



McMaster Divinity
College

JOB

Hebrew Exegesis

OT 2XJ3

Winter 2017 Tuesdays 10:30am-12:20pm

Professor. Dr. Paul S. Evans

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Office. 236

Course Description:

This course is a course on biblical (classical) Hebrew comprised of reading selected texts from the book of Job in Hebrew, as well as a thorough study of the entire biblical book.

Course Objectives:

Knowing

- To understand intermediate level issues related to Biblical Hebrew
- To build upon the Hebrew vocabulary acquired in Intermediate Hebrew I
- To know various textual traditions regarding the text of Job
- To have a thorough knowledge of the contents and message of the book of Job

Being

- The value of knowing the original language of the book of Job gives access to in-depth research and exegesis of biblical texts
- The student's life will be enriched by the access to culture that knowledge of another language brings
- To gain embrace the contemporary relevance of the book of Job for the Church today

Doing

- To improve the student's facility in reading Biblical Hebrew
- To employ intermediate Hebrew grammars for studying the Hebrew of Job
- To be able to translate portions of Job from the original Hebrew
- To be able to interpret the book of Job in its original contexts
- To build a foundation for a lifetime of engagement with the Hebrew Scriptures

Required Texts:

- David Clines, *Job*. Word Biblical Commentary; vol. 17, *Job 1-20*, 1989; vol. 18, *Job 21-37*, 1999; vol. 19 *Job 38-42*, 2006.
- Kittel, R. ed. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Stuttgart: Württembergische Bibelanstalt 1969-.

Recommended (not required) Texts:

- J. E. Hartley. *The Book of Job*, New International Commentary on the Old Testament; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.
- Norman Habel, *The Book of Job: A Commentary*. Old Testament Library, Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1985.

Textbook Purchase:

All required textbooks for this class are available from the College's book service, READ On Bookstore, Room 145, McMaster Divinity College. Texts may be purchased on the first day of class. For advance purchase, you may contact READ On Bookstore, 5 International Blvd, Etobicoke, Ontario M9W 6H3 : phone 416.620.2934; fax 416.622.2308; email books@readon.ca. Other book services may also carry the texts.

Course Evaluation

The assignments and their weights are as follows:

10% - Readings: Students are required to read the textbooks and other assigned readings in full and report on them via an email to the professor by April 5, 2017.

10% - Hebrew Readings: Students must also read the following passages in Hebrew.

1. Job 1-2
2. Job 4-5
3. Job 19
4. Job 33
5. Job 38:1-42:6
6. Job 42:7-17

Students must report on their Hebrew readings via an email to the professor by April 5, 2017.

25% - (15% each) Translations

Students will translate and hand in 3 different passages from the Hebrew of Job. The translation will note relevant text-critical issues, lexical questions, and grammatical issues interacting with Clines and other sources. The translation will include both a woodenly literal and dynamic translation.

Examples will be given in class.

Passages to be translated.

7. Job 1:6-2:10 – due **Jan 31, 2017**
8. Job 19:13-29 – due **Feb 28, 2017**
9. Job 42:1-10 – due **Mar 21, 2017**

35% - Major Research Paper (12-15 pages) Due April 4, 2017. No extensions will be given. Papers must be double-spaced, using 12pt Times New Roman font throughout (footnotes should be 10pt Times New Roman font). The bibliography must contain at least 12 items of varied secondary sources (commentaries, theological dictionaries, specialized books) including *at least* 3 articles from peer reviewed / refereed journals. *By way of supplement* to these 12 sources, a student may use a *maximum* of 2 internet resources. Students are responsible for the quality of the sources chosen. See “Research Paper Evaluation” below.

Research Topic must be approved by your professor.

20% - Final Exam April 11 (during final week) This exam will cover all assigned translations and will require students to translate passages from Hebrew, parse words as requested, and discuss grammatical features as requested. There will also be a vocabulary component including words occurring more than 50 times in the Hebrew Bible.

College Style for Submission of Written Work

All stylistic considerations (including but not limited to questions of formatting, footnotes, and bibliographic references) must conform to the McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses

<http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/sites/default/files/documents/mdcstyleguide.pdf>

Failure to observe appropriate form will result in grade reductions.

All papers to be submitted in electronic format only (a pdf file)—no hardcopies! Email to pevans@mcmaster.ca. If you need a program for creating pdfs go to <http://primopdf.com> or <http://www.pdf995.com> for a free pdf maker. Include your last name in the file name of your attachment (e.g., evans.researchpaper.pdf). To avoid late marks papers must be received by 11:59pm on the day which they are due.

Policy concerning late papers

Extensions for papers will not be given except in very exceptional circumstances. (serious illness, family crises, etc.). Busy-ness, computer problems etc. are not legitimate reasons to grant extensions and in the interests of fairness any request for extensions will take into account the entire class. Late assignments will be docked at the rate of 2% per day for the first 7 days (including weekends) and 4% per day after that. All assignments must be received by the April 5, 2016 in order to avoid a failing grade in the class. Late assignments receive no critical feedback.

Academic Honesty.

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that may take any number of forms, including plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one's own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result in severe consequences, e.g., failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on one's academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College. Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty ~

<http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/programs/rules-regulations>

Gender Inclusive Language:

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all of its publications. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected. The NRSV and TNIV are examples of the use of inclusive language for human beings. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments.

Disclaimer

This syllabus is the property of the instructor and is prepared with currently available information. The instructor reserves the right to make changes and revisions up to and including the first day of class.

Students are advised to retain this syllabus for their records.

Research Paper Evaluation

Name: _____ Topic: _____

I. The next items are rated according to this scale: 1 = inadequate; 2 = adequate; 3 = good; 4 = very good; 5 = superior.

Bibliographic consciousness	1	2	3	4	5
Range and Use of Sources	1	2	3	4	5
Clarity in Defining Issues	1	2	3	4	5
Strength of Argument	1	2	3	4	5
Awareness of Exegetical Issues	1	2	3	4	5
Accuracy of Data and Assertions	1	2	3	4	5
Analysis /Critical Thinking	1	2	3	4	5
Introduction (Thesis Statement /Clear Issue)	1	2	3	4	5
Development of Thesis (focus)	1	2	3	4	5
Literary Style (awkward, wordy, repetitive)	1	2	3	4	5
Organization/coherence of ideas	1	2	3	4	5
Grammar/Spelling	1	2	3	4	5
Neatness/Presentation	1	2	3	4	5

§ Note: this is a simple evaluation tool to assist in paper assessment. The categories are not weighted equally, and thus are not added together or averaged to calculate your grade.

II. The following need attention if so indicated

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Use inclusive language
<input type="checkbox"/> Write a unified essay
<input type="checkbox"/> Line spacing, Font size, Margins, Page numbers etc. need attention
<input type="checkbox"/> Cite primary resources correctly/consistently (e.g., Gen 1:26; Genesis 1; etc) | <input type="checkbox"/> The paper is too long/too short
<input type="checkbox"/> Edit your paper more thoroughly
<input type="checkbox"/> The paper needs balance
<input type="checkbox"/> Follow MacDiv Style guide
<input type="checkbox"/> Cite secondary resources correctly/consistently |
|---|--|

III. Comments