

BIBL 6102 HEBREW READINGS: Readings from the “Seam Psalms”

North Park Theological Seminary
Spring 2026 — Thursdays 12:00–1:00 pm CST
Synchronous Online Format

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

[J. Nathan Clayton, PhD](#), Associate Professor of Old Testament

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Office: Nyvall Hall 321

Office Phone: (773) 244-5236

Email & phone: During the semester, please feel free to email and/or call me M-F, during business hours (8 am – 5 pm central time). I usually respond to email and voicemail within 24 hours, M-F.

Meeting with professor. Students are welcome to schedule an appointment to meet live on video. If you are having any difficulties in the course, I encourage you to be in contact early on so we can problem solve together. To schedule an *online* office meeting via Teams video, please use this [Bookings link](#). To schedule an *in-person* office meeting, please use this [Bookings link](#). For the fall semester fall, these are my office time slots (in half-hour increments, if you can't find at time that works within these slots throughout the semester, please reach out to me by email):

Online: Tuesdays, Noon – 1 pm CST & Thursdays, 1 – 2:30 pm CST

In Person: Thursdays, 10 – 11 am CST

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, students translate and discuss selected texts from the Hebrew Bible to enhance their facility with the Hebrew language. Course is only graded pass/fail.

[Zoom Link for the Course](#)

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. *A Hebrew Old Testament:*

Brown II, A. Philip, and Bryan A. Smith, editors. *A Reader's Hebrew Bible:*

תורה ונביאים וכתובים. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008. Or: *BHS*.

2. *A Lexicon:*

Holladay, W. L. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1988. Or: *BDB*.

SUGGESTED TEXTS

1. *A Syntax Grammar:*

Arnold, Bill T., and John H. Choi. *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Second Edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018. Or: an equivalent syntax grammar.

2. *A Commentary on the Psalms:*

deClaisé-Walford, Nancy, Rolf A. Jacobson, and Beth Laneel Tanner. *The Book of Psalms*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2014. Or any other commentary on the Psalms, as long as it is substantive and engages the Hebrew text. Brandel Library has many that you can check out and use.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

A few suggestions:

- Chisholm Jr., Robert B. *A Workbook for Intermediate Hebrew: Grammar, Exegesis, and Commentary on Jonah and Ruth*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2006.
- Choi, Kyoungwon, and Russell T. Fuller. *Invitation to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Invitation to Theological Studies Series. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2017.
- Futato Sr., Mark D. *Basics of Hebrew Accents*. Zondervan Language Basics. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2020.
- Hardy II, Chip, and Matthew McAfee. *Going Deeper with Biblical Hebrew: An Intermediate Study of the Grammar and Syntax of the Old Testament*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 2024.
- Patton, Matthew H., and Frederic Clarke Putnam. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Discourse*. Zondervan Language Basics. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2019.
- Van Pelt, Miles V., and Gary D. Pratico. *Biblical Hebrew Vocabulary in Context: Building Competency with Words Occurring 50 Times or More*. Zondervan Language Basics. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2019.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Translate selected Old Testament Hebrew texts, applying their understanding of Hebrew grammar to the task.
2. Demonstrate their understanding of text-critical issues in selected Old Testament Hebrew texts and their impact on translation.

CONTENT

The course includes: the translation and discussion of selected Old Testament Hebrew texts with attention to grammar and to text-critical issues, as well as to broader theological issues.

PREREQUISITES

BIBL 6100 Biblical Hebrew 1 and BIBL 6101 Biblical Hebrew 2, or equivalent.

PROCEDURE

At each meeting we will translate and discuss verses from a selected text. Students should come prepared to take a turn at translation, having parsed all the verbs and having considered the grammatical structure of each sentence.

ASSESSMENTS

Note: This class is a one credit class and will be graded on a Pass/Fail basis. Students who achieve a standard equivalent to a grade of C- or more will pass.

1. Attendance will be recorded at each class session. *If you have a difficulty, please speak to the instructor about it.* Illness and other unforeseen circumstances beyond your control will be regarded sympathetically, but poor planning on your part is not a good excuse.
2. Students will prepare an English translation (and verb parings_ for each class; at the end of the semester, students will post their translations on Canvas for the instructor to review.

GRADING

Translation & Parsing: 20% Attendance & Participation: 80%

NPTS Grading Scale

Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage
A	95–100	C	80–83
A-	93–94	C-	78–79
B+	91–92	D+	76–77
B	88–90	D	72–75
B-	86–87	D-	70–71
C+	84–85	F	0–69

CLASS SCHEDULE

For each class session, translate the passage in the Psalms, parse all verbs (keep a written record of your translation and parsing work), and practice reading the passage out loud.

*Note: the verse references here are for the **Hebrew versification** of the Psalms*

Week	Date	Assigned Passage	Notes
1	Jan 15	Psalm 1:1–6	
2	Jan 22	Psalm 2:1–12	
—	Jan 29	—	No class — ECC Midwinter Conference
3	Feb 5	Psalm 41:1–7	
4	Feb 12	Psalm 41:8–14	
5	Feb 19	Psalm 42:1–6	
6	Feb 26	Psalm 42:7–12	
7	Mar 5	Psalm 72:1–7	
8	Mar 12	—	No class — Reading Week
9	Mar 19	Psalm 72:12–20	
10	Mar 26	Psalm 73:1–9	
11	Apr 2	Psalm 73:16–19, 23–28	
12	Apr 9	Psalm 89:1–5, 39–41, 50–53	
13	Apr 16	Psalm 90:1–6, 14–17	
14	Apr 23	Psalm 106:1–5, 44–48	
15	Apr 30	Psalm 107:1–9, 43	
16	May 7	Psalm 145:1–9, 21	Post final translation & parsing work by start of class

ADDITIONAL COURSE GUIDELINES

Academic Honesty

In keeping with our Christian heritage and commitment, North Park Theological Seminary is committed to the highest possible ethical and moral standards. Just as we will constantly strive to live up to these high standards, we expect our students to do the same. To that end, cheating of any sort will not be tolerated. Students who are discovered cheating are subject to discipline up to and including failure of a course and expulsion.

Our definition of cheating includes but is not limited to:

1. Plagiarism – the use of another’s work as one’s own without giving credit to the individual. This includes using materials from the internet.
2. Copying another’s answers on an examination.
3. Deliberately allowing another to copy one’s answers or work.
4. **The use of ChatGPT or other AI composition software** and presenting your essay/paper as an original composition authored by you or to impersonate you in assignments.

In the special instance of group work, the instructor will make clear his/her expectations with respect to individual vs. collaborative work. A violation of these expectations may be considered cheating as well. For further information on this subject you may refer to the Academic Dishonesty section of the University’s online catalog.

Disability Accommodations

North Park Seminary provides services for students with documented disabilities to ensure equal access to programs, services, facilities, and activities. Students with a disability who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact Seminary Academic Services as soon as possible. If desired or necessary, discussion pertaining to documentation and accommodation can take place at another suitable location or by telephone. Further information about the American Disabilities Act Services is found in the Student Academic Handbook.

Title IX

Students who believe they may have experienced sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking should contact the Title IX Coordinator (773) 244-5664 or TitleIX@northpark.edu to learn more about reporting options, resources, and support services.

As members of the North Park faculty, we are concerned about the well-being and development of our students and are available to discuss any concerns. Faculty members are private resources meaning we are legally obligated to share information about the behavior reported above with the University’s Title IX coordinator. If you are unsure whether you want your concerns disclosed to the Title IX Coordinator, we encourage you to contact Counseling Support Services at (773) 244-4897 or counseling@northpark.edu. Please refer to North Park’s Safe Community site for reporting, contact information, and further details.

Incomplete Grades

If, due to extenuating circumstances (specifically, pregnancy, illness, personal and family issues, military assignment, etc.), a student anticipates they will be unable to complete course work within the allotted time, that student may request a grade of incomplete from the course instructor before the last week of class clearly stating the reason(s) for this request. Overscheduling and/or lack of self-discipline are not considered extenuating circumstances. If the request is timely and meets the criteria, student and instructor will submit the incomplete grade form and the grade for that class will be listed as “I” until the last day of the following semester. If coursework is not submitted by the last day of the following semester the listing of “I” will automatically be changed to “F.” For the full policy, see page 15 of the Seminary Academic Catalog.

Therefore, incompletes cannot be given in a course unless they meet the criteria as outlined above according to the academic handbook. **These criteria will be rigorously applied** to any student applying for an incomplete. Please talk to the instructor of the course if you need to make such a request.