



# Course Syllabus Wycliffe College Toronto School of Theology

This description is intended to assist in the course approval process and to assist students in determining whether this course will help them achieve their educational objectives and the learning goals of their program. It is not a learning contract. The details of the description are subject to change before the course begins. The course syllabus will be available to the class at the beginning of the course.

## ***Course Identification***

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Course Number : WYB3013HF  
Course Name: Reading Hebrew Prose: Genesis  
Campus: St. George

## ***Instructor Information***

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Instructor:	Glen Taylor	Teaching Assistant:
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Office Hours:		

## ***Course Prerequisites or Requisites***

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A previous full-year course in Hebrew (.

## ***Course Description***

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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.

Graduate (advanced degree) students taking introductory language courses in order to fulfill program language requirements shall request that the GCTS Administrator or their college registrar change their course registration from credit (CR) to extra (EXT), as such courses are not to be used towards calculating a student's grade-point average (GPA). Language course grades, nevertheless, will still appear on transcripts. Some exceptions may apply for students in biblical studies areas, who may take advanced language courses for credit. For all such matters, please contact the GTCS Administrator at [tstadv.degree@utoronto.ca](mailto:tstadv.degree@utoronto.ca).

## ***Course Methodology***

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The methodology used in the course (lectures, tutorials, seminars, readings, etc)

## ***Course Outcomes***

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This should list the course outcomes, the course elements that will help the students achieve these outcomes, and how course outcomes correspond to the BD Program outcomes given in the college's Statement of Intended Outcomes for each of its BD programs. These should be set out in a clear manner, in a table (Nota bene: not all program outcomes will be achieved in every course):

COURSE OUTCOMES	COURSE ELEMENT	PROGRAM OUTCOMES
By the end of this course, students	This outcome will be achieved through these course elements:	This course outcome corresponds to these aspects of Wycliffe's statements of outcomes (MTS, MDiv)
• will have increased their familiarity with the content of the four Gospels;	lectures 6, 10, 11, 12; analytical questions; tutorials; exam (Part II)	MTS: 1.1 MDiv: [under revision]
• will have developed a greater awareness of the historical and cultural context in which the Christian movement emerged and in which the writings of the New Testament were produced;	lectures 2, 4, 5, 8; assignment 3; tutorials	MTS: 1.1 MDiv: [under revision]

**AD Level** The Advanced Degree Council has developed detailed statements of “learning outcomes” for each of the advanced degree programs (ThD/PhD, MA and ThM). They are available as appendices in the respective Handbooks. “Learning outcomes” have to do in part with the level of knowledge and skill that will be characteristic of a typical graduate of the program. In accordance with this overall statement, instructors are required to develop a statement of learning outcomes for each course. These outcomes will provide one of the benchmarks for evaluation and grading. These should be formatted in the same manner as Basic Degree outcomes.

## Course Resources

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### Required Course Texts

- Required: *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* (at least the folio on Genesis).

Essential for Hebrew Exegesis in General, at Least One of the Following:

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

Highly Recommended:

- Gordon Wenham, *Genesis 1–15 and Genesis 16–50* (Waco: Word, 1987, 1993). (Detailed, informed, excellent)
- Sidney Greidanus, *Preaching Christ from Genesis: Foundations for Expository Sermons*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007.
- The Hebrew component of a Bible software programme such as Logos, Gramcord/Accordance, or Bible Works.

## 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.]

## Class Schedule

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**Week 1 (September 15)** Intro to course.

**Week 2 (September 22)** Gen. 1:26–28; 2:4b–7, 15–24; *Quiz*: Review 1, plus Qal Perf & Imperf.

**Week 3 (September 29)** Gen. 3:1–9; 1; *Quiz*: Review IIA + Qal imperative, participle, infinitive.

**Week 4 (October 6)** Gen. 12:1–9 (esp. 1–3); *Quiz*: Review IIB + Paradigms Niph, Piel, Pual.

**Week 5 (October 13)** Gen. 13:1–18; *Quiz*: Hiphil, Hophal, Hithpael.

**Week 6 (October 20)** Gen 22: 1–14; *Quiz*: Pe Waw Qal & Hiph; Pe Nun Qal & Hiphil..

**Week 7 (October 27)** Reading Week. Learn Hollow Qal & Hiphil; Geminative Qal

**Week 8 (November 3)** Gen. 25:19–34: Paradigm Review Quiz.

**Week 9 (November 10)** Gen. 32:1–13; *Quiz*: Mechanical parsing wheel outline.

**Week 10 (November 17)** Gen. 32:23–33; 33:10; *Quiz* on syntax.

**Week 11 (November 24)** Gen. 37:1–11; *Quiz* on syntax.

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

**Week 13 (December 8)** Gen. 49:10; 50:18–26.

## Evaluation

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### 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.

Each week the student will be given a written copy of the passage and the assignment for the following week. The assignment will not generally require more than a few hours preparation in recognition of the time it also takes to prepare the passage itself.

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 written confirmation of having completed the assignment and an oral examination testing the student's ability to follow along in the Hebrew text with an understanding of grammar and important vocabulary. (Subject to availability of English reading medium.)

### 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 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 pericopes. 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
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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***

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**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](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*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007), which is available at Crux Books.

## ***Bibliography***

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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*. Sheffield: 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, *Building 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.
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<sup>1</sup> Maintains Genesis is a book in its own right (i.e. is not simply one part of the Pentateuch).

<sup>2</sup> Overview of scholarship on the Toledoth formulae.



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