Course Syllabus
Wycliffe College
Toronto School of Theology

Course Identification

Course Number :	WYB3013HF
Course Name:	Reading Hebrew Prose: Genesis
Campus:	St. George
Time:	Wednesdays 11–1

Instructor Information

Instructor:	Glen Taylor
E-mail:	glen.taylor@utoronto.ca
Office Hours:	By appointment or at other times, as available. Phone: 416 946-3541. I am often available immediately after class, but never immediately before.

Course Prerequisites

A previous full-year course in Hebrew or equivalent or permission from the instructor.

Course Description

This course is a seminar focusing on a) further practice in Hebrew grammar and syntax, and b) acquisition of historical and critical background with which to be able to understand the book and to convey its meaning. The goals are a familiarity with the Hebrew text and an informed appreciation of the message of the book.

Course Methodology

Normally, each class will begin with a quiz, based on the assignment from the previous week. Students will then take turns reading, translating and parsing the Hebrew text assigned for the day. The professor will make comments of various sorts, such as hints on remembering grammatical and syntactical features, various possible interpretations, literary and historical features of the text, etc.

Course Learning Outcomes

Students successfully completing this course will be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes

COURSE OUTCOMES	COURSE ELEMENT	PROGRAM OUTCOMES
By the end of this course, students, students will have an opportunity to demonstrate and enhance the following areas of vocational preparation	**This outcome will be demonstrated through these course elements:**	**This course outcome corresponds to these aspects of Wycliffe's statements of outcomes (MTS, MDiv)**

•orally recite and write (from memory) the paradigm for the Qal strong verb	In-class quiz on a given week and follow-up review quiz	MDiv and MTS: 1.1, 1.2, 1.7
• orally recite and write (from memory) the initial "trigger" forms for the paradigms of the derived stems of the strong verb	In-class quiz on a given week and follow-up review quiz	MDiv and MTS: 1.1, 1.2, 1.7
• orally recite and write (from memory) the initial "trigger" forms for the most common paradigms of the following weak verbs: I-Waw (Qal and Hiphil), I-Nun (Qal), II-Waw (Qal, Hiphil), III-W (Qal), Geminate (Qal)	In-class quiz on a given week and follow-up review quiz	MDiv and MTS: 1.1, 1.2, 1.7
• identify inductively and state the grammatical forms of the verbs mentioned above, as most of those belonging to basic categories not mentioned above	In-class quiz on the Mechanical Method of Parsing distributed in class, and occasional on-the-spot quizzing in the course of in-class translating	MDiv and MTS: 1.1, 1.2, 1.7
• translate ten basic narrative units (consisting of between 7 and 15 sentences each) of biblical Hebrew into English	In-class exercises	MDiv and MTS: 1.1, 1.2, 1.7
• demonstrate familiarity with selected fundamental aspects of introductory Hebrew grammar	In-class quiz, weeks 1, 2, and 3 In-class exercises	MDiv and MTS: 1.1, 1.2, 1.7
• identify and differentiate between the basic subcategories of meaning for the various verbal stems	In-class quiz In-class exercises	MDiv and MTS: 1.1, 1.2, 1.7

• identify and distinguish between the most common ways of expressing different sorts of clauses in Biblical Hebrew, ala Beckman/Williams	In-class quiz In-class exercises	MDiv and MTS: 1.1, 1.2, 1.7

Course Resources

Required Resources for the Course

Essential for Hebrew Exegesis in General

EITHER
Access to a professional-grade Bible software programme (e.g. Logos, Gramcord/Accordance, or Bible Works) that includes at least <u>one</u> of the following dictionaries:

- Clines, David J. A. *The Concise Dictionary of Classical Hebrew.* Sheffield: Sheffield/Phoenix, 2009.
- Holladay, William Lee, *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament.* Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1988.
- Francis Brown, S. R. Driver and C. A. Briggs, *Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1951).

OR
Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia (at least the folio on Genesis)
At least <u>one</u> of the dictionaries noted above, plus, ideally for the case of Brown Driver and Briggs, also:
- Bruce Einspahr, Index to Brown, Driver and Briggs, *Hebrew Lexicon* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1976).

Highly Recommended Resources for the Use of Hebrew in Research and Ministry

Best Commentary

Gordon Wenham, *Genesis 1–15 and Genesis16–50.* Word Biblical Comentary Volumes 1 and 2. Waco, TX: Word, 1987, 1990.

Basic Guides to Biblical Syntax as Classically Understood
- Bill T. Arnold and John H. Choi, *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.
- John Beckman, ed. *Williams Hebrew Syntax: An Outline.* 3rd ed.; Toronto: University of Toronto, 2007

Word Study Tools: Basic, Intermediate and Advanced Respectively[1]

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[1] The student must be aware of certain common pitfalls and inevitable assumptions involved in studying a word in such a resource. See James Barr, *The Semanitcs of Biblical Language* (1961), and/or the more recent (and superb) article of Kevin Van Hoozer, pp. 14-51 in NIDOTTE, volume 1.

- Laird, Harris and Waltke, eds. *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament.* Chicago: Moody Pres, 1980. Abbreviated: TWOT
- Willem van Gemeren, ed. *The New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis.* Five volumes. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997. Abbreviated: NIDOTTE
- G. Johannes Botterweck and Helmer Ringgren, eds. *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament.* 20 vols ca. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974–.

Course Website(s)

- Blackboard https://weblogin.utoronto.ca/

This course uses Blackboard for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT portal login page at http://portal.utoronto.ca and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to the portal using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Blackboard-based courses. (Your course registration with ROSI gives you access to the course website at Blackboard.) Note also the information at http://www.portalinfo.utoronto.ca/content/information-students. Students who have trouble accessing Blackboard should ask Thomas Power for further help.]

Tentative Class Schedule[2]

Week 1 (September 13) Intro to course.

Week 2 (September 20) Gen. 1:26–28; 2:4b–7,15–24; *Quiz* on "Review: 1-11" plus on Qal Perfect & Imperfect of Strong Verb

Week 3 (September 27) Gen. 3:1–9; 16; *Quiz* on first half of "Review 12-25" (i.e. sections I-V) plus on Qal imperative (2ms, 2fs, 2mp, 2fp), participle (ms only) and infinitives Absolute and Construct of Strong Verb.

Week 4 (October 4) Gen. 12:1–9 (esp. 1–3); *Quiz* on 2nd half of "Review 12-25 (Sections VI to end) plus on the "skeleton" paradigms (i.e. 3ms Perfect, 3ms Imperfect, 2ms Imperative, ms active Participle, ms passive participle, Infinitive Absolute and Infinitive Construct) of the Niphal, Piel, and Pual forms of the strong verb.

Week 5 (October 11) Gen. 13:1–18; *Quiz* on the skeleton paradigms for the Hiphil, Hophal, and Hithpa'el forms of the strong verb.

Week 6 (October 18) Gen 22: 1–14; *Quiz* on the skeleton pa)radigms for the Original Pe Waw (i.e. ישב) Qal and Hiphil and of the Pe Nun (נגש) Qal & Hiphil.

Week 7 (October 25) Reading Week. Learn skeleton paradigm for the Hollow Verb (i.e. קום) Qal & Hiphil; and the Geminate Verb (i.e. סבב) Qal, plus both forms of the perfect 3fs and the alternative imperfect 3ms.

Week 8 (November 1) Gen. 25:19–34; Review quiz on all paradigms learned thus far.

Week 9 (November 8) Gen. 32:1–13: *Quiz* on the Mechanical (i.e. inductive) parsing wheel—perimeter only.

Week 10 (November 15) Gen. 32:23–33; 33:10; *Quiz* on syntax.

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[2] Students wishing to work ahead on these passages prior to the course should consult with the Professor, as he plans to make changes, especially in cases where the passage has already been considered in a prior course on introductory Hebrew.

Week 11 (November 22) Gen. 37:1–11; *Quiz* on syntax.

Week 12 (November 29) Gen 45:1–8, 14–15, 24–28; *Quiz* on syntax.

Week 13 (December 6) Gen. 49:10; 50:18–26.

Evaluation

Requirements

1) Weekly quizzes, assignments, readings, and participation: 75%

2) Term project (due one week after the final class. [see description]) 25%

In preparation for each class session, the student will be expected to prepare a passage (roughly 12 to 15 verses in length) for reading and translation. In addition, the student will be expected to prepare for a quiz involving the review of basic grammar/syntax (iitemized above in the Class Schedule).

There will be no midterm or final examination.

Term Project

Each student will be expected to complete **_one_** of the following term projects:

1. Hebrew Reading Assignment

Following along diligently in the Hebrew text of Genesis, the student will be required to listen four times to the Book of Genesis being read (e.g. on CD/MP3) in English (each reading takes approximately three hours). The grading will be based on your own written confirmation of having completed the assignment and on an oral examination testing the student's ability to follow along in the Hebrew text with an understanding of grammar and important vocabulary.

2. Memorization of Passage in Hebrew

The student will have the option of memorizing a significant passage from the Hebrew text of Genesis. The suggested length is approximately half of a page in the BHS. Those who choose this option will be expected to do the following: 1) cite the Hebrew text orally from memory; 2) reproduce the text (with vowel pointing) in Hebrew; and 3) identify all forms (e.g. Qal "perfect" 2 m. s. with 3 m. s. suffix, feminine plural noun, Qal infinitive construct, etc.) The grading for the project will be based on an oral examination at a time agreeable to both instructor and student.

3. Conventional Hebrew Exegesis Paper

The student will be given the option of writing an exegesis paper based on the Hebrew text of a significant passage from Genesis. See the instructor for further instructions and topic approval. (N.B. This component likely meets a requirement of M.Div. students at Knox College.)

4. Exegesis of Two Passages (Not Assigned) in Preparation for Preaching

As an exercise in exegesis in preparation for preaching, the student will exegete the Hebrew text of two passages. The exegesis must include independent inductive observations and must result in at least one exegetically and heremeneutically sound, relevant and practical idea for preaching, along with a brief statement of how this idea would be developed for preaching (e. g. with subpoints also derived from the text).

6. Vocabulary Assignment

Using George M. Landes, *Bulding Your Biblical Hebrew Vocabulary: learning Words by Frequency and Cognate* (Society of Biblical Literature, 2004), or some other vocabulary guide (a good alternative is by Miles van Pelt) memorize a block of vocabulary words, amount to be discussed with the Professor (e.g. verbs and nouns occurring over 50 times).

Grading System

Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalents	Grade Point	Grasp of Subject Matter
A+	90–100%	4.0	Profound & Creative
A	85–89%	4.0	Outstanding
A-	80–84%	3.7	Excellent
B+	77–79%	3.3	Very Good
B	73–76%	3.0	Good
B-	70–72%	2.7	Satisfactory
FZ	0–69%	0	Failure

Grades without numerical equivalent:

CR   Designates credit; has no numerical equivalent or grade point value

NCR   Designates failure; has no numerical equivalent, but has a grade point value of 0 and is included in the GPA calculation

SDF   Standing deferred (a temporary extension)

INC   Permanent incomplete; has no numerical equivalent or grade point value

WDR   Withdrawal without academic penalty

AEG   May be given to a final year student who, because of illness, has completed at least 60% of the course, but not the whole course, and who would not otherwise be able to convocate; has no numerical equivalent and no grade point value

Policy on Assignment Extensions

Basic Degree students are expected to complete all course work by the end of the term in which they are registered. Under **exceptional circumstances**, with the written permission of the instructor, students may request an extension (SDF = "standing deferred") beyond the term. An extension, when offered, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. An SDF must be requested no later than the last day of classes of the term in which the course is taken. The request form is available on the college website or from the Registrar's office.

One percentage point per day will be deducted on the course grade if an extension has not been requested by the stated deadline.

Course grades. Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor's college before being posted. Course grades may be

adjusted where they do not comply with University grading policy (http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/grading.pdf) or college grading policy.

Policies

Accessibility. Students with a disability or health consideration are entitled to accommodation. Students must register at the University of Toronto's Accessibility Services offices; information is available at http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/. The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

Plagiarism. Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* (linked from http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm), a student who plagiarizes in this course. Students will be assumed to have read the document "Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing" published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges (http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library_Archives/Theological_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm).

Turnitin.com. Students may be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

Other academic offences. TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto Code of *Behaviour on Academic Matters* (http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm).

Writing Style. The writing standard for the Toronto School of Theology is Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, 7th edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007), which is available at Crux Books.

Bibliography

Bill T. Arnold and John H. Choi, *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

John Beckman, ed. *Williams Hebrew Syntax: An Outline*. 3rd ed.; Toronto: University of Toronto, 2007.

Francis Brown, S. R. Driver and C. A. Briggs, *Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1951).

Walter Brueggemann, *Genesis* (Interpretation; Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1982). (Mid-range in detail, good.)

David J. A. Clines. *The Concise Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*. Sheffiled: Sheffield/Phoenix, 2009.

Bruce Einspahr, *Index to Brown, Driver and Briggs, Hebrew Lexicon* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1976).

Victor Hamilton, *The Book of Genesis, Chapters 1–17 and The Book of Genesis, Chapters 18–30* (NICOT; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990, 1995).

William L. Holladay, *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1988.

Derek Kidner, *Genesis* (TOTC; Downers Grove: Inter-Varsity, 1967). (Inexpensive, concise, insightful, conservative.)

George M. Landes, *Bulding Your Biblical Hebrew Vocabulary: learning Words by Frequency and Cognate*. Society of Biblical Literature, 2004.

P. Kyle McCarter, Jr., *Textual Criticism*. (Guides to Biblical Scholarship, edited by Gene M. Tucker. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1986).

Allen P. Ross, *Introducing Biblical Hebrew* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001).

Allen P. Ross, *Creation and Blessing: A Guide to the Study and Exposition of Genesis* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1988). (Detailed, homiletical, conservative, slightly deficient hermeneutically.)

William Scott, *A Simplified Guide to BHS** (Berkeley: BIBAL Press, 1987).

Douglas Stuart, *Old Testament Exegesis* (2d ed.; Philadelphia: Westminster, 1984).

Bruce K. Waltke and M. O'Connor, *Biblical Hebrew Syntax* (Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 1990).

Gordon Wenham, *Genesis 1–15* (Waco: Word, 1987); idem, Genesis 16-50 (Waco: Word, 1994).

Claus Westermann, *Genesis* (3 vols. Minneapolis: Augsburg/Fortress, 1984-86). (Very detailed, insightful, also excellent.)

Selected Additional Bibliography on Genesis:

Adar, Zvi. *The Book of Genesis: An Introduction to the Biblical World*. Jerusalem: Magnes, 1990.

Arnold, Bill T. *Genesis*. NCBC; Cambridge & New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009.

Armstrong, Karen. *In the Beginning: A New Interpretation of Genesis*. New York: Knopf, 1996.

Blenkinsopp, Joseph. *Creation, Uncreation, Recreation: A Discursive Commentary on Genesis 1–11*. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 2011.

Brodie, Thomas L. *Genesis as Dialogue: A Literary, Historical, and Theological Commentary*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001.

Carr, David. *Reading the Fractures of Genesis: Historical and Literary Approaches*. Louisville: John Knox, 1996.

Collins, C. John. *Genesis 1–4: A Linguistic, Literary, and Theological Commentary*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2006.

Cotter, David W. *Genesis*. Berit Olam; Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2003.

Davies, P.R. and D.J.A. Clines, eds. *The World of Genesis. Persons, Places, Perspectives*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1998.

De La Torre, Miguel A. *Genesis. Belief: A Theological Commentary on the Bible*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2011.

Evans, Craig A. et al. eds. *The Book of Genesis: Composition, Reception and Interpretation*. VTSup 152. Leiden: Brill, 2012. Essays include: Jan Christian Gertz, "The Formation of the Primeval History," pp. 107–35; Carol Meyers, "Food and the First Family: A Socioeconomic Perspective," pp. 137–57.

Fokkelman, Jan P. *Narrative Art in Genesis: Specimens of Stylistic and Structural Analysis*. Assen: Van Gorcum, 1975.

Garrett, D. A. *Rethinking Genesis: The Sources and Authorship of the First Book of the Pentateuch*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991.

Gelander, Shamai. *The Good Creator: Literature and Theology in Genesis 1–11*. SFSHJ 147. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1997.

————. *Genesis*. Ra'anana: Open University of Israel, 2009 (in Hebrew).

Green, William Henry. *The Unity of the Book of Genesis*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1895.

Hamilton, Victor P. *The Book of Genesis, Chapters 1–17*. NICOT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990.

————. *The Book of Genesis, Chapters 18–50*. NICOT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.

Hartley, John E. *Genesis*. NIBCOT 1. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2000.

Harduf, David Mendel. *Introduction to the Book of Genesis*. Willowdale, ON: Harduf Books/Beit Ra'if, 2004.

Hendel, Ronald, ed. *Reading Genesis: Ten Methods*. Cambridge, 2010. Essays include: Kawashima, Robert S. "Sources and Redaction," pp. 47–70.

Hirsch, Samson Raphael. *The Pentateuch: Genesis*, translated by Isaac Levy. Second Edition. Judaica Press, 1999. [German original, *Der Pentateuch übersetzt und erklärt*, 1867–78.]

Kass, Leon R. *The Beginning of Wisdom: Reading Genesis*. New York: Free Press, 2003.

Kessler, Martin and Karel Deurloo. *A Commentary on Genesis: The Book of Beginnings*. New York: Paulist, 2004.

Lacocque, André. *The Trial of Innocence: Adam, Eve, and the Yahwist*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2006.

MacDonald, Nathan, Mark W. Elliott, Grant Macaskil, eds. *Genesis and Christian Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012.*

McEvenue, S. "Reading Genesis with Faith and Reason." *Word and World* 14 (1994): 136–43.

McKeown, James. *Genesis*. THOT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008.

Moberly, R. W. L. *The Theology of the Book of Genesis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009.

Peterson, David L. "The Genesis of Genesis." In *Congress Volume Ljubljana 2007,* edited André Lemaire. VTSup 133. Leiden: Brill, 2010. Pp. 28[3] +-.

Rad, Gerhard von. *Genesis*. OTL. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1972.

Rendsburg, Gary. *The Redaction of Genesis*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1986.

Reno, Russell. *Genesis*. BBC 1. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2010.

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[3] Maintains Genesis is a book in its own right (i.e. is not simply one part of the Pentateuch).

Rogerson, John W. *Genesis 1–11*. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1991.

Sacks, Robert D. *A Commentary on the Book of Genesis*. Edwin Mellen, 1990.

*Schmid, Konrad. *Genesis and the Moses Story: Israel's Dual Origins in the Hebrew Bible*. Siphrut 3. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2012.

Thomas, Matthew A. *These are the Generations: Identity, Covenant, and the 'Toledot' Formula*. LHBOTS 551. New York: T & T Clark International, 2011.[4]

Towner, Wayne Sibley. *Genesis*. Westminster John Knox, 2001.

Turner, Laurence A. *Genesis*. Second Edition. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix, 2009.

Waltke, Bruce K and Cathi J. Fredricks, Genesis: A Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.

Walton, John H. *Genesis: The NIV Application Commentary*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001.

———. "Genesis." In *Genesis to Deuteronomy*. Volume 1 of *The Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary: Old Testament,* edited by John H. Walton. 5 Volumes. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009.

Wenham. Gordon J. "Genesis." In *Eerdmans Bible Commentary,* edited James D.G. Dunn and John Rogerson. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.

———. *Genesis 1–15*. WBC. Waco, TX: Word, 1987.

———. *Genesis16–50*. WBC. Waco, TX: Word, 1990.

Wénin, André. *Studies in the Book of Genesis: Literature, Redaction and History*. BETL 155. Leuven: Peeters, 2001. Essays include: Carr, David M. "Genesis in Relation to the Moses Story," pp. 293–5.

Weinfeld, Moshe. *Genesis. Olam ha-Tanak*, Vol. 1. Tel Aviv: Davidzon-Iti, 1998 (in Hebrew).

White, Hugh C. *Narration and Discourse in the Book of Genesis*. New York: Cambridge UP, 1991.

Whybray, R. N. "Genesis." In *Oxford Bible Commentary*, edited John Barton. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001.

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[4] Overview of scholarship on the Toledoth formulae.