

## SYLLABUS

### **Course Description**

Ancient texts, such as the Hebrew and Aramaic writings of the Bible, present many challenges to the contemporary reader. These texts must first be translated into a modern language. A review of several translations makes evident the fact that the work of translation involves difficult problems. Often translations have notes alerting the reader to the obscurity of the original. Translation issues fall into two categories: text and interpretation.

Sometimes the text itself is uncertain; the Masoretic text is itself a conflation of text versions, created to be as uniform as possible. As part of the process it often preserves two different readings for a given text (*kētib* and *qere*). At times it requires emendation to be intelligible Hebrew. In other instances there are variant versions of a passage; their relationship to each other must be established and choices made as to what is translated.

The second area of importance to translation is interpretation for a language and culture far removed from the initial compositions. Translations may vary widely, with considerable difference in significance for the reader. A comparison of the translation of Genesis 49:10 in the Authorized Version, the New English Bible, the Revised English Bible, and the Revised Standard Version illustrates the problem; the difficulty of interpretation is already indicated in the word divisions of the Hebrew manuscripts themselves.

### **Course Goals**

- (1) To understand extant texts and evidence for development of the text.
- (2) To understand ancient scribal practice and the production of Compositions
- (3) To understand exegetical issues involved in translation and types of translations.
- (4) To show how these problems are addressed in commentaries.

### **Course Topics**

- (1) The course will begin with a review of the types of extant Biblical manuscripts of the Old Testament, beginning with the Masoretic texts. Developments leading to the formation of this medieval text will be examined through a study of the Qumran writings and Greek translations leading to the development of the Septuagint.
- (2) The second section of the course will deal with the process of Biblical compositions (books) coming to have authority, at times in variant textual forms, in a group of writings called the canon.

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- (3) The third section of the course will deal with the composition of the Old Testament writings. This section includes a review of developments in literary criticism and their usefulness for interpretation. These methods include source criticism, form criticism, tradition history, historical criticism, and contemporary literary approaches to reading the Old Testament text.

### **Texts**

Emanuel Tov, *Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible*, Revised and Expanded Edition, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2001.

Karel van der Toorn, *Scribal Culture and the Making of the Hebrew Bible*, Harvard University Press, 2007.

Gus Konkel, Class Notes, Providence Book Store (optional)

These notes were produced some time ago as an introduction to the topic of text and interpretation history. For some students they will help facilitate an understanding of the textbooks for the course. They also have original information, such as a comparison of the flood stories, which will be used in form criticism and history of traditions.

### **Course Requirements**

Readings and written assignments will be required in the four areas listed below. The reviews are to serve the purpose and needs of the student; if the material is not familiar, it may be helpful to provide more detail than the recommended number of pages in order to clarify the issues more fully.

Parenthetic style or footnotes may be used for references in the reports. A reference list should be included to facilitate use of the assignment in the future, especially if references in addition to those assigned are consulted. Due dates must be observed so readings correlate with class lectures.

Required readings are listed; these may be supplemented from the bibliography, or any other sources of interest and value.

1. History of the Old Testament Text

#### *Required Readings*

E. Tov, *Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible*, pp. 1-154.

Raija Sollamo, "The Significance of Septuagint Studies," in *Studies in the Hebrew Bible, Septuagint, and Dead Sea Scrolls in Honor of Emanuel Tov* (ed. Shalom Paul et al.; VTSup

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xciv; Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2003) 497-512.

*Written Review* (2000-2500 words for 30% of course grade)

Explain the origins of the Hebrew and Greek versions of the Old Testament text. Show what developments took place in the transmission of these versions, and how they came to the final forms that are now used for textual criticism and translation.

### 2. Formation of Canonical Texts

*Required Readings*

D. L. Christensen, "In Quest of the Autograph of the Book of Jeremiah: A Study of Jeremiah 25 in Relation to Jeremiah 46-51," *JETS* 33 (1990) 145-154.

D. Barthelemy, et al., *The Story of David and Goliath* (OBO 73; Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1986) 1-46; 55-86.

E. Tov, *Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible*, pp. 155-197, 287-291, 313-350.

\_\_\_\_\_. "The Contribution of the LXX to the Literary Criticism of the Bible," pp. 236-263 in *The Text-Critical Use of the Septuagint in Biblical Research*, revised and enlarged second edition, Jerusalem Biblical Studies 8, Simor Ltd., 1997.

Karel van der Toorn, *Scribal Culture and the Making of the Hebrew Bible*, Harvard University Press, 2007.

*Written Review* (2000-2500 words for 30% of course grade)

In the past, inquiry into a text was separated into two distinct stages of composition and transmission. In the case of the Old Testament, textual traditions of transmission in some instances became fixed for early editions of entire books before the composition was finalized (Tov 1992, 315-16). Compare the versions of Jeremiah, the David and Goliath story, and some other examples; explain the differences of texts used as canon, and defend your understanding of an original text.

### 3. Formation of the Old Testament Canon

*Required Readings*

Roger Beckwith, *The Old Testament Canon of the New Testament Church*, Eerdmans, 1985, 63-104.

P. Flint, "Scriptures in the Dead Sea Scrolls: The Evidence from Qumran," in *Studies in the*

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*Hebrew Bible, Septuagint, and Dead Sea Scrolls in Honor of Emanuel Tov* (ed. Shalom Paul et al.; VTSup xciv; Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2003) 269-304.

Armin Lange, "The Status of the Biblical Texts in the Qumran Corpus and the Canonical Process, in *The Bible as Book: The Hebrew Bible and the Judaean Desert Discoveries* (ed. Edward Herbert and Emanuel Tov; The British Library & Oak Knoll Press, 2002) 21-30.

Shemaryahu Talmon, "The Crystallization of the 'Canon of the Hebrew Scriptures' in the Light of Biblical Scrolls from Qumran," *idem*, 5-20.

*Written Review* (1500-2000 words for 20% of the course grade)

The Old Testament has come to us as a group of authoritative writings known as canon. This canon has consisted of different books in different languages in the process of achieving the final form now accepted in the Hebrew and Greek scriptures. Describe the evidence for the process and give your understanding of the formation of the Hebrew Old Testament.

### 4. Interpretation of the Hebrew Bible

#### *Required Reading*

Tremper Longman and Raymond Dillard, *Introduction to the Old Testament*, Zondervan Publishing House, 1994; second edition, Tremper Longman, 2006; Pentateuch and Isaiah (pages 17-106; 267-283 in the first edition). Read whichever is accessible to you; the second edition is available in digital format.

Brevard Childs, *Introduction to the Old Testament as Scripture*, Philadelphia, Fortress, 1979, pages 29-135, 311-338 (Pentateuch and Isaiah).

*Written Review* (1500-2000 words for 20% of the course grade)

Explain the purpose of and Old Testament Introduction. Describe the paradigm shift in studying Old Testament canon beginning with Brevard Childs. Evaluate the contribution of literary critical studies to understanding the Old Testament since the middle of the nineteenth century in the Pentateuch and Isaiah. Explain your own position on the authorship and composition of these sections of scripture, and the purpose and function of these books for the contemporary Christian.

### Selected Bibliography

#### **General Conservative Introductions**

Archer, Gleason. *A Survey of Old Testament Introduction*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1974.

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Armerding, Carl E. *The Old Testament and Criticism*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983.

Dillard, Raymond B., and Longman, Tremper. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1994.

Harrison, R. K. *Introduction to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1969.

Harrison, R. K. et al. *Biblical Criticism: Historical, Literary, and Textual*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1978.

Omanson, Roger, ed. *Discover the Bible*. United Bible Societies, 2001.

Young, E. J. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1949.

### **General Literary Critical Introductions**

Alter, Robert, and Kermode, Frank, ed. *The Literary Guide to the Bible*. The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1987.

Brettler, Marc Zvi. *How to Read the Bible*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 2005.

Childs, Brevard C. *Introduction to the Old Testament as Scripture*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1979.

Driver, S. R. *An Introduction to the Literature of the Old Testament*. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1891.

Eissfeldt, Otto. *The Old Testament: An Introduction*. New York: Harper and Row, 1969.

Hayes, John H. *An Introduction to Old Testament Study*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1979.

Kaiser, Otto. *Studien zur Literaturgeschichte des Alten Testaments*. FB 90. Würzburg: Echter Verlag, 2000.

Pfeiffer, Robert H. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1941.

Rendtorff, Rolf. *The Old Testament: An Introduction*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1986.

Seters, John van. *The Pentateuch: A Social Science Commentary*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1999.

Schmidt, Werner H. *Old Testament Introduction*. de Gruyter / Westminster John Knox,

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1995.

Soggin, J. A. *Introduction to the Old Testament*. OTL. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1976.

Woude, A. S. van der. *The World of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989.

## **Textual Criticism**

### 1. Masoretic Text

Leiman, Sid Z. ed. *The Canon and Massorah of the Hebrew Bible: an Introductory Reader*. New York: KTAV Publishing House Inc., 1974.

Mulder, Martin Jan. "The Transmission of the Biblical Text." In *Mikra: Text, Translation, Reading and Interpretation of the Hebrew Bible in Ancient Judaism and Early Christianity*, ed. Martin Jan Mulder, 87-135. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1988.

Yeivin, Israel. *An Introduction to the Tiberian Masorah*. The Society of Biblical Literature Masoretic Studies 5. Scholars Press, 1980.

### 2. Text Versions and History

Barthelemy, D. *Les Devanciers de Aquila*. VTSup 10. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1963.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Etudes d'histoire du texte de l'Ancien Testament*. Gottingen: Vandenhoeck und Ruprecht, OBO, 1978.

Cross, F. & Talmon, S. *Qumran and the History of the Biblical Text*. Cambridge: Harvard, 1975.

Cross, F. M. *The Ancient Library of Qumran and Modern Biblical Studies*. New York: Doubleday, 1961.

Deist, F. E. *Toward the Text of the Old Testament*. 1978.

Gooding, D. W. "Recent Popularization of Professor F.M. Cross' Theories on the Text of the Old Testament." *TB* 26 (1975) 113-132.

Jellicoe, Sidney. *The Septuagint and Modern Studies*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1968.

Roberts, B. J. *The Old Testament Text and Versions*. Cardiff: University of Wales, 1951.

Sliva, Moisés and Jobes, Karen. *Invitation to the Septuagint*. Grand Rapids: Baker

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Tov, Emmanuel. "The Use of Concordances in the Reconstruction of the Vorlage of the LXX." *CBQ* 40 (1978) 29-36.

### 3. Textual Criticism

Barr, J. *Comparative Philology and the Text of the Old Testament*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1968.

Barthelemy, D. et al. *The Story of David and Goliath*. OBO 73. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1986.

Goshen-Gottstein, M. H. "Theory and Practice of Textual Criticism." *Textus* 3 (1963) 130-158.

Housman, A. E. "The Application of Thought to Textual Criticism." 131-150. In *Selected Prose*, ed. J. Carter. Cambridge University Press, 1961.

Klein, R. *Textual Criticism of the Old Testament*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1974.

McCarter, Paul Kyle. *Textual Criticism: Recovering the Text of the Hebrew Bible*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1986.

Sanders, James A. "Text and Canon: Concepts and Method." *JBL* 98 (1979) 5-29.

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Weingreen, J. *Introduction to the Critical Study of the Text of the Hebrew Bible*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1982.

Waltke, Bruce K. "Aims of Textual Criticism." *WTJ* 51/1 (1989) 93-108.

Wurtwein E. *Der Text des Alten Testaments - Eine Einföhrung in die Biblia Hebraica von Rudolf Kittel*, 5th ed. Stuttgart, 1988.

### **Canon**

Anderson, G. W. "Canonical and Non-canonical." In *The Cambridge History of the Bible: From the Beginnings to Jerome*, eds. P. R. Ackroyd and C. F. Evans, 113-159. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1970.

Aune, D. E. "On the Origins of the "Council of Javneh" Myth." *JBL* 110 (1991) 491-3.

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Beckwith, Roger T. *The Old Testament Canon of the New Testament Church*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1985.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Formation of the Hebrew Bible," in *Mikra: Text, Translation, Reading and Interpretation of the Hebrew Bible in Ancient Judaism and Early Christianity*, ed. Martin Jan Mulder, 39-86, Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1988.

\_\_\_\_\_. "A Modern Theory of the Old Testament Canon." *VT* 41 (1991) 385-95.

Childs, B. *Introduction to the Old Testament as Scripture*, 27-83. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1979.

Christensen, Duane L. "Josephus and the Twenty-Two-Book Canon of Sacred Scripture." *JETS* 29 (1986) 37-46.

Leiman, S. *The Canonization of Hebrew Scripture*. Hamden, Conn.: Archon Books, 1976.

Lewis, J. "What do we Mean by Jabneh?" *JBR* 32 (1964) 125-32.

Newman, R. "The Council of Jamnia and the Old Testament Canon." *WTJ* 38 (1976) 319-349.

Sanders, James. *Torah and Canon*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1972.

Zeitlin, Solomon. "An Historical Study of the Canonization of the Hebrew Scriptures." In *The Canon and Massorah of the Hebrew Bible: an Introductory Reader*, ed. Sid Z. Leiman, 164-201. New York: KTAV Publishing House Inc., 1974.

### **Literary Criticism**

#### 1. General

Clements, R. *One Hundred Years of Old Testament Interpretation*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1976.

Habel, N. *Literary Criticism of the Old Testament*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1971.

Hahn, H. *The Old Testament in Modern Research*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1966.

Kraeling, E. *The Old Testament Since the Reformation*. New York: Schocken, 1969.

Kraus, H. J. *Geschichte der Historisch-Kritischen Erforschung des Alten Testaments*.

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Rowley, H. *The Old Testament and Modern Study*. London: Oxford, 1952.

Tov, Emanuel. "Some Sequence Differences between the MT and LXX and their Ramifications for the Literary Criticism of the Bible." *JNSL* XIII (1986) 151-160.

## 2. Source Criticism

Casutto, Umberto. *The Documentary Hypothesis*. Jerusalem: At the Magnes Press, The Hebrew University, 1961.

Emerton, J. A. "An Examination of Some Attempts to Defend the Unity of the Flood Narrative in Genesis." *VT* XXXVII (1987) 401-20; *VT* XXXVIII (1988) 1-21.

\_\_\_\_\_. Review of *The Making of the Pentateuch*, by R. N. Whybray. *VT* XXXIX (1989) 110-16.

Hildebrand, David R. "A Summary of Recent Findings in Support of an Early Date for the So-Called Priestly Material of the Pentateuch." *JETS* 29 (1986) 129-38.

Hurvitz, Avi. "Dating the Priestly Source in Light of the Historical Study of Biblical Hebrew A Century after Wellhausen." *ZAW* 101 (1988) 88-100.

Larsson, Gerhard: "The Documentary Hypothesis and the Chronological Structure of the Old Testament." *ZAW* 97 (1985) 316-32.

Mowinckel, Sigmund. "Israelite Historiography." *In Annual of the Swedish Theological Institute*, vol. II, ed. Hans Kosmala, 4-26. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1963.

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Doty, William G. "The Concept of Genre in Literary Analysis." Unpublished papers of *Society of Biblical Literature 1974 Seminar Papers*, vol. II, ed. George MacRae, 413-448.

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Kirchner, Dankwart. "Gruppendynamische Untersuchung zu Struktur und Geschichte der Klage im Alten Testament. *TZ* 114/11 (1989) 787-796.

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Tucker, G. *Form Criticism of the Old Testament*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1971.

Westermann, C. *Grundformen Prophetischer Reden*. Munchen: Chr. Kaiser Verlag, 1960.

Westermann, C. *The Praise of God in the Psalms*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1981.

4. Tradition History

Koch, K. *The Growth of the Biblical Tradition: The Form-Critical Method*. New York: Scribner's, 1969.

Nielsen, E. *Oral Tradition*. London: SCM Press, 1954.

Noth, M. *Überlieferungsgeschichte des Pentateuch*, 1943; reprint ed. *History of Pentateuchal Traditions*. Chico Ca.: Scholars Press, 1981.

Rad, Gerhard von. "The Form Critical Problem of the Hexateuch." In *The Problem of the Hexateuch and Other Essays*, 1-78. Edinburgh: Oliver & Boyd Ltd., 1966.

Rast, W. *Tradition History and the Old Testament*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1972.

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Westermann, Claus. "Arten der Erzählungen in der Genesis." In *Forschung am Alten Testament*, 9-91. Munich: Kaiser, 1964.

5. Modern Literary Criticism

Alter, R. *The Art of Biblical Narrative*. New York: Basic Books, 1981.

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Clines, David J. A. *Interested Parties: The Ideology of Writers and Readers of the Hebrew Bible*. JSOTSup 205. Sheffield Academic Press, 1995.

Coats, G. W. *From Canaan to Egypt: Structural and Theological Context for the Joseph Story*. CBQ Monograph Series 3. Washington: Catholic Biblical Association of America, 1976.

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Dessler, Martin. *Voices From Amsterdam: A Modern Tradition of Reading Biblical Narrative*. Scholars Press, 1994.

Muilenburg, James. "Form Criticism and Beyond." *JBL* 88 (1969) 1-18.

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