



**HEB 200 Biblical Hebrew III (3)  
Fall 2011**

**Instructor: R. R. Remin**

**Contacting the Instructor**

**Office: L2081**

**Class Times: TBA**

**Email Address: [rrem@ambrose.edu](mailto:rrem@ambrose.edu)**

**Office Phone: 410-2000 ext. 7906**

**Class Location: TBA**

**Course Description**

A reading course involving extensive reading in Biblical Hebrew and further study of grammar, syntax, and vocabulary. *Prerequisite: Hebrew 101*

This year the reading will be the minor prophet Amos.

**Student Outcomes**

1. Each student will develop and improve their ability to read, understand and explain the Hebrew text of the prophet Amos.
2. Each student will improve their understanding of Hebrew grammatical structures *per se* and how these structures relate to exegesis. The professor will work with each student in order to assist the student in setting goals for themselves in their development of their knowledge and abilities in Greek.
3. Each student will learn the genres of prophetic literature, and the text critical, exegetical, and hermeneutical issues of Amos.

**Required Texts**

1. W.S. LaSor, *Handbook of Biblical Hebrew, an Inductive Approach Based on the Hebrew Text of Esther*, 2 Vol. (W.B. Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1978).
2. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*, ed. K. Elliger and W. Rudolf (Stuttgart, Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1967- 1977).

3. Brown, Francis, Driver, S.R., Briggs, Charles A. *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Clarendon Press, 1907).
4. John Joseph Owens, *Analytical Key to the Old Testament* (Baker, 1989) or an equivalent in electronic format.
5. Computer Software. Investigate software options to assist the study of the Greek and Hebrew Testaments. (There is no software package for just one of these languages.) Which program is immaterial. Invest in one is essential. Try out these websites for the best programs. The programs will be discussed in class. But as you investigate ask these simple questions.
  - Which Greek and Hebrew texts are included in the program?
  - Which translations are included – *LXX, Vulgate, RSV, NRSV, NIV, NASB, etc.*?
  - What can be added to this platform? *BDB, Word Biblical Commentary, Bauer-Ardnt-Gingrich, TDNW, Van Gemeren*?
  - All of these programs have “tagged text.” All of them do concordance type searches. But do they have GRAMCORD? What’s GRAMCORD?
  - Do they have a simple mouse click or macro to link to commentaries and lexicons which come with the software package or can be added to the platform?

Here are the three most commonly used programs. All three provide on line demos.

Bibloi 8.0 -- <http://www.silvermnt.com/bibloi.htm> This is the one used in class.

Logos Bible Software -- <http://www.logos.com/> Special rates? Many variations.

Accordance Bible Soft. -- <http://www.accordancebible.com/> MAC platform,

The following books are highly recommended and may contain required reading from time to time in this course. Remember they all have indices for “Amos” by chapter and verse.

6. Bruce K. Waltke, M. O'Connor, *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax* (1990). Gesenius, E. Kautzsch, A. E. Cowley, *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar* (various). *GKC* is also available on line (someone retyped the whole book) – <http://www.biblecentre.net/ot/ges/gr/hegr-Index.html>
7. Ronald J. Williams, John C. Beckman, *Hebrew Syntax* (2007).
8. Ronald J. Williams, *Hebrew Syntax* (1992).

These commentaries are high recommended and with others will serve their purpose at various points in the course. (This is primarily a Hebrew reading course and not a reading the commentaries course.) Pay particular attention to Anderson and Friedman because of the

detailed information it contains on Hebrew prose particles, etc. See appendix one in this syllabus for more details. Beware that, although sometimes you need commentaries for information as is the case here, commentaries are for the greatest part “thought stoppers.”

9. F.I. Andersen & David Noel Freedman, *Amos (Anchor Bible, 1989)* pp.977.
10. Andrew MacIntosh, *A Critical and exegetical commentary on Amos and Hosea (International Critical Commentary, 1997)*.
11. W.R. Harper, *A Critical and exegetical commentary on Amos and Hosea (International Critical Commentary, 1905, 1990)* and is still considered very useful.

Do not neglect to read the articles in the best of the “bible dictionaries.” Start with the articles on Amos and the other suggested articles there. Read articles on prophets, prophetic literature, genres, textual criticism, and the geography, flora, fauna of Amos.

12. *New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology & Exegesis*, 5 vol., VanGemeren, Willem A. ed. (Zondervan, 1997). **DOTTE** includes the only published dictionary of semantic domains for Hebrew. Includes a “Guide to OT Theology and Exegesis” which amounts to a 215 page hermeneutics course which includes among other things details on how to do word studies. Includes a topical dictionary and numerous indices. cf. Colin Brown DNTT
13. *Theological Dictionary of the OT*, 10 vol., G. Johannes Botterwick, Helmer Ringgren, eds. (Eerdmans, 1974-1981). **TDOT**
14. *Anchor Bible Dictionary*, 6 vol., Noel D. Freedman, et al. eds. (Doubleday, 1992). **ABD**
15. *Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible*, 5 vol., George A. Buttrick, ed. (Abingdon, 1964). **IDB**
16. *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*, Leland Ryken, et al. ed. (IVP, 1998). **DBI**

Use this Hebrew English concordance (or an electronic concordance) when you need a concordance. Do not even ask about concordances by Cruden, Young, or Strong, lest you evoke less than gracious comments.

17. *The Hebrew-English Concordance to the Old Testament with the New International Version*, Kohlenberger III, John R., ed. (Zondervan, 1998). \$144.00 CAN

## Course Schedule

This course meets every week of the semester at a time to be arranged.

Special dates to remember are:

September 28-29 (Wednesday/Thursday)	Community / Spiritual Emphasis Days – No class.
December 8 (Thursday)	Last Class of classes
December 17 (Saturday) 9-12 a.m.	Final Examination (November 28)
December 16	Last Day of Semester (November 28)

November 28 is a very important date. This is the last day for a student to apply to the registrar's office for an alternate time for the final examination. This is the last day for a student to apply to the registrar's office for an extension on course work past December. Professors may give extensions up to December 16 which is the last day of the semester. Only the registrar's office can give extensions beyond that date.

For other important dates see the Academic Calendar or "Important Information" section below in this syllabus.

### **Course Requirements**

1. The professor will begin with students at the level of their knowledge of Hebrew with which they begin the course and then build from there.
2. The student will prepare portions of the Hebrew text of Amos before class, and then read/translate and discuss in class those sections as assigned. Some other Hebrew texts may also be assigned.
  - Read out loud in Hebrew and/or translate; answer questions about the text.
  - The class sessions will be taken with discussion of Hebrew grammatical structures, discussions of implications of grammatical structures for interpretation and translation. Text critical matters will also be included. If students are finding a particular text difficult, students need to prepare the text by formulating and articulating their questions. The professor will also systematically teach grammar as the need arises.
  - If the professor at any point in the semester becomes convinced that a student or students are not working to their potential in this course, the student may be required to participate in an interview with professor in which interview the student and professor discuss a selected text from Amos.
3. Attend all scheduled sessions of this course. The purpose of this course is not "an information dump." Reading Hebrew and its exegesis is a skill and an art both of which improve as a result of the interaction in class between instructor and students and between students. This is how students learn methodology and passion for the task at hand. Students will not receive marks for attendance but absences will directly and negatively affect their final grade.
4. Prepare and deliver an oral presentation of at least three "R & R" projects in class.

## R & R Projects

These “research and report” segments will be researched and reported (15 minutes) in class. Each student is expected to complete at least three R & R projects in the semester. A written report is not required.

The following topics are in the approximate order of presentation. Others will be added.

- a. What or who are  $\{\psi\lambda\iota\delta:\theta\mid N\alpha\beta$  in Amos 1.1? Compare the ancient translations with the Hebrew. What was proposed as an emendation and why? What is the correct translation and how do you know this? Use *BDB*, *ICC*, a Hebrew concordance, *etc.*
- b. What’s a “minor prophet?” When was the term first used? Why are they in the order they are? *Etc.*
- c. What did Amos do when he wasn’t a prophet? 1.1 and 7.14 How has “this career” affected the interpretation of Amos?
- d. Why does Amos deny being a prophet? Or does he? What’s a son of a prophet? Look carefully at the priest, Amaziah’s “rebuke” and what it means.
- e. Genre of “oracles against the nations” Describe the genre and it’s purpose among the prophetic oracles.
- f.  $x, x + 1$  formula and other formulas such as 7, 7x and  $x, x11$ . “Paid double” in Isaiah 40.1.
- g. Amos has oracles against eight nations. Each constitutes one R & R. For each one, identify the geography and explain the historical incident referred to in the oracle (if we can).

Damascus	Gaza	Ashdod	Edom
Ammon(ites)	Moab	Judah	Israel
- h. Day of Yahweh, darkness not light, 5.18
- i. Is God rejecting the cult system which he instituted? Evangelicals usually want to distinguish the cult from the worshippers attitude. (God rejects the attitude but not the cult which he instituted.) Or is God actually and already rejecting the cult which is ultimately prorogued with the death of Jesus (Hebrews) and the Council of Jerusalem (Acts). Compare similar oracles in other prophets (e.g. Isaiah, Jeremiah).

5:21 I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. 5:22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your

fatted animals I will not look upon. 5:23 Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. 5:24 But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever flowing stream.

- j. Amos is quoted in Acts. Amos 5.25-26 is quoted in Acts 7.41-43 (Stephen). Stephen's Greek isn't anything like the Hebrew. What happened? To which event is Stephen referring?
5. Read in the various reference works available to students. Keep a briefly annotated record of this reading. Demonstrate initiative. See the bibliography above.
6. Learn the vocabulary of Amos and write a final examination. Closed book.

### Course Grade

The final grade for this course will be calculated as follows:

Attendance, preparedness, participation in class	20%
Mastery of Hebrew as demonstrated in class	20%
Presentation of at least 3 "R & R" projects	20%
Final Examination	40%

Although marks are not given for attendance, marks will be deducted for absences.

### Important Notes

1. All hand written tests, examinations, or any other hand written thing you hand to your professor must be written in ink!
2. All other assignments must be submitted in hard copy following these guidelines:
  - All printing is in black ink and on white paper. Twelve point font. There are no other colors or shading. No borders around pages.
  - The cover page will have this information in this order, centered on the page, and nothing else at all.
    - The name of the assignment at the top of the page.
    - Student's name two thirds of the way down the page. Student number is optional, but if included should be on the next line immediately below the name.
  - At least three quarters of the way down the page the words "Ambrose Seminary" must appear and on the next line the date on which the assignment was handed in.
  - The fonts used must be twelve point standard fonts. The basic fonts such as Times New Roman, Arial, etc.

- Any Greek and/or Hebrew in the assignment must be in a Greek or Hebrew font. Do not put quotation marks around nor italicize any Greek or Hebrew words in Greek or Hebrew fonts. Transliteration is not acceptable except in a direct quotation or a title of a published work. Students will be provided with fonts upon request. However, it is the student's responsibility to ensure that the fonts are correctly printed before the paper is handed in. (Not all printers will correctly print all fonts.) This is the student's responsibility. Papers with incorrectly printed fonts will not be read. In the effect of "font printing failure" the Greek or Hebrew words may be hand printed in black ink. (This was how it was done from the time of the invention of the type writer until the passing of the same when the personal computer was invented.)
- Footnotes and bibliography must be consistent and in an acceptable format which identifies who wrote what, when and where it was published.
- One staple in the upper left corner. Do not use plastic covers, rings, binders, etc.

3. You may **contact your professor** by various means.

- Office Hours. These Office Hours on campus are subject to meetings called by higher authorities (president, dean, registrar), previously scheduled meetings with other students, the instructor's health (doctors' appointments, medical emergencies), snow storms, ice storms, highway closures, automobile failure, and/or "the crick don't raise." Book an appointment via email to ensure that I'm here, that you will receive notification of cancelation or you will not be preempted by another appointment (the above notwithstanding).
  - Monday           Afternoons
  - Tuesday           Usually not on campus. By appointment only
  - Wednesday       Before the class period; after lunch.
  - Thursday          After chapel after my morning block class.
  - Friday             Before the class period; late afternoon by appointment.
- Email in the office:   rremin@ambrose.edu
- Voice in the office:   410-2000 ext 7906

4. **Absences** are intolerable because of the nature of the subject being learned and the manner in which this course is taught, namely the inductive method. If you must miss a class please work through the lesson(s) missed and then come to the instructor with any problems or questions. In the event you cannot be prepared, you are better being in class unprepared than not in class at all. Too many absences will affect your final grade (either by examination or adjustment by the instructor.)

5. **Classroom Etiquette.** The following activities are considered poor classroom etiquette:

- Coming in late,
- Talking while someone else is talking,
- Consumption of meals as opposed to minor snacks,

- Consumption of snacks in a noisy, smelly and/or disruptive manner,
- Use of electronic devices such as cell phones, *i-pods, etc.*,
- Use of laptops for purposes (*e.g.* watching videos, playing solitaire) not directly connected to the class, and
- The practice of any behaviours considered impolite in adult company.

6. **Examinations.** Final examinations are held during a scheduled time period at the end of the semester for regular semester classes and are scheduled by the Registrar. Please indicate if this course will have a final examination.

Please note: Students may request revised final exams if they have three exams in one 24-hour period or two exams at the same time. Final exam schedule revision request forms are available at the Registrar’s Office and must be handed in by Monday, November 28, 2011 (Fall semester). If you do not have your request in by this date, all exams within a 24-hour period will have to be written as scheduled. If you have two exams at the same time, you will be given four hours to write both exams.

Graded final examinations will be available for supervised review at the request of the student. Please contact your instructor.

7. **Grades for the course.** The available letters for course grades are as follows:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>
A+	
A	Excellent
A-	
B+	
B	Good
B-	
C+	
C	Satisfactory
C-	
D+	
D	Minimal Pass
F	Failure

Please note that final grades will be available on your student portal. Printed grade sheets are no longer mailed out.

An **appeal for change of grade** on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar in writing within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal to review final grades. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.



8. **Some more very important dates.**

The **last day to enter** a course without permission and /or **voluntary withdrawal** from a course without financial penalty (**drop**) – **Friday, September 18, 2011** (Fall semester). These courses will not appear on the student’s transcript.

*Students may change the designation of any class from credit to audit, or drop out of the “audit” up to the “drop” date indicated above. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees.*

Withdrawal from courses after the Registration Revision period will not be eligible for tuition refund. The last day to **voluntarily withdraw from a course without academic penalty (withdraw)** – **Monday, November 14, 2011** (Fall semester). A grade of “W” will appear on the student’s transcript.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

9. It is **the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Student Handbook and Academic Calendar**. Personal information, that is information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as a requirement as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at [privacy@ambrose.edu](mailto:privacy@ambrose.edu).

10. **Extensions and Alternative Examination Dates.** Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period **unless they have received permission for a “Course Extension” from the Registrar’s Office**. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar’s Office by the appropriate deadline (as listed in the Academic Calendar <http://www.ambrose.edu/publications/academiccalendar>). Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise “due to circumstances beyond the student’s control.” The deadline this semester is **November 28**.

11. **Plagiarism and Cheating.** We at Ambrose are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University College as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else’s ideas, words, or work as one’s own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by

accident when a student fails or forgets to give credit to another person's ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar and the Student Handbook that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student's permanent record.

12. Students are advised to retain this syllabus for their records.