



BLUE RIDGE INSTITUTE

FOR THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

OT 508: Pentateuch

Westminster Church
Thursday 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Jan. 31-May 9
Brite-VA.org

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Course Description

This course presents an overview of the major themes of the Pentateuch, explaining how these themes integrate into the theology of the Old Testament, the History of Israel, and the covenantal relationship between God and Man. Ultimately, the purpose of this class is to lay a foundation for the Gospel of Jesus Christ revealed not only in the New Testament but also in the Old.

Course Objectives

By the end of the class, the student should be able to

1. Identify key micro-themes of the Pentateuch and trace their development from Genesis to Deuteronomy and beyond.
2. Outline the macro-structure of each book of the Pentateuch and the structure of the Pentateuch as a whole.
3. Articulate the central theological thrust of each book of the Pentateuch and of the Pentateuch as a whole.
4. Write an academically sound theological paper on a given topic from Scripture.

Required Texts

Morales, L. Michael. *Who Shall Ascend the Mountain of the LORD*, in *New Studies in Biblical Theology*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Press 2015. Also available as an e-book.

Alexander, T. D. *From Paradise to Promised Land: An Introduction to the Pentateuch*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2012.

Wenham, Gordon. *Exploring the Old Testament: A Guide to the Pentateuch*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2012. (If do not pass "entrance" exam, see below)

Grades

- 0%: Take Home Exam
- 20%: 2 Book Reviews, 10% each
- 25%: 1 Paper
- 25%: 1 Test
- 10% Class Participation
- 10% Reading completed
- 10% Mini-Assignments

Assignments

Take Home Exam: This test is not graded, but those students who earn below a 75% must read the third textbook by Gordon Wenham. The text is an overview of basic knowledge of the Pentateuch. The test is due at the second class meeting.

Book reviews: each student will complete two five page book reviews, one on each of the assigned texts. A template and examples will be made available in class. The student should strive to summarize the book, highlight and interact with the main thesis of the book, and react to the book's overall argument.

Paper: Each student will write one major paper on a theme or topic from the Pentateuch. The topic or theme is do by the third class meeting. The paper will be written in parts/stages to allow feedback but only the final paper will grade. The final paper will be due at the end of the semester.

Test: Students will take a final take-home exam. Multiple essay questions will be distributed to students early in the class. Three of these questions will appear on the final exam.

Reading: Students are expected to read the assigned textbooks. Class lectures will not reteach what is in the course books.

Mini-assignments: throughout the semester, small one-page papers, various articles for reading, and other small assignments will be distributed. All mini-assignments will be due at the next class meeting.

Class Calendar

January 31	Kyle: Class/Syllabus Introduction
	Roland: Overall Structure of the Pentateuch
	Roland: Genesis 1-2 The World and Eden as God's Temple
February 7	Roland: Genesis 3-4 Eden Lost: The Problem
	DUE: Take home exam
February 14	Roland: Genesis 5-11 Longing for Eden: The Problem expands
	DUE: Paper Topic
February 21	Roland: Genesis 12-50 The Road to Eden: The Problem narrows
February 28	Kyle: Exodus 1-18 The Road to Mt. Sinai
March 7	Kyle: Exodus 19-25 At Mt. Sinai
March 14	Kyle: Exodus 26-40 Mt. Sinai and Eden: The Problem revisited
	DUE: Book Review 1: Alexander
March 21	Spring Break
March 28	Roland: Leviticus 1-9 The Road to Eden
April 4	Kyle: Leviticus 10-27 Preparing to Enter Eden
April 11	Kyle: Numbers
April 18	Kyle: Numbers
April 25	Roland: Deuteronomy
	DUE: Book Review 2: Morales
May 2	Roland: Deuteronomy
	DUE: Final PAPER
May 9	Wrap-up/Dinner Discussion at area Restaurant (costs covered): Why does Pentateuch end with Israel not in the Promised Land?
May 16	FINAL EXAM DUE