

Hebrew Exegesis of Amos, 157
 Instructor: R. V. McCabe, Th.D.
 Course Outline

Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary
 Fall Semester
 2007

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An exegetical analysis of the book of Amos in its historical and cultural milieu. While examining the introductory issues, the primary objective of this course is to use an exegetical approach to trace the development of message of Amos.

OBJECTIVES:

With this exegetical approach to the book of Amos, the student should

1. become acquainted with the key introductory issues in this book;
2. be prepared to read at sight the assigned sections from Amos;
3. gain proficiency in translating Hebrew prophetic literature;
4. become conversant with some of the exegetical and theological issues in Amos;
5. acquire an appreciation for the content in this book;
6. become more precise at identifying grammatical and syntactical forms;
7. become more familiar with the important tools for doing Hebrew exegesis; and
8. gain greater precision in doing independent research.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. **Tests:** There will be two major tests. The mid-term will cover the introductory material up through 5:17 and the final exam will cover everything after 5:18. The mid-term will be given on **October 25** and the final on **December 20—45% of grade.**

Tests must be taken at the time the exam is formally scheduled, unless a student has an excusable absence. If a student has an excusable absence, he must take the exam no later than 4:00 P.M. on the day he returns to seminary. After this 4:00 P.M. deadline on the day he returns to seminary, a late penalty of 10% per day begins accruing for each day that he goes beyond the 4:00 P.M. deadline. This penalty will be subtracted from the student's earned grade for the exam. If a student has an inexcusable absence, he will receive a 10% penalty for not having an excusable absence. He must take the exam no later than 4:00 P.M. on the exam's scheduled day to avoid any daily late penalties. If he takes the exam after 4:00 P.M. on the exam's scheduled day, his daily late penalties begin accruing after 4:00 P.M. of that same day. For example, if a student misses a scheduled exam with an unexcused absence and if he takes it before the 4:00 P.M. deadline on the same day of the exam, he will lose 10% as a penalty for not having a legitimate excuse. However, if the student takes the exam after 4:00 P.M. on the same day, but no later than 4:00 P.M. on the following day, he will lose 20% from his earned grade. He loses 10% for not having a legitimate excuse and 10% as a daily late penalty for not having taken the exam by 4:00 P.M. on the next day.

In addition, tardiness is unacceptable when a test has been scheduled. A tardy may result in a 10% penalty for the exam.

2. **Daily quizzes:** Each student will take a daily quiz. For the assigned quiz, each student will give the professor at the beginning of class the translation assignment for that day. The

translation will be evaluated for completeness. This translation will comprise 30% of his quiz grade for that day. Based upon the following schedule, each M.Div. and Th.M. student will translate and parse a portion from his assigned material. This will make up 70% of his quiz grade for that day. When the quizzes are completed the translation will be returned to each student. The same rules about absences and lateness that applied to the test will be followed for making up quizzes. However, there is one exception to my policies about absences and lateness. Each student is given one grace day where he will be permitted to take the quiz one day later with no necessary excuses required and no penalties attached—**20% of grade.**

The following is the schedule for the quizzes:

Date	Complete Translation	Th.M.	M.Div.
Aug 30	Introduction		
Sep 6	1:1–13	1:1–13	1:1–9
13	1:14–15; 2:1–11	1:14–15; 2:1–11	1:14–15; 2:1–7
20	2:12–16; 3:1–8	2:12–16; 3:1–8	2:12–16; 3:1–4
27	3:9–15; 4:1–6	3:9–15; 4:1–6	3:9–15; 4:1–2
Oct 4	4:7–13; 5:1–6	4:7–13; 5:1–6	4:7–13; 5:1–2
11	5:7–19	5:7–19	5:7–15
18	No class MACP		
25	Mid-term Exam		
Nov 1	5:20–27; 6:1–6	5:20–27; 6:1–6	5:20–27; 6:1–2
8	6:7–14; 7:1–5	6:7–14; 7:1–5	6:7–14; 7:1
15	7:6–17; 8:1–3	7:6–17; 8:1–3	7:6–16
22	Thanksgiving Vacation		
29	8:4–14; 9:1–2	8:4–14; 9:1–2	8:4–12
Dec 6	9:3–15	9:3–15	9:3–11
13	Theological Synthesis		
20	Final Exam		

- Term paper:** Each student is required to write a 12 to 25-page term paper. This will be on a passage from the book of Amos, and should be made up of approximately 5 to 10 verses. The paper must be in conformity with the “Style Manual for Papers and Theses” (2nd ed.,

Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary, 2002). The Th.M. papers are not expected to be longer than the M.Div. papers, though I carefully look for a distinction in quality between the M.Div. and Th.M. papers. The term paper is due on **Thursday, November 29**. The same rules about absences and lateness that applied to the test will be followed for the term paper—**25% of grade**.

Example of How the Term Papers Are Graded:

Content and argument	80%
Form & Mechanics	10%
Bibliography	+10%
Overall percentile grade	100%

4. **Reading assignment:** Each M.Div. student must read 400 pages and each Th.M. student 600 pages from the recommended items in the bibliography. Part of this must include pp. 55–83 in Bullock’s *An Introduction to the Old Testament Prophetic Books*, pp. 69–108 in Chisholm’s *Interpreting the Minor Prophets*, and pp. 397–413 of a section from Chisholm’s chapter “A Theology of the Minor Prophets,” in *A Biblical Theology of the Old Testament*, ed. by Zuck. Each student who has read the required number of pages according to the schedule will receive a 98% for this portion of his grade. If the student does not complete the assignment on schedule, he will have 1% subtracted from his 98% for every 15 pages that he is short of the total pages required. Whether his reading report is complete or incomplete, the student must turn in his report on **Thursday, November 29—5% of grade**.

5. **Translation Notebook:** Each student is required to keep a notebook of his translation for the sections of the book of Amos that are translated for class. In this notebook not only should he have his translation, but he should also have the more difficult verbs parsed, unusual grammatical forms identified, a presentation of class notes, and whatever else may be helpful so that the student will go away from class with something that will be practical for helping him to be able to effectively use his Hebrew text to preach from Amos. Each student who has a well-organized notebook will receive a 98% for this portion of his grade. The same rules about absences and lateness that applied to tests will be followed for this assignment. This is due on **Thursday, December 20—5% of grade**.

CLASS ABSENCES:

The policy for absenteeism at Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary is as follows. A student is allowed one week of unexcused absences and three weeks of excused absences. The maximum number of absences is four weeks for a class. Anyone who is absent from class beyond this will receive an “F” for that course, except by vote of the faculty in extenuating circumstances.

When a student has consumed his one week of permissible unexcused absences for a given course, his final grade will be penalized by 1% per hour of class that he has gone beyond this limit and extending until he has missed four full weeks of class. After this, he will receive an “F” for the course.

An excused absence is one where the student’s absence is beyond his control. In order to have

his absence excused, the student must submit to the course instructor a **written explanation** for his absence. Based upon this the instructor will then determine whether or not the absence should be excused.

Three periods of tardiness will be counted as one unexcused absence.

TEXTBOOK:

1. Elliger, K. and W. Rudolph. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelstiftung, 1976.
2. McCabe, Robert V. "Hebrew Exegesis of Amos." Unpublished syllabus, Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary, 2007.

GRADING SYSTEM:

96–100	A	86–87	B-	76–77	D+
94–95	A-	84–85	C+	72–75	D
92–93	B+	80–83	C	70–71	D-
88–91	B	78–79	C-	69 & below	F