Each cameo must be at least one page, single spaced in length. **Any work beyond 3 pages (single spaced, 5 page max) will count as extra credit anywhere needed in the course work.**

4. Two Online Devotional Journals (3-4 pg, ss)

Weeks 3 and 6 are the designated texts for these devotional studies. Only the instructor will have access to the Journal. These entries should reflect solid translation, syntax, grammar, literary, and lexical understanding, and as such may contain academic sources, footnotes, quotes, etc.; however, this portion of the course is intentionally focusing upon the hermeneutical endeavor for life application of the Proverbs. The goal intended is for the student to demonstrate awareness of how to move from the Hebrew Bible to proclamation. Chisholm's text should become helpful in this endeavor.

5. Exegetical Bible Study (4-6 pg, ss)

Each student will submit a 4-6 page, single-spaced, Times New Roman, 12pt font, Bible study on any text of the Book of Proverbs (except those chosen for coursework.) The text chosen does not have to be any longer than one verse; but, the student must examine and demonstrate a knowledge of (i) **Hebrew grammar**, (ii) **syntax**, (iii) **verbal analysis**, (iv) **clausal analysis**, (v) **word studies**, and (vi) **literary context** impacts both meaning and application of this text for a real ministry setting.

6. Critical Book Review

Read and submit a critical report on R. B. Chisholm's text, using the text that you have chosen for your Bible study as the basis for your analysis.

Please follow the weekly schedule outlined in the Blackboard (BB) Shell. Since BB access will be severed almost immediately after the last day of class, be sure to send a copy of the final exegesis and reading report to the instructor.

Course Grading System

Smooth translations	15%
Rough translations	15%
Reading	10%
Word Study Cameos	15%
Devotional Journals	20%
Bible Study Exegesis Paper	15%
Critical Book Review	10%
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2021 Summer Course Schedule

Wk	Date	Focal Passage(s)	Readings	Assignments Due
1	5/31-6/5	Proverbs 1:1-7; 6:16-19	Waltke (vol. 1) pp. 1-181, 345-48	Rough Trans. (6/3) Smooth Trans. (6/5)
2	6/7-6/12	Proverbs 3:1-19	Waltke (vol. 1) pp. 236-50	Rough Trans. (6/10) Smooth Trans. (6/12) WS Cameo #1 (6/12)
3	6/14-6/19	Proverbs 3:20-31	Waltke (vol. 1) pp. 250-74	Rough Trans. (6/17) Smooth Trans. (6/19) Journal #1 (6/19)
4	6/21-6/26	Proverbs 14:2, 6, 7, 18, 29, 34 Proverbs 15:1, 4, 8-9, 13 Proverbs 16:3, 6-8, 17, 32	Waltke (vol. 1) pp. 576-87; 594-627 & (vol. 2) pp. 3-26	Rough Trans. (6/24) Smooth Trans. (6/26)
5	6/28-7/3	Proverbs 17:9, 14, 17, 22, 27 Proverbs 18:10, 19, 21-22 Proverbs 19:3, 11, 16, 21, 23, 27	Waltke (vol. 2) pp. 43-95, 97-126	Rough Trans. (7/1) Smooth Trans. (7/3) WS Cameo #2 (7/3)
6	7/5-7/10	Proverbs 20:1, 24, 29 Proverbs 21:2-3, 14, 24, 30 Proverbs 22:1, 4, 6, 15, 22-23	Waltke (vol. 2) pp. 126-27, 148-70, 182-232	Rough Trans. (7/8) Smooth Trans. (7/10) Journal #2 (7/10)
7	7/12-7/17	Proverbs 25:1-2, 11-14, 28 Proverbs 26:4-5 Proverbs 28:4-5, 8, 13, 27	Waltke (vol. 2) pp. 300-25, 337-50, 395-418, 426-28	Rough Trans. (7/15) Smooth Trans. (7/17) Book Review (7/17)
8	7/18-7/23	Proverbs 30:7-9, 32-33 Proverbs 31:1-9	Waltke (vol. 2) pp. 478-81, 500-09	Rough Trans. (7/22) Smooth Trans. (7/24) WS Cameo #3 (7/24) Exegetical Bible Study (7/24)

Course Policies

Make up/Extra Credit – None allowed on an individual basis.

The focus of this class is weekly translation. You are expected to keep up, **weekly**. Vocabulary quizzes will occur every week; once a test has closed, there is no make up. Thursday and Saturday submissions should be turned in on time every week, as well, although you could work in advance. In summary, this course has a semester look and feel with all the assignments having specified due dates. With weekly grades coming from journaling, translation, and vocabulary quizzes, it is not smart to get behind. In the short context of this summer course there is little way to catch up on the translation, reading, and writing. So, be sure to spend adequate time weekly, completing and submitting the required work. Should a student have a crisis/emergency, do not hesitate to contact the instructor to seek a revised schedule for submitting work.

Please Contact me (tellis.nobts@gmail.com) or (337) 274-5309 for any questions or to seek my approval for ministry absences. Also, please send me an email in order to let me know when I can call and talk over any questions or concerns about the syllabus.

Fulfilling the Terms of the Syllabus - No late work accepted without prior written permission. No exceptions. No student will receive a passing grade in this course if all assignments are not completed. Failure to submit any assignment will result in failure of the entire course. As much as a full letter grade drop per day for any work not submitted on time should be expected, though this is determined by the professor for each infraction.

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu – Email for technical questions/support requests with the selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. Blackboardhelpdesk@nobts.edu – Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu – Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.nobts.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Selected Bibliography

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- Collins, John J. *A Short Introduction to the Hebrew Bible: And Deutero-Canonical Books*, 2018.
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OT Theologies

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Hebrew Grammars (Introductory)

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Arnold, Bill T., and John H. Choi. *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. 2nd Ed. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2018.

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