OT5301 Pentateuch

Prerequisites: none

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Course Description

A study of the Pentateuch that provides orientation to the original context of the first five books of the Old Testament, as well as the influence these works had in the shaping of the Old Testament and New Testament and still have in our current context of biblical and theological studies.

Learning Objectives

Cognitive:
• Orient the Pentateuch within the culture of the ancient Near East
• Explore the theological trajectory of the Pentateuch.
• Gain new insights into the character of God with specific attention to His revelation in the Pentateuch

Affective:
• Be enriched by the devotional importance of the Pentateuch
• Engage with the manner in which God interacts with his people in the Pentateuch

Conative:
• Apply the theological witness of the Pentateuch to contemporary issues
• Articulate the importance of the Pentateuch in the rest of the Old Testament as well as in the New Testament

Course Texts

Show evidence of your reading of these textbooks through participation in class discussion as well as in your exegetical and theological research paper assignments.

Supplementary Readings: (all material will be on Reserve at the Library)

   - Read five (5) essays that are specifically related to assignments 2 and/or 3
   - Do not select the introductory essays on the specific books of the Pentateuch (e.g. Deuteronomy, Book of).

   - Read pages 173-533

3. A readings packet containing supplementary essays will be handed out in class.

Course Requirements

1. Critical Review of Assigned Readings

Submit a critical review and analysis of ALL the assigned reading above.
Guidelines:
   - Part 1 - personal reflections on each item you read
   - Part 2 - critical assessment of the readings as a whole (e.g., what are key issues raised? where is there agreement/disagreement amongst the authors? How do you view the topics in light of input from the commentators? etc.)

Length: 5-7 pages (200 to 250 words per page)
   - The length of your response for each item should be appropriate to the length of the reading (i.e., 1 to 2 pages for the Waltke commentary and up to one page for each of the five articles from the dictionary and essays)

Value: 30%
Due Date: To be arranged

2. Exegesis Paper

Prepare an exegetical research paper based on a passage from the Pentateuch.
Guidelines:
   - Conform to the general guidelines of biblical exegesis (a handout will be provided)
   - Orient the selected passage within the context of the Old Testament
   - Consider the implications of the passage for life today, especially in your own context.

Length: 12-14 pages
Value: 40%
Due Date: To be arranged

3. Theology Paper

Trace a theological theme from the Pentateuch through the remainder of the Old Testament and into the New Testament.
Guidelines:
- First examine how the theme is presented within the context of the Pentateuch
- Then engage with how the theme is developed in the rest of the OT and NT.

Length: 8-10 pages
Value: 30%
Due Date: To be arranged

Possible topics: Sinai; Theophany; Covenant; Sacrifice; People of God; Creation; a suitable topic of your choice (*must be cleared with me in advance)

Note:
- In an exegesis paper, you ‘go deep’ to examine a specific passage of the Bible
- In a theology paper, you ‘go wide’ to examine a specific theme across the entire Bible

General Assignment Guidelines

All written assignments should:
- Follow the “Chicago Style” of formatting.
- Be typed, double-spaced and follow appropriate formatting guidelines (e.g. 1 inch margins).
- Use Times New Roman font only, italics rather than underlining (including in the footnotes and bibliography), and footnotes only, not endnotes.
- Not exceed the maximum length; papers will receive a grade reduction and may not be graded at all.
- Employ gender-inclusive language wherever possible and appropriate.

Failure to follow these simple guidelines warrants a grade reduction. All assignments may be submitted to the professor’s e-mail address and in PDF format. When you submit electronic files, please name them as follows:
LASTNAME_Firstname – Course Abbreviation - Title of assignment (as given on this syllabus)
Example: LORTIE_Christopher – OT5301 – Exegesis Paper

Evaluation of Course Assignments

The grading rubric for each paper will include three categories:
- presentation,
- argumentation,
- and content
Bibliography


**Genesis Commentaries**


_____. *Genesis 1 as Ancient Cosmology.* Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2011.


**Exodus Commentaries**


**Leviticus and Numbers Commentaries**


**Deuteronomy Commentaries**


