Biblical Hebrew Texts B (BIST10002)

Course Manager: Professor Timothy H. Lim  
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Room 1.04  
Office hours: by appointment (Wed or Fri)

Teaching Staff: Professor Lim

Class Contact Hours: Tuesdays 1400-1600

Class Venue: Oldham/Porteous

Initial Class Meeting: Tuesday 1400, 16 September 2014, Oldham/Porteous

Description of Course: This course is intended to extend and deepen your knowledge of classical Hebrew by the reading of the Prophecy of Habakkuk found in the Hebrew Bible or Old Testament and its ancient Jewish commentary from the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Habakkuk Pesher. It will allow you to extend your knowledge of Hebrew poetry and to introduce you to the reading of unpointed Hebrew. Students will read the Prophecy and its ancient sectarian commentary together to learn about one of the earliest receptions of the biblical texts. The topic is ancient Jewish biblical interpretation.

Prerequisites for Course:
Intermediate Biblical Hebrew or by permission of the instructor.

Learning Outcomes:
through the course the students should:

1) to enhance primary-text language skills for Honours-level students;

2) to widen the student's experience of classical Hebrew through careful reading of selected Biblical texts;

3) to develop skills of textual criticism through first-hand examination of the range of relevant evidence;

4) to develop skills in exegesis through a structured investigation of the literary, historical, and theological dimensions of the texts studied;

5) demonstrate an ability to identify key terms and their meanings;

6) demonstrate good judgement about how to judge the relative importance of items on course bibliographies.

Requirements and Assessment:
Seminar presentations/participation 10%
Essay of 2K words 30%
Exam 60%

Assessment Criteria:
Criteria for participation: I expect you to prepare the translation each week, making sure that you know the vocabulary, grammar and exegetical issues. You will be assessed according to the quality of your contribution.
Criteria for essays: A first class essay should show interaction with the primary sources and knowledge of secondary literature, a good control of the information, clarity of exposition, and excellent and independent analyses of the issues and viewpoints. The topic will be provided and the deadline is: 4 November 2014, 2pm.

Criteria for examination: The final examination will test the students’ grasp of the reading and seminar material tested by translation and exegetical questions. A good paper will show a good grasp of Hebrew grammar, an accurate translation of the texts, and an understanding of the exegetical significance of the passage.

Course outline:

Students who are unfamiliar with the material are encouraged to take the Dead Sea Scrolls course on Wednesdays 10am to 1pm.

Week 1: Orientation and Introduction
   Reading: DSSVI in one sitting

Week 2: 1QpHab cols. I-II
   Reading: Pesharim, ch. 1

Week 3: 1QpHab cols. III-IV
   Reading: Pesharim, ch. 2

Week 4: 1QpHab cols. V-VI
   Reading: Pesharim, ch. 3

Week 5: 1QpHab col. VII
   Reading: Pesharim, ch. 4

Week 6: 1QpHab col. VIII
   Reading: Pesharim, ch. 5

Week 7: 1QpHab col. IX
   Reading: Pesharim, ch. 6

Week 8: 1QpHab col. X

Week 9: 1QpHab col. XI

Week 10: 1QpHab col. XII-XIII

Week 11: Revision and exam preparation

Select Bibliography

Editions, Photographs and Digital Images:

The transcription of 1QpHab used is from the Qumran module of Accordance (ed. Martin Abegg; see Learn).

Commentaries and studies


Joosten, Jan. “Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek in the Qumran Scrolls” in OHDSS, ch. 15.


--------. Pesharim (London: Continuum, 2002).


NCL.


Reymond, Eric. New Idioms within Old: Poetry and Parallelism in the Non-Masoretic Poems of

Schiffman, Lawrence and VanderKam, James, Encyclopedia of the Dead Sea Scrolls
(= EDSS; Oxford: OUP, 2000).