

**BIBL 5210 OLD TESTAMENT 1:
PENTATEUCH AND INTERPRETATION**
Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy
North Park Theological Seminary Course Syllabus

Fall 2023, Hybrid Format:

Thursday evenings (synchronous sessions), 5:45-7:15 pm central time, and weekly asynchronous lectures

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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

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Cell phone: (847) 971-4544

- *Email & Cell:* During the semester, please feel free to email and/or text me M-F, during business hours (please confirm your name/class if you text). I usually respond to email and texts within 24 hours, M-F.
- *Meeting with professor.* Students are welcome to schedule an appointment to meet in-person, or to speak by phone or Zoom at any point in the semester. If you are having any difficulties in the course, I encourage you to be in contact early on so we can problem solve together.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

OT1 is a graduate-level seminary course on the basic theological literature of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament. We will use English translations of the biblical text. This course investigates the overarching narrative content of the first five books of the Old Testament known as the *Torah* in Jewish contexts and as the *Pentateuch* in Christian settings (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy). This course provides an overview of the main hermeneutical strategies for interpreting these books (and the OT in general) and the varied commitments behind each approach. The approach in this course to the five books is both *canonical* and *historical*, so it covers the *theology* of the texts as well as their most prominent interpretive settings in Israel's history. Attention will be given to cultural backgrounds, critical problems, and literary genres as they aid interpretation of specific texts. The primary goal is to prepare students to appreciate, interpret, and teach/preach from these books within the ministries of the Church. The power and passion of the narratives and laws we will study together are essential parts of the God-breathed Scripture to which 2 Timothy 3:16 refers. As such, affirming the Pentateuch as the foundation of God's revealed and authoritative Word is a fundamental value in the approach of this course.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

An English **Bible**. You may choose your preferred English version.

Gorman, Michael J., editor. *Scripture and Interpretation: A Global, Ecumenical Introduction to the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2017. (8 of the 24 essays [162 pages] in this volume are required reading)

Hamilton, Victor P. *Handbook on the Pentateuch*. Second Edition. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2015. (450 pages)

Vogt, Peter T. *Interpreting the Pentateuch: An Exegetical Handbook*. Handbooks for Old Testament Exegesis. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2009. (214 pages)

A few articles and book chapters, which will be available as PDFS on Canvas by the start of the course:

5 articles from: Alexander, T. Desmond, and David W. Baker, editors. *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch [DOTP]*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003.

Alexander, "Authorship of the Pentateuch;" Taylor, "Form Criticism;" Klingbeil, "Historical Criticism;" Baker, "Source Criticism;" Garrett, "Traditio-Historical Criticism." (53 pages)

2 chapters from: Averbeck, Richard E. *The Old Testament Law for the Life of the Church: Reading the Torah in the Light of Christ*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2022

Chapter 2: "The Nature and Progression of Redemptive Covenants."

Chapter 3: “The Mosaic Law Collections and the Redemptive Setting of the Law.” (81 pages)
1 chapter from: Howard Jr., David M., and Michael A. Grisanti, editors. *Giving the Sense: Understanding and Using Old Testament Historical Texts*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2003.
Chapter 5: Richard E. Averbeck, “Factors in Reading the Patriarchal Narratives: Literary, Historical, and Theological Dimensions.” (20 pages)

Important notes on course reading & instructional format:

- For a 3-hour course at NPTS, the standard is 1,000 pages of reading requirement. The above represents about 980 pages of required reading.
- Students do not have any *required* Bible reading, but it is *strongly* recommended that students read through the biblical text of the Pentateuch as we proceed through the course.
- This hybrid course usually includes both synchronous (1.5 hours) and asynchronous (1.5 hours) instruction on a weekly basis.
- Additionally, students should plan to devote 3 hours each week per credit hour for coursework outside of instructional hours.
- Students are expected to be actively present at every synchronous instruction session. A student absence, if ever needed, should be rare and exceptional, and it should be arranged with the instructor.

A Few Further Helpful Sources:

- Alexander, T. Desmond, and David W. Baker, eds. *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003.
- Arnold, Bill T., and Brent A. Strawn, eds. *The World Around the Old Testament: The People and Places of the Ancient Near East*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2016.
- Beitzel, Barry J. *The New Moody Atlas of the Bible*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2009.
- Birch, Bruce C., Walter Brueggemann, Terrence E. Fretheim, and David L. Peterson. *A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament*. 2nd edition. Nashville: Abingdon, 2005.
- Charles, J. Dary, ed. *Reading Genesis 1-2: An Evangelical Conversation*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 2013.
- Freedman, D. N., ed. *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.
- Halton, Charles, ed. *Genesis: History, Fiction, or Neither? 3 Views on the Bible's Earliest Chapters*. Counterpoints: Bible and Theology. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2015.
- Hess, Richard S. *The Old Testament: A Historical, Theological, and Critical Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2016.
- Kitchen, K. A. *On the Reliability of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.
- King, Philip J., and Lawrence Stager. *Life in Biblical Israel*. Library of Ancient Israel. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2001.
- Longman III, Tremper. *Old Testament Commentary Survey*. 5th edition. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2013.
- Provan, Ian, V. Philips Long, and Tremper Longman III. *A Biblical History of Israel*. 2nd edition. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2015.
- _____. *The Meaning of the Pentateuch: Revelation, Composition, and Interpretation*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2009.
- Vanhoozer, Kevin J. *Dictionary for the Theological Interpretation of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005.
- _____. *The Lost World of Adam and Eve: Genesis 2-3 and The Human Origins Debate*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2015.
- _____. *Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament*. 2nd edition. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2018.
- Walton, John H., and Tremper Longman III. *The Lost World of the Flood: Mythology, Theology and the Deluge Debate*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2018.
- Walton, John H., et al., eds. *Behind the Scenes of the Old Testament: Cultural, Social, and Historical Contexts*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2018.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The major North Park Theological Seminary degree learning outcomes this course intends to address are:

MACF: “Interpret Scripture with historical and theological integrity in relation to Christian formation.”

MACM: “Interpret Scripture with historical and theological integrity in relation to one’s ministry.”

MATS: “Interpret Scripture with historical and theological integrity for diverse communities and contexts.”

MDIV: “Interpret Scripture with historical and theological integrity for diverse churches, communities, and contexts.”

IDEA OBJECTIVES

North Park University uses the IDEA course rating system to measure student progress towards learning objectives and to measure student satisfaction with their overall learning experience. These course evaluations are administered at the end of the term and you will be notified by email when they are ready for you to complete. The results of these evaluations are very important to us and we use them for ongoing efforts to improve the quality of our courses. The overarching IDEA objectives for this course are as follows:

1. Based on engagement with course lectures and working through the required course readings, students will learn to recognize, recall and identify: (a) the main historical periods, (b) the key geographical areas, (c) the basic literary structure, (d) the basic people, places and events and (e) the major interpretive issues of the five books of the Pentateuch, by working through a midterm exam study guide and a final exam study guide.

[Knowledge, Comprehension]

2. By means of a written assignment, students will describe, summarize, and explain the key exegetical issues and the principle scholarly views of a select text from the Pentateuch and apply them to their current ministry setting.

[Analysis, Application]

3. By means of a written assignment, students will carefully analyze and synthesize contrasting scholarly perspectives on a key text in the Pentateuch.

[Analysis, Synthesis]

4. By means of a written assignment, students will (a) evaluate and (b) briefly articulate their own position on contrasting scholarly perspectives on a key text in the Pentateuch.

[Evaluation]

COURSE ASSESSMENTS *IN BRIEF*:

The specific learning outcomes noted above will be assessed through the following methods:

1. Midterm and Final Exams:

Students will take a midterm exam (week 9 of the course), covering the lecture material from the *first* half of the course, and a final exam (week 16 of the course), covering the lecture material from the *second* half of the course (so the final exam is not comprehensive).

Both exams will test the students’ knowledge of: (a) the main historical periods, (b) the key geographical areas, (c) the basic literary structure, and (d) the major interpretive issues of the five books of the Pentateuch. A detailed study guide for both exams will be provided. The questions on both exams will flow directly from the study guides and they will be objective in nature.

Important note: for the midterm and final exams, *online students* will need to identify a person who can proctor the exam at the same time (preferably) that the on-campus students are taking the exam. The professor will email a copy of the exam to the proctor, to be printed and taken by the online student, and the proctor will scan and send the exam back to the professor.

[Course Objective 1, Knowledge & Comprehension]

2. Exegetical Paper:

Students will write a 7-10 page exegetical paper on a short passage from the Pentateuch. Students will pick a passage from a given list (see further below). This paper is due posted on Canvas by Friday December 1, midnight central time.

[Course Objectives 2-4, Analysis, Application, Synthesis, Evaluation]

3. Reading:

Students will complete the course reading according to the schedule below. A reading completion report will be turned in by Friday December 15, midnight central time.

[Course Objective 1: Knowledge & Comprehension]

4. Asynchronous video lectures:

As this is a hybrid course format (as noted above: most weeks consist of 1.5 hours of weekly live *synchronous* class time and 1.5 hours of weekly *asynchronous* lecture time), about half of the course lectures will be delivered in online video format. Students will receive credit for carefully working through these video lectures. A video lectures completion report will be completed and turned in by Friday December 15, midnight central time.

[Course Objective 1: Knowledge & Comprehension]

GRADING

The final grade for this course will be computed according to the following percentages:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Midterm Exam: | 15% |
| 2. Final Exam: | 15% |
| 3. Exegetical Paper: | 30% |
| 4. Reading: | 25% |
| 5. Asynchronous video lectures: | 15% |

Late turn-in policy for the exegetical paper:

- The exegetical paper is due Friday December 1, midnight central time.
- I will accept the exegetical paper, with a late penalty, up until Friday December 15, midnight central time.
- For each day that the paper is late after December 1 (and up until Friday December 15), I will deduct 2% from the paper's grade.
- I will *not* accept the paper *after* Friday December 15.

The North Park Theological Seminary grading scale is as follows:

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

COURSE ASSESSMENTS *IN DETAIL*:

1. Midterm Exam and Final Exam:

a. Midterm Exam: 15% of final grade

- i. A midterm exam study guide will be posted on Canvas by week 1 of the course. The study guide will cover the lecture material, and some key issues from the readings, from the first half of the course: *hermeneutics, overview of the Pentateuch and Genesis*.
- ii. The midterm exam will be given during the live synchronous class time, week 9, on Thursday 10/26. As noted above, online students will need to identify a person who can proctor the midterm exam and who can be in email communication with the course professor.
- iii. The midterm exam will consist of objective questions: short answer, matching, fill-in-the blank. The test will be out of 100 points. Every question will flow directly from the study guide. Please take the time to carefully work through the midterm exam study guide in preparation for this exam. No notes or Bible will be allowed when taking the midterm exam.

b. Final Exam: 15% of final grade

- i. A final exam study guide will be posted on Canvas by week 10. This study guide will cover the lecture material, and some key issues from the readings, from the second half of the course: *Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy*.
- ii. The final exam will be given during the last week of the course—week 16—either during the day on Thursday 12/14 or Friday 12/15 (specific day & time TBA). As with the midterm exam, online students will need to identify a person who can proctor the final exam and who can be in email communication with the professor.
- iii. The final exam will also consist of objective questions: short answer, matching, fill-in-the blank. The test will be out of 100 points. Every question will flow directly from the study guide. Please take the time to carefully work through the final exam study guide in preparation. No notes or Bible will be allowed when taking the final exam.

2. Exegetical Paper: 30% of final grade

a. Passage Choice: for this paper, students will pick *one passage* to work on from the following list:

- i. Genesis 1:26-31
- ii. Genesis 12:1-9
- iii. Exodus 1:15-22
- iv. Exodus 19:1-9
- v. Leviticus 10:1-11
- vi. Leviticus 19:1-8
- vii. Numbers 12:1-9
- viii. Numbers 13:25-33
- ix. Deuteronomy 10:12-22
- x. Deuteronomy 30:11-20

b. *Formatting/Basic Research Instructions:*

- i. This paper should be between 7-10 pages, formatted as follows: 12-point Times New Roman font, 1-inch margins, double-spaced.
- ii. Use at least 8 academic sources: commentaries, academic books, encyclopedia/dictionary entries/articles, journal articles, essays.
- iii. Use simple in-text parenthetical notes in this paper, (Author, page #), like this: (Clayton, 243), and have a final bibliography. If you have more than one source by the same author, also include a short form of the title for that author in the parenthetical note, like this: (Clayton, *Symbol*, 250).
- iv. Your paper should have 4 sections (see below), plus a short introduction and conclusion, and a final bibliography. Follow the Turabian style for the bibliography, and this [website](#) can help you with that.
- v. Generally, you may also consult the NPTS writing handbook [here](#). Contact the professor directly (and early in the semester) if you would like to meet with a research/writing advisor to help with your exegetical paper.

c. *Writing Instructions:*

- i. The goal of this paper is to carefully exegete a short passage in the Pentateuch, briefly consider various levels of biblical contexts for your passage, and briefly reflect on how you would apply your passage in a teaching or preaching Christian ministry context.
- ii. Section 1: Passage Analysis
 1. Here, your goal is to explain *what* your passage says and what the exegetical issues in the passage are. Consider these kinds of questions:
 2. What is the main theme of your passage and how is this theme developed?
 3. What are any key words? What variations do you observe when you look at your passage in different English versions?
 4. What are the key issues brought up by commentators with your passage? On what issues are scholars disagreeing in this passage? Are there any key Hebrew language/grammar issues that scholars help you get at? Are there any key socio-cultural, historical and/or geographical issues?
 5. Make sure you discuss at least 2 contrasting scholarly positions related to an issue in your passage and give your opinion on the issue.
 6. Section 1: *4-5 pages, with a short introduction to the whole paper.*
- iii. Section 2: Passage in Context of its OT Book
 1. Here, your goal is to briefly reflect on the way your passage relates to the Old Testament book in which it is set. Consider these kinds of questions:
 2. What is the immediate literary context of your passage? Why is it set in this context?
 3. What is/are the next literary/canonical layer(s) of your passage in its Old Testament book?
 4. What is the broad function of your passage in the overall argument of the book in which it is set?
 5. Section 2: *1-2 pages*

- iv. Section 3: Passage in Broader Biblical Contexts
1. Here, your goal is to bring together your work from the previous two sections and briefly reflect on the way your passage connects to broader biblical themes. Respond to these questions:
 2. What is one specific Old Testament theme that your passage contributes to? Discuss at least one *other* OT passage in support.
 3. What is one specific New Testament theme that your passage contributes to? Discuss at least one NT passage in support.
 4. Section 3: *1-2 pages*.
- v. Section 4: Passage in a Ministry Context
1. Here, your goal is to quickly synthesize your findings from the previous three sections and briefly *apply* them to a specific ministry setting. Consider these questions:
 2. Identify a current ministry setting that you are familiar with, where you would preach or teach from your paper's passage.
 3. Reflect briefly on how you would faithfully apply the truths of your passage to the audience you have identified in your ministry example.
 4. Section 4: *about 1 page, with a short conclusion for the whole paper*.
- d. Grading Sheet: I will use this when grading the exegetical paper.

<i>Exegetical Paper Grading Sheet</i>	
<p>Formatting & Bibliography:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the paper between 7-10 pages? • Is the paper formatted with 12-point Times New Roman font, with 1-inch margins and double spaced? • Are at least 8 academic sources used? Are they properly cited <i>within the paper</i> with (Author, page #) in-text citations? Are short form titles used in the (Author, <i>Short Title</i>, page #) citations, if needed? • Is the bibliography properly formatted in the Turabian style? • Does the paper have a short introduction and conclusion, and four clearly identified sections? 	/ 15 pts
<p>Section 1: Passage Analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the main theme of the passage clearly identified? • Is the literary development of the passage properly discussed? • Are any key words discussed? Are observations from various English versions of the passage brought forth? • Are the overall key issues of the passage effectively discussed? • Are the key Hebrew/grammar issues discussed? • Are <u>at least two</u> contrasting scholarly positions on this passage discussed? Is the student's opinion clearly given here? • Are any significant contextual socio-cultural, historical and/or geographical issues presented? 	/ 45 pts

<p>Section 2: Passage in Context of its OT Book</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the immediate literary context of the passage in its OT book properly identified? • Are the next level contextual layers in the OT book briefly identified? • Is the broad function of the passage in the overall argument of its OT book discussed? 	/ 15 pts
<p>Section 3: Passage in Biblical Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is one broader Old Testament theme related to the passage discussed? Is at least one other Old Testament passage briefly discussed in support? • Is one broader New Testament theme related to the passage discussed? Is at least one New Testament passage briefly discussed in support? 	/ 15 pts
<p>Section 4: Passage in a Ministry Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is a current ministry setting clearly identified? • Is the application of the passage in a teaching or preaching ministry setting effectively highlighted? 	/ 10 pts
<p>Comments:</p>	<p>TOTAL:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">/ 100 pts</p>

3. Reading Report: 25% of final grade

- a. Students should keep a record of the completion of their weekly reading requirements, using the reading report. See below for a copy of the reading report, and the instructions for filling it out. A digital copy of the reading report will be available on Canvas at the start of the class.
- b. The completed reading report is due posted on Canvas by Friday 12/15, midnight central time.

<i>OTI Reading Report</i>			
Student Name:			
Raw score:	/ 48 points	Final grade percentage:	/ 25%
<p>For the required readings for each of the following modules (except modules 4 & 5), record a number between 0 and 4, according to this scale:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> 4 = 100% completed 3 = 75-99% completed 2 = 50-74 % completed 1 = less than 50% completed 0 = none of the readings completed </p> <p>NOTE: readings <i>cannot</i> be made up for credit (i.e., please don't go back and change your reading completion number after the due date for a given week).</p>			

Weeks:	Completion (0-4):
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	<i>No reading due: Reading week</i>
9	<i>No reading due: Midterm exam</i>
10	
11	
12	
13	<i>No reading due: Thanksgiving</i>
14	
15	
16	<i>No reading due: Final week</i>

- 4. Asynchronous Video Lectures:** 15% of final grade
- a. For the weeks that asynchronous lecture videos are due, students will keep a record of their completion of these lecture videos.
 - b. A copy of the video lectures report to be used is given below and a digital copy will be available on Canvas at the start of the course.
 - c. This video lectures report will be due posted on Canvas by Friday December 15, midnight central time.

OT1 Video Lectures Report

Student Name:

Raw score: / 44 points

Final grade percentage: / 15%

For the required lecture videos for each of the following modules (except modules 4 & 5), record a number between 0 and 4, according to this scale:

4 = 100% completed

3 = 75-99% completed

2 = 50-74 % completed

1 = less than 50% completed

0 = none of the videos completed

NOTE: these *cannot* be made up for credit (i.e., please don't go back and change your video lectures completion number after the due date for a given week).

Weeks:	Completion (0-4):
1	
2	
3	<i>No lecture videos due: 1 synchronous class session on 9/15</i>
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	<i>No lecture videos due: Reading week</i>
9	<i>No lecture videos due: Midterm exam</i>
10	
11	
12	
13	<i>No lecture videos due: Thanksgiving</i>
14	
15	
16	<i>No lecture videos due: Final week</i>

ACADEMIC HONESTY

In keeping with our Christian heritage and commitment, North Park University 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 will receive a failing grade on the assignment and 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. Signing an attendance roster for another who is not present.

For additional information, see the [Seminary Academic Catalog](#), pp. 25–26.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Your experience in this class is important to me. North Park is committed to creating inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. If you have already established your accommodations, please share your accommodation letter with me so we can discuss how your accommodations will be implemented in this course. If you have not yet established services and have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations, please email the Disability Access Specialist or contact by phone (773-244-5737). Student Engagement facilitates the interactive process that establishes reasonable accommodations.

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](#).

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Week 1—8/31: Introduction and Hermeneutics

By Thursday class time:

Watch online videos for:

Lecture 2: The World Behind the Text—Hermeneutics 1

Read:

Gorman, chs. 1-2:

Zilonka & Gorman, “The Bible: A Book, A Story, an Invitation

Wenell, “The Setting: Biblical Geography, History, and Archaeology”

DOTP, 2 articles:

Alexander, “Authorship of the Pentateuch” (Posted on Canvas)

Baker, “Source Criticism” (Posted on Canvas)

Thursday synchronous class time, main topic:

Lecture 1: Introduction to the Class, Syllabus Overview

Week 2—9/7: Genesis 1 and 2

By Thursday class time:

Watch online videos for:

Lecture 3: Genesis 1—Creation

Read:

Hamilton, ch. 1 “Creation and the Fall (1-3)”

Vogt, chs 1-2, “The Genres of the Pentateuch” & “The Major Themes of the Pentateuch”

Thursday synchronous class time, main topic:

Lecture 4: Genesis 2—Creation Revisited

Week 3—9/15: Hermeneutics and Genesis 3

No Thursday evening class meeting *or* asynchronous class time this week.

One synchronous session this week: Friday 9/15 8am – 12 pm.

Session topics:

Lecture 5: The World of the Text Itself—Hermeneutics 2

Lecture 6: Genesis 3—The Fall into Sin

Read:

Vogt, chs. 3-4, “Getting Started,” “Interpreting the Pentateuch”

DOTP, 2 articles:

Taylor, “Form Criticism” (Posted on Canvas)

Garrett, “Traditio-Historical Criticism” (Posted on Canvas)

Week 4—9/21: Hermeneutics

No Thursday evening synchronous meeting this week (professor will be busy with the Symposium): all class time is asynchronous this week.

Students are encouraged to attend the Symposium on campus or on live stream on Friday 9/22 and Saturday 9/23.

By Thursday class time:

Watch online videos for:

Lecture 7: The Reader in front of the Text—Hermeneutics 3

Read:

Gorman, chs. 4-5:

McGinnis, “The Scriptures of Israel (The Christian Old Testament)”

Skinner, “Significant Noncanonical Writings”

DOTP, 1 article:

Klingbeil, “Historical Criticism” (Posted on Canvas)

Week 5—9/28: Hermeneutics & Genesis 4-11

By Thursday class time:

Watch online videos for:

Lecture 8: Canonical Text and Contextual Theologies—Hermeneutics 4

Read:

Gorman, chs. 5-7:

Holmes, “From Books to Library: The Formation of the Biblical Canons”

Barré, “From Here to There: The Transmission and Translation of the Bible”

Hamilton, ch. 2 “The Sequence After Creation and the Fall (4-11)”

Thursday synchronous class time, main topic:

Lecture 9: Genesis 4-11

Week 6—10/5: Genesis 12-36

By Thursday class time:

Watch online videos for:

Lecture 10: Genesis 12-25—Abram, Sarai and Hagar; Isaac and Rebekah

Read:

Hamilton, ch. 3 “Abraham (11:26-25:11)” and ch. 4 “Jacob (25:11-36:50)”

Vogt, ch. 5 “Communicating the Genres of the Pentateuch”

Averbeck, Chapter 2: “The Nature and Progression of Redemptive Covenants” (Book chapter posted on Canvas)

Thursday synchronous class time, main topic:

Lecture 11: Genesis 26-36—Jacob-Israel and Leah, Rachel, Bilhah, Zilpah

Week 7—10/12: Genesis 37-50

By Thursday class time:

Watch online videos for:

Lecture 12: Genesis 37-50: Joseph and Aseneth

Read:

Hamilton, ch. 5 “Joseph (37-50)”

Vogt, ch. 6 “Putting in all Together”

Averbeck, “Factors in Reading the Patriarchal Narratives: Literary, Historical, and Theological Dimensions.” (Book chapter posted on Canvas)

Thursday synchronous class time, main topics:

Midterm Study Guide Review & Small Group Discussion

Week 8—10/16-20: Reading Week

No Class

Week 9—10/26: Midterm Exam

Students will take the **midterm exam** in class/live online at [5:45 pm central time on Thursday 10/26](#).

Week 10—11/2: Introduction to Exodus and Exodus 1-14

By Thursday class time:

Watch online videos for:

Lecture 13: Introduction to Exodus

Read:

Hamilton, ch. 6 “The Emergence of Moses (1-6),” and ch. 7 “Plagues, Passover, and the Exodus (7:1-15:21)”

Thursday synchronous class time, main topic:

Lecture 14: Exodus 1-14—Bondage and Hardening; Disaster and Deliverance

Week 11—11/9: Exodus 15-24

By Thursday class time:

Watch online videos for:

Lecture 15: Exodus 15-18—Creation of a People by the Word of God

Read:

Hamilton, ch. 8 “Testing in the Wilderness (15:22-18:27),” and Hamilton, ch. 9 “Law and Covenant (19-24)”

Averbeck, chapter 3: “The Mosaic Law Collections and the Redemptive Setting of the Law” (Book chapter posted on Canvas)

Thursday synchronous class time, main topic:

Lecture 16: Exodus 19-24—At Sinai and the Fear of the Lord

Week 12—11/16: Exodus 25-40 & Leviticus 1-17

Only asynchronous class time this week: professor at ETS/IBR/SBL conferences (no Thursday evening synchronous class session this week).

By Friday 11/17, watch online videos for:

Lecture 17: Exodus 25-40—Name of the LORD, Golden Calf and Tabernacle

Lecture 18: Leviticus 1-17

Read:

Hamilton, ch. 10 “Tabernacle, the Golden Calf, and Covenant Renewal 25-40,” and chs. 11-13: “The Sacrificial System (1-7),” “Priestly Ordination (8-10),” “Clean and Unclean (11-15)”

Week 13—11/23: Thanksgiving No class

Week 14—11/30: Leviticus 18-27 & Numbers, Exegetical Paper

By Thursday class time:

Watch online videos for:

Lecture 19: Leviticus 18-27

Read:

Hamilton, chs. 14-15: “The Day of Atonement (16),” “A Holiness Manifesto (17-27),” and chs. 16-18: “Preparations for Departure from Sinai (1:1-10:10)” “From Sinai to Kadesh (10:11-20:11)” & “From Kadesh to Moab (20:22-36:13)”

Thursday synchronous class time, main topic:

Lecture 20: Numbers

By Friday, December 1, midnight central time: the **exegetical paper** is due, posted on Canvas

Week 15—12/7 Deuteronomy & Ten Commandments

By Thursday class time:

Watch online videos for:

Lecture 21: Deuteronomy

Read:

Hamilton, chs. 19-20: “Remember the Past (1:1-4:40)” & “Be Careful in the Future (4:41-11:32),” and chs. 21-23: “The Laws of Deuteronomy (12-26),” “Blessings and Curses (27-30),” “Moses’ Farewell” (31-34).

Thursday synchronous class time, main topic:

Lecture 22: OT Law & the Christian; The Ten Commandments; Course wrap-up

Week 16—12/14: Final Exam & Final Reports

- Student will take the **final exam** in class/live online during the day on either Thursday 12/14 or Friday 12/15 (date & time TBA, but this will most likely be during the day on Thursday 12/14)
- **Last day** that the exegetical paper can be turned in *late*: Friday 12/15, midnight central time (see late policy stated above for the exegetical paper)
- *Post* on Canvas—by Friday 12/15, midnight central time:
 - **Reading report**
 - **Video lectures report**