I. Course Description
The student is introduced to the basic tools and methods of Hebrew exegesis (including word studies) with application of these methods to readings in the Pentateuch, Psalms, and/or Latter Prophets. An attempt is made to correlate (or "bridge the gap" between) exegesis and the teaching and preaching of the Word.

II. Course Objectives
1) To review inductively the basic principles of Hebrew grammar and syntax.

2) To begin to learn the basic steps for doing Hebrew exegesis (including textual criticism, lexical, grammatical, syntactical and theological analyses) by applying them both to Hebrew narrative (in Exodus, Deuteronomy and Jonah) and to Hebrew poetry (in Psalms and Proverbs).

3) To discover the value of word studies for Hebrew exegesis, theological interpretation and even for sermonic illustrations.

4) To become familiar with the historical and literary contexts of Exod. 21 & Deut. 4-5 (legal literature), Jonah (prophetic literature) and of selected Psalms to help unlock the meaning of these various texts.

5) To begin to apply the results of exegetical studies to teaching and preaching the Word.

III. Textbooks
A. Required textbooks

1 This syllabus is tentative & may be changed.[Syllabus revised: 8-30--2015]

2 Contact Information-- E-mail greg.parsons@bmats.edu. Office phone: 903-586-2501, ext. 212. Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA): Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary supports the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). (See details in last section of syllabus below).

3 Be sure to bring a hard copy (or a photocopy) of BHS to every class since LOGOS does not normally include Kethiv-Qere readings and sometimes no apparatus without an extra resource.

B. Other highly recommended helpful tools


*(7) Use of LOGOS or BibleWorks is permitted and highly recommended but use judiciously so as not to short-circuit learning. The student must also learn how to use the hard-copy tools!


IV. Requirements for Grading

1. Exam

The only exam will emphasize translation and parsing and will count 30% of the total grade (see class schedule below).

2. Word studies

A mini-word study on one of the words for “fool” in Prov. 1:22+ [лись] or [לע] or “simple” [לֹא] is due Sept 24 [about 4 to 6 single-spaced pages], comprising about 6% of the grade. The major word study on וַתְּכָז in Deut. 5:17 [Exod. 20:13]; יְמִין in Jonah 3:9,10; or כָּשָׁר in Jonah 1:14, 2:6, 8+ (due on Oct. 15---about 6 to 12 single-spaced pages) will count about 12%.

3. Exegetical paper and oral report

Each student must write one exegetical paper [35% of the grade] on an assigned Psalm to demonstrate his own exegetical abilities. The student is urged not to consult commentaries until the last step. An automatic "F" will accrue to any student who depends too much on commentaries for this paper. Furthermore the student ought not to use an English translation until after thoroughly grappling with the Hebrew text on his own. However the use of any exegetical tool (as well as journal articles if used judiciously) is permitted. Be sure to document all resources, including a maximum of two exegetical commentaries. A grade penalty will occur for failure to document borrowed ideas.4 The

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4 Be sure to document completely any reference to source materials including any minimal consultation of
student will find it advantageous to begin to work on this Psalm a little at a time as the principles for exegesis are explained in this course.

The original paper (normally 15 to 25 pages) must be turned in by the beginning of the last class session. A possible oral report of about 30 to 45 minutes (as well as interaction with other student papers) counts an additional 1%. Photocopies of the paper should be provided for each classmate for the oral presentation and an additional copy for the teacher's file. After being graded, one copy will be returned to the student.

4. Weekly assignments

The composite daily grade will count about 16% of the total grade. From time to time, the professor may ask for the assignment (and/or the Heb. translation and parsing of the assigned passage) to be turned in for inspection. This will be used as a barometer to gauge the effort and daily diligence of the student. Reports on required reading assignments and/or other exegetical tasks (including what portions the student translated from the assigned Hebrew text) must be recorded and turned in weekly on standardized reading slips obtainable from the seminary office. The combination of reading slips and other daily work handed in will comprise about 13% of the grade. The other 3% will be divided equally (1% each) between class attendance, the synthesis of Psalm 1 and the synthesis of Psalm 23. The use of English translations and commentaries is discouraged on these weekly exercises until after the student has tried to grapple with them firsthand.

V. Class Schedule (for Fall 2015)

Sept 3


Sept. 10


Sept. 17


commentaries or the Internet (only as the very last step—after doing your own work).
Sept. 24 **Study of Prov. 1:20-22.** Mini-word study due on a word for “fool” in Prov. 1:22 or “simple” (ןָּא). Word study guidelines for any word and Handout: Ancient Near Eastern Legal Literature and Law Codes. **Assignment:** translate Hebrew text and finish word study. Also answer the following exegetical question on Prov 1:20: Explain the use of the suffix נִ. [Hint: what is the gender and number of the verbs נְָרָ and נַ in this verse?] Does this grammatical phenomenon occur elsewhere with this (or a similar word) in Proverbs or in wisdom literature? If so, cite key instances [document sources of data found].


Oct. 15 **Major word study due on נָ (or מָ) in Deut. 5:17 [Exod. 20:13] or מָ in Jonah 3:9, 10 or מָ in Jonah 1:14, 2:6, 8+(Possible "catch-up" day on translation. Possible brief introduction to term paper expectations (see handout).


Nov. 19  **FINAL EXAM** (primarily new translation & parsing skills plus ability to explain textual apparatus). Good idea to practice these skills on Psalm for exegetical paper. The student must be able to translate use only exegetical tools (including BDB or HALOT) although there will be a section where LOGOS or BibleWorks will be allowed (or perhaps Owens, *Analytical Key to the OT*).

Nov. 26  **NO CLASS.** Happy Thanksgiving.

Dec. 3  **Study of Psalm 23:1-6.** Fill out evaluation forms (if applicable). **Assignment:** Translate Hebrew text. **Synthesis of Ps. 23 (including exegetical outline) due (to be turned in).** Also read Stuart, 4th ed. 25-31, 59-81, 149-152 [3rd: 27-32, 63-87, 160-63]; Kaiser, pp. 69-85; 235-47; and Chisholm *EE*, pp. 213-20, 255-78. Continue work on exegetical paper (try to work on textual problems).

Dec. 10  **Exegetical paper due.** Study of one of the following Psalms 8, 15, 46, 111, 127, or 128 [or perhaps some other psalm(s)] in class with students presenting an oral report and summary of the message and exegetical findings, etc. [Be sure to bring your Hebrew Bibles and exegetical tools so as to be able to follow and interact with other students' presentations.]

### VI. Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA):

Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary supports the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with physical or learning disabilities desiring additional assistance must consult with the Dean’s office prior to enrollment or as early as possible after the disability is diagnosed. Procedures for assisting students will require a physician’s written verification of the disability and probable benefit(s) of specific assistance for student learning, a student’s specific written request(s) for assistance from the seminary, and the informing of the seminary faculty. Reasonable accommodations will be given in accordance with the federal and state laws though the Dean’s Office. Contact the Dean’s Office in the main administration building in person or:

- by mail: Post Office Box 670 (1530 East Pine Street) Jacksonville, TX 75766-5407
- by phone: 800/259-5673
- by email: bmats@bmats.edu

Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary is dedicated to helping all students we serve to achieve her or his Christian, educational, and life goals.
Selected Bibliography

Part 1: Exegetical Commentaries:


Part 2: Grammar, Syntax and Word Study Tools (see separate pages)