



# *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

## *Syllabus*

### **INTRODUCTION TO TEXTUAL CRITICISM OF THE BIBLE - 21200**

*Last update 12-10-2015*

*HU Credits:* 2

*Degree/Cycle:* 1st degree (Bachelor)

*Responsible Department:* bible

*Academic year:* 0

*Semester:* 1st Semester

*Teaching Languages:* Hebrew

*Campus:* Mt. Scopus

*Course/Module Coordinator:* Dror Jacob - Teaching Assistant

*Coordinator Email:* [Dror.Jacob@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:Dror.Jacob@mail.huji.ac.il)

*Coordinator Office Hours:* M 13:15 - 14:15

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Teaching Staff:

Prof Michael Segal

Course/Module description:

The course will focus on the textual history of the Bible and the methodological principles of textual criticism. The first half of the course offers a survey of the primary textual witnesses of the Bible (including the Masoretic text, the Samaritan Pentateuch, biblical manuscripts from the Judean Desert, and ancient translations) and their textual character. The second half focuses on scribal phenomena that occurred during the transmission of the text, and which led to textual variants, including both scribal errors and intentional changes.

Course/Module aims:

- (1) To define the aims of textual criticism of the Hebrew Bible.
- (2) To introduce the primary biblical textual witnesses.
- (3) To demonstrate the different phenomena that occur in the process of textual transmission.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

1. To identify textual phenomena in the primary textual witnesses of the Bible.
2. To determine which textual phenomena occurred in each case.
3. To integrate this theoretical knowledge regarding textual phenomena with interpretive trends in textual criticism of the Bible.

Attendance requirements(%):

80%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lectures by instructor.

All reading should be done before the topic is discussed in the lecture.

Students should acquire the workbook 'Textual Criticism - A Sourcebook' (eds. E. Tov and M. Segal; Academon, 2002) (can be purchased at the Academon or by PDF from the instructor).

Course/Module Content:

A. Textual Criticism - Aims and Limitations

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## *B. Biblical Textual Witnesses*

- 1. Proto-Masoretic texts and the Masoretic text*
- 2. Pre-Samaritan and the Samaritan Pentateuch*
- 3. Biblical texts from the Dead Sea Scrolls*
- 4. Ancient Translations*

## *C. Textual Transmission*

- 1. Unintentional phenomena*
  - a. Minuses: Omission, Haplography, Homoioteleuton*
  - b. Pluses: Dittography, Doublets*
  - c. Changes: Consonantal interchanges (graphic similarity, phonetic similarity); ligatures; metathesis; different division of words; differences in matres lectionis; complex readings; abbreviations; differences in order*
- 2. Intentional scribal changes*
  - Linguistic changes*
  - Synonymous readings*
  - Harmonization*
  - Exegetical variants*
  - Glosses and Interpolations*

## *3. Emendations*

## *D. Considerations in the choice of the original reading*

## *E. Textual Criticism and Literary Criticism*

### *Required Reading:*

*E. Tov, Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible (3rd rev. ed.; Minneapolis, 2012)*

### *Additional Reading Material:*

*ר' יוס, מחקרי מקרא – בחינות נוסח ולשון (ירושלים, תשמ"א)*

*י"א זליגמן, מחקרים בספרות המקרא (בעריכת א' הורביץ, ע' טוב וש' יפת; ירושלים, תשנ"ו)*

*ש' טלמון, "תנ"ך, נוסח", אנציקלופדיה מקראית ח: 621-641.*

*י' יבין, מבוא למסורת הטברנית (הדפסה רביעית מתוקנת; ירושלים, תשמ"ג)*

*ש' ליברמן, יוונית ויוונית בארץ ישראל (ירושלים, תשכ"ג)*

*י' עופר, "כתיב וקרי: פשר התופעה, דרכי הסימון שלה ודעות הקדמונים עליה", לשוננו ע (תשס"ח),*

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73-55; עא (תשס"ט), 279-255.

מ' צפור, על מסירה ומסורת: פרקים בתולדות הפרשנות הקדומה של המקרא, תרגומו ומסירתו (תל-אביב, תשנ"א)

י' קוטשר, הלשון והרקע הלשוני של מגילת ישעיהו השלמה ממגילות ים המלח (ירושלים, תשי"ט)

א' רופא, "החשיבות ההיסטורית של גרסאות משניות בנוסחי המקרא", בית מקרא מג (תשנ"ח) 218-226.

J. Barr, *Comparative Philology and the Text of the OT* (Oxford, 1968; rev. Winona Lake, Ind., 1987)

F. M. Cross and S. Talmon (eds.), *Qumran and the History of the Biblical Text* (Cambridge, Mass./ London, 1976)

C.D. Ginsburg, *Introduction to the Massoretico-Critical Edition of the Hebrew Bible* (London, 1897; repr. New York, 1966)

R.W. Klein, *Textual Criticism of the OT: The Septuagint after Qumran* (Philadelphia, 1974)

P. K. McCarter, *Textual Criticism: Recovering the Text of the Hebrew Bible* (Philadelphia, 1986).

C. McCarthy, *The Tikkune Sopherim and Other Theological Corrections in the Masoretic Text of the OT* (Freiburg/Göttingen, 1981)

M. J. Mulder (ed.), *Mikra: Text, Translation, Reading and Interpretation of the Hebrew Bible in Ancient Judaism and Early Christianity* (Compendia Rerum Iudaicarum ad Novum Testamentum 2/1; Assen-Maastricht/Philadelphia, 1988)

B.J. Roberts, *The OT Text and Versions: The Hebrew Text in Transmission and the History of the Ancient Versions* (Cardiff, 1951)

A. Rofé, "The Nomistic Correction in Biblical Manuscripts and its Occurrence in 4QSama," *RevQ* 14 (1989) 247-254

M. Segal, "The Text of the Hebrew Bible in Light of the Dead Sea Scrolls," *Materia Judaica* 12/1-2 (2007) 5-20

J.H. Tigay (ed.), *Empirical Models for Biblical Criticism* (Philadelphia, 1985)

E. Tov, *The Text-Critical Use of the Septuagint in Biblical Research* (2nd rev. and enl ed.; Jerusalem, 1997)

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*E. Tov, Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible (3rd rev. and expandeded.; Minneapolis, 2012)*

*E.C. Ulrich, The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Origins of the Bible (Grand Rapids, Mich., 1999)*

Course/Module evaluation:

*End of year written/oral examination 55 %*

*Presentation 0 %*

*Participation in Tutorials 0 %*

*Project work 0 %*

*Assignments 45 %*

*Reports 0 %*

*Research project 0 %*

*Quizzes 0 %*

*Other 0 %*

Additional information: