

# Attention!

This is a representative syllabus. The syllabus for the course you are enrolled in will likely be different.

Please refer to your instructor's syllabus for more information on specific requirements for a given semester.

Spring 2015

## ***The Bible as Literature***

Hebrew 5602 / Jewish Studies 5602

Hagerty Hall 306 - Tues & Thurs 12:45-2:05

Prof. Meier 614-766-2885(H); 292-5569 (O); 292-9255 (Dept.)

[meier.3@osu.edu](mailto:meier.3@osu.edu); Hagerty Hall 319

Office Hours: Tuesday 2:15-3:00 & Thursday 2:15-3:30

**I. OBJECTIVES:** The student will gain competence in the critical discussion of basic issues in the language, content, and analysis of selected biblical texts. This quarter's topic: Psalms, with readings in 2 Kings.

### **II. REQUIRED TEXTS:**

A complete Hebrew Bible is to be brought to class daily. Full vowel and Masoretic interlinear notations and a critical apparatus are required only for Psalm 18 and its parallel in 2 Samuel 22 (*Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* strongly recommended; *Biblia Hebraica* ed. Kittel et al. is also quite good).

It is assumed that the student will regularly use the grammars by Wilhelm Gesenius (*Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar*, revised and translated by E. Kautzsch and A. E. Cowley) and B. K. Waltke and

M. O'Connor (*Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*). The student who intends further work in the Bible should purchase both of these, although they are available at present in the library for consultation. The student will be responsible on tests only for the information which we discuss in class.

One should regularly consult a commentary.

**III. DEVELOPING FACILITY IN READING.** In order to encourage the student to read broadly in addition to the slower exegetical pace at which the class will proceed, the student will also read 2 Kings 1:1-9:24 IN HEBREW for an examination on its TRANSLATION ONLY to be given once a week as indicated below. The quiz on this reading will simply consist of excerpts in Hebrew which the student will translate into English, and the quiz will be given the first class meeting of each week (if for some reason this is not Tuesday, the student can assume it will be on the next day that a class meeting occurs). For this reading, the student is advised for his or her own benefit to elucidate the reading with a grammar and/or a commentary, but there will be no exam on grammar or content.

Week Two Jan 20 quiz over 2 Kgs 1:1-16

Week Three Jan 27 quiz over 2 Kgs 1:17-2:14

Week Four Feb 3 quiz over 2 Kgs 2:15-3:3

Week Five Feb 10 Midterm #1 with quiz over 2 Kgs 3:4-27

Week Six Feb 17 quiz over 2 Kgs 4:1-17

Week Seven Feb 24 quiz over 2 Kgs 4:18-37

Week Eight Mar 3 quiz over 2 Kgs 4:38-5:7

Week Nine Mar 10 quiz over 2 Kgs 5:8-27

Spring Break

Week Ten Mar 24 quiz over 2 Kgs 6:1-19

Week Eleven Mar 31 quiz over 2 Kgs 6:20-33

Week Twelve Apr 7 quiz over 2 Kgs 7:1-15

Week Thirteen Apr 14 quiz over 2 Kgs 7:16-8:8

Week Fourteen Apr 21 quiz over 2 Kgs 8:9-24

**IV. THE BOOK OF PSALMS AS A WHOLE** will be read individually by each student IN ENGLISH. At each class session, two or three psalms will be assigned for daily reading for this purpose. Your fulfillment of this task will be recognized when you are asked to submit written answers to questions covering the reading. Each of the submissions will count as a separate homework assignment. You will be given advance warning as to when each assignment will be due.

**V. MEMORIZATION.** Excerpts from the book of Psalms will be memorized in Hebrew on a regular basis, averaging one to two verses per week.

**VI. QUIZZES** will be graded on a scale of 0 to 10 where 10 is an A (all correct), 9 is a B (one item wrong), 8 is a C (two items wrong), etc. A student receives a zero if the quiz is not taken. Quizzes will be announced in advance with their content to be determined on a quiz-by-quiz basis, but these will at least provide the format for determining success with regard to items III (readings in 2 Kings) & V (memorization) above.

**VII. GRADES:**

|                               |                                    |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 20% Quizzes                   | 20% Homework                       |
| 20% Midterm #1 (Tues Feb 10)  | 20% Final (Thurs Apr 30 2:00-3:45) |
| 20% Midterm #2 (Thurs Mar 12) |                                    |

Graduate students:

|                                 |                                      |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 16.6% Quizzes                   | 16.6% Term Paper                     |
| 16.6% Midterm #1 (Tues Feb 10)  | 16.6% Homework                       |
| 16.6% Midterm #2 (Thurs Mar 12) | 16.6% Final (Thurs Apr 30 2:00-3:45) |

Graduate students will see the professor about selecting a topic on which to write an exegetical paper on a short poetic selection from the Bible.

No quizzes or homework assignments may be made up if missed. Since absences are often unavoidable, 10% of all quizzes and homework assignments will be dropped before computing the student's grade (if all quizzes or assignments are submitted by the student, the lowest 10% will be dropped).

Plagiarism is not tolerated, and the student is reminded to read about academic misconduct in the student handbook. The student is responsible for all information and class discussion that occurs, even in his or her absence. The absent student must make arrangements with other class members to

obtain notes or to be apprised of class developments when absent. Students with disabilities should alert the professor in a timely fashion if special arrangements are to be made.