



BEACON UNIVERSITY

6003 Veterans Parkway, Columbus, GA 31909

SYLLABUS / DE

I. COURSE TITLE:

OT 520 Pentateuch

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides an integrated study of the first five books of the Bible. The student will explore, in depth, these books with a view toward understanding the covenantal nature of God's relationship with Israel. The student will gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of the authorship, geography and historical context of the "Books of Moses."

III. COURSE RATIONALE:

PHILOSOPHICAL: Key theological concepts are contained in the Pentateuch: creation, covenant, redemption, law, sacrifice. Understanding of these concepts and their biblical origins will aid the student in developing as a scholar of the Bible and as a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ.

PRACTICAL: Being a graduate level course, the student will be called on to synthesize materials in an analytical manner that goes beyond reading and recitation. Skills gained will assist the student in leading Bible studies and other teaching opportunities.

IV. COURSE PREREQUISITES:

None

V. COURSE OBJECTIVES / LEARNING OUTCOMES:

A. Cognitive Domain:

1. The student will be able to demonstrate and explain a working knowledge of the Pentateuch and its impact to other parts of the Bible.

2. The student will be able to understand and relate the theological significance and historical setting of each individual book in the Pentateuch to the overall fabrication of the Old Testament.
3. The student will be able identify and compare the basic types of literature contained in the Pentateuch with similar types in other ancient cultures as well as with other parts of the Old Testament.
4. The student will be able to identify and discuss important critical issues such as authorship and date of each individual book in the Pentateuch and relate their conclusions with the overall study of the Old Testament.
5. The student will be able to discuss the relationship between the knowledge gained in this class and his or her own theological/spiritual development.

Affective Domain:

1. The student will become aware of the various critical issues that confront Christians as they are introduced to Pentateuch studies.
2. The student will be ready to answer those who would deny the divine authorship of the Pentateuch.
3. The student will be able to appreciate the literary forms that are present in the Old Testament.
4. The student will gain an ability to arrange the knowledge gained in such a way that he or she will be able to share his or her informed opinions with others.
5. The student will become comfortable with his or her ability to discern those theories of Old Testament studies that have the greatest value to the student of the Bible and use them to better assist them in his or her overall theological development.
6. Students can explain the covenant between God and Israel and compare it to other ancient covenants.
7. Students can recognize and discuss the relationship between the law and Christ.
8. Students can distinguish the biblical principles behind Old Testament law and apply them to modern living

VI. COURSE OUTLINE:

A. Video Presentations:

- Session 1. Course Introduction and Historical Background: Name, Canon, The Geography of the Ancient Middle East;
- Session 2. The History of the Ancient Middle East
- Session 3. The Development of Studies in the Pentateuch: The Early Period, The Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries, The Graf-Wellhausen Hypothesis, Current Status of Pentateuch Studies
- Session 4. The Book of Genesis: Introduction, Creation
- Session 5. The Book of Genesis (cont.): Primeval History
- Session 6. The Book of Genesis (cont.): The History of the Patriarchs
- Session 7. The Book of Genesis (cont.): The History of the Patriarchs
- Session 8. The Book of Exodus: Egypt
- Session 9. The Book of Exodus (cont.): The Sinai Wilderness, Introduction

- Session 10. The Book of Exodus (cont.): The Exodus from Egypt, Covenants
- Session 11. The Books of Exodus (cont.): The Ten Commandments
- Session 12. The Book of Exodus (cont.): The Legal Code, The Tabernacle
- Session 13. The Book of Leviticus: Introduction, The Sacrificial System
- Session 14. The Holiness Code
- Session 15. The Book of Numbers: Introduction, Exegesis from Numbers, The Rebellion at Kadesh-Barnea
- Session 16. The Book of Numbers: Exegesis from Numbers (cont.)
- Session 17. The Book of Deuteronomy: Introduction, The Shema, The Ten Commandments, The Death of Moses
- Session 18. The Role of Deuteronomy in the Reformation of Josiah
- Session 19. The Use of the Pentateuch in the New Testament: Jesus, Paul, Other New Testament Writers
- Session 20. Review: Summary Overview of the Pentateuch, The Role of the Pentateuch in the Church Today

B. Online Module Dates and Assignments:

Module	Dates	Assignments
Module 1	May 12-25	Video sessions 1-3, discussion forum 1, Bible readings
Module 2	May 26 – June 8	Video sessions 4-6, discussion forum 2, Bible readings
Module 3	June 9 – 22	Video sessions 7-9, discussion forum 3, Bible readings,
Module 4	June 23 – July 6	Video session 10, discussion forum 4, Bible readings, Whybray review
Module 5	July 7 – 20	Video sessions 11-13, discussion forum 5, Bible readings
Module 6	July 21 – Aug 3	Video sessions 14-16, discussion forum 6, Bible readings
Module 7	Aug 4 - 15	Video sessions 17-20, research paper, discussion forum 7, Bible readings, Gaebelein review

VII. COURSE METHOD:

- A. General Method: Class sessions will include the presentation of lecture material as video presentations. There will also be an opportunity to discuss issues of introduction and key portions of Scripture on the online discussion forums. Work outside of class will focus on reading assignments, brief written responses to those reading assignments, and an opportunity to reflectively expound on a chosen passage of Old Testament Scripture.
- B. Online Method: The uniqueness of distance learning necessitates unique learning experiences and methods. The power of an online course management system like Moodle makes unique assessment methods possible. As a result, this online course will follow the module schedule above. Grades will be given for the viewing of video sessions, participation in discussion forums, the completion of written assignments, and exams. In each case, the deadline will be midnight on the last day of the module.

VIII. COURSE TEXTS:

The Holy Bible (any translation)

Whybray, R. Norman. *Introduction to the Pentateuch*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1995.

Gaebelein, Frank, ed. *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, vol. 2.

IX. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- A. Reading:** Read the assigned portions of the text of the Pentateuch according to the following module schedule – a reading report will be due at the end of the session.
1. Genesis 1-35
 2. Genesis 36-50; Exodus 1-12
 3. Exodus 13-40
 4. Leviticus
 5. Numbers
 6. Deuteronomy 1-26
 7. Deuteronomy 27-34
- B. Writing:**
1. A 1,000-word Book Review of the text by Whybray will be due by July 6. Use the “Book Reports & Reviews” guidelines.
 2. A 1,000-word Book Review of the text edited by Gaebelein will be due by August 15.
- C. Discussion:** Each module will include a discussion forum question posed by the instructor. Every student is required to post one response to the questions and to respond to at least one other student response. Forum participation will be graded according to the quality of critical thinking and the correctness of language usage.
- D. Research & Writing:**
1. Research Paper:
 - a. A minimum of six (6) pages in length.
 - b. The research topic will focus on a background issue such as the “Documentary Hypothesis” or “Theories of Creation.”
 - c. A minimum of five (3) sources should be included in the bibliography.
 2. Format Guidelines:
 - a. All written papers shall be typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman font, 12 cpi, black ink on white paper 8½ x 11, portrait.
 - b. Prepared according to Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th ed. (copies in library).
 3. Due by August 15.

X. COURSE EVALUATION:

A. Grade:

Bible Reading	15 %
Discussion Forums	15 %
Whybray Review	20 %
Gaebelein Review	20 %
Research Paper	<u>30 %</u>
	100 %

B. Attendance & Late Grades: Regular, successful and punctual attendance is expected of all students enrolled. The student who presents the instructor with an adequate and documented reason for an absence will be given an opportunity to make up the work. Adequate reasons involve circumstances beyond the student's control. It is the responsibility of the student to make the necessary arrangements to make up missed assignments, including exams. If an adequate reason is not given and/or arrangements are not made, the assignment/exam will be reduced by one letter grade.

C. Beacon University Plagiarism Policy: According to the American Heritage Dictionary, 2nd College Edition, plagiarism is defined as taking and using "as one's own the writings or ideas of another." Plagiarism shall include failure to use quotation marks or other conventional markings around material quoted from another source. Plagiarism shall also include paraphrasing a specific passage from a source without indicating accurately what that source is. Plagiarism shall further include letting another person compose or rewrite a student's written assignment. Students found guilty of academic dishonesty will be subject to a range of penalties up to, and including, dismissal from the University. All incidents of academic dishonesty are to be reported by the faculty member to the Academic Vice President.

XI. COURSE PROFESSOR:

Name: Larry Asplund

Degrees:

B.A., Philosophy and Biblical Studies

M.A., Biblical Literature

D.Min., Leadership and Spiritual Formation

Faculty Rank: Assistant Professor

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Office Hours on Campus: 8-5, Monday through Friday

XII. COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Introductions and Surveys

- Anderson, G. W. *A Critical Introduction to the Old Testament*. London: Duckworth, 1974.
- Archer, Gleason. *A Survey of Old Testament Introduction*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1964. (Conservative)
- Bruce, F. F. *Israel and the Nations*. London: Paternoster Press, 1963. (Conservative)
- Childs, B.S. *Introduction to the Old Testament Scriptures*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1979.
- Eissfeldt, Otto. *The Old Testament: an Introduction*. Trans. P. R. Ackroyd. New York: Harper & Row, 1965. (very liberal)
- Francisco, Clyde T. *Introducing the Old Testament*. Rev. ed. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1977.
- Geisler, Norman. *A Popular Survey of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1977. (Conservative: popular - but brief)
- Harrison, R. K. *Introduction to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1969. (Conservative: most exhaustive)
- Hughes, Gerald and Stephen Travis. *Harper's Introduction to the Bible*. New York: Harper & Row, 1981.
- Hummel, Horace. *The Word Becoming Flesh*.
- Jenson, Irving L. *Jensen's Survey of the Old Testament*. (popular - usually does not deal with the critical problems)
- Kitchen, K. A. *Ancient Orient and the Old Testament*. Chicago: Inter-Varsity Press, 1966. (Conservative)
- LaSor, William. *Old Testament Survey*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing, 1982.
- Laurin, Robert B. *The Laypersons Introduction to the Old Testament*. Philadelphia: Judson Press, 1991.
- Merril, Eugene. *An Historical Survey of the Old Testament*. Nunley, NJ: Craig Press, 1966. (Conservative)
- Payne, J. Barton. *An Outline of Hebrew History*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1954. (Conservative)
- Raven, John. *Old Testament Introduction*.
- Young, Edward J. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1949. (Conservative)
- Watts, J. Wash. *Old Testament Teaching*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1967. (Conservative)

Commentaries on the Pentateuch

- Cole, R. Dennis. *Numbers*. New American Commentary, ed. E. Ray Clendenen. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2000.
- Cole, R. Alan. *Exodus: An Introduction & Commentary*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries, ed. D. J. Wiseman. London: Tyndale Press, 1973.
- Gaebelein, Frank, ed. *Expositor's Bible Commentary*, vols. 2-3.
- Hamilton, Victor P. *Handbook of the Pentateuch*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1982.
- Harrison, R. K. *Leviticus: An Introduction & Commentary*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries, ed. D. J. Wiseman. London: Tyndale Press, 1980.
- Kidner, Derek. *Genesis: An Introduction & Commentary*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries, ed. D. J. Wiseman. London: Tyndale Press, 1967.

Mathews, Kenneth A. *Genesis 1-11:26*. New American Commentary, ed. E. Ray Clendenen. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1996.

Merrill, Eugene H. *Deuteronomy*. New American Commentary, ed. E. Ray Clendenen. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1994.

Rooker, Marker F. *Leviticus*. New American Commentary, ed. E. Ray Clendenen. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2000.

Sailhamer, John H. *The Pentateuch As Narrative*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1992.

Stigers, Harold G. *A Commentary on Genesis*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1976.

Wenham, Gordon J. *The Book of Leviticus*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament, ed. R. K. Harrison. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1979.

Whybray, R. Norman. *Introduction to the Pentateuch*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1995.

Archaeology

Albright, W. F. *Archaeology and the Religion of Israel*. 3rd Edition. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1953.

Thompson, J.A. *The Bible and Archaeology*. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1962.

Unger, Merrill. *Archaeology and the Old Testament*. Zondervan Publishing, 1954. (Conservative)

_____. *Ungers Bible Handbook*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1984.

History

Bright, John. *A History of Israel*. 4th ed. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1959. (Liberal)

Edersheim, Alfred. *The Bible History of the Old Testament*.

Harrison, R.K. *A History of Old Testament Times*. London: Marshall, Morgan & Scott, 1957. (Conservative)

Hester, H. I. *Heart of Hebrew History*.

Isserlin, B. S. J. *The Israelites*. London: Thames & Hudson, 1998.

Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. *A History of Israel from the Bronze Age through the Jewish Wars*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1998. (Conservative: excellent)

Pfeiffer, Charles. *Old Testament History*.

Schultz, Samuel. *Old Testament Speaks*. New York: Harper & Bros., 1960. (Conservative)

Unger, Merrill F. *Israel and the Aramaeans of Damascus*. London: James Clarke & Co., 1957.

Wood, Leon. *Survey of Israel's History*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1970. (Conservative)

Other Helpful Books for Old Testament Study.

Aharoni, Yohanan. *The Land of the Bible: A Historical Geography*. Rev. ed. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1979.

Archer, Gleason. *Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1982.

Botterweck, G. Johannes and Ringgren, eds. *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament*. 11 vols. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans.

Cate, Robert L. *Old Testament Roots for New Testament Faith*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1982.

Dyrness, William. *Themes in Old Testament Theology*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1979.

Gaebelein, Frank, ed. *Expositor's Bible Commentary*, vol. 1. "Introductory Articles."

Harris, R. Laird, Gleason Archer, and Bruce Waltke, eds. *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. 2 Vols. Chicago: Moody Press, 1980.

Kitchen, Kenneth. *The Ancient Orient and the Old Testament*.

_____. *The Bible in Its World*.

McDowell, Josh. *More Evidence that Demands A Verdict*.

Smith, Ralph L. *Old Testament Theology: Its History, Method, and Message*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1993.

Wood, Leon. *The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament*.

Videos

Vanderlann, Ray. *That They World May Know*. Colorado Springs, CO: Focus On the Family, 1998.