
GENESIS- DEUTERONOMY RTS-J 1OT508 SPRING 2019

Michael G. McKelvey, Ph.D.
mmckelvey@rts.edu

Class meets each Tuesday, 9am-12pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an expositional course that covers the first five books of the Old Testament—also called the Pentateuch. Minimal attention is given to introductory matters. Primary attention is given to the exegetical, biblical-theology study of the text. Master of Divinity students should take Hebrew before enrolling in this course.

COURSE PROTOCOLS

1. *Grading Schedule.* The letter grading scale for this course is stipulated by the institutional catalogue and is summarized below.

97-100%	A	80-82%	C
94-96%	A-	78-79%	C-
91-93%	B+	75-77%	D+
88-90%	B	72-74%	D
86-87%	B-	70-71%	D-
83-85%	C+	0-69%	F

2. *Attendance and Late Assignments.* **Attendance is required.** If class is not attended, the student's final grade will be docked. Students are expected to be on time and prepared for each class session. Late assignments are docked one letter grade per day.
3. *Special Needs.* In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations (e.g. tape recorders, special adaptive equipment) is strongly encouraged to contact the instructor at the beginning of the course.
4. *Disclaimer.* This syllabus is intended to reflect accurately the learning objectives, instructional format and other information necessary for students to appraise the course. However, the instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as may become necessary.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Textbooks (in addition to a standard English Bible and Hebrew Bible)

T. Desmond Alexander, *From Paradise to the Promised Land: An Introduction to the Pentateuch*, 3rd ed. (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2012).

Miles V. Van Pelt, ed., *A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the Old Testament: The Gospel Promised* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2016).

John D. Currid, *Against the Gods: The Polemical Theology of the Old Testament* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2013).

Mark S. Gignilliant, *A Brief History of Old Testament Criticism* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012).

Recommended Reading:

Norman C. Nevin, ed., *Should Christians Embrace Evolution?* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R, 2011).

Peter T. Vogt, *Interpreting the Pentateuch: An Exegetical Handbook* (Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2009).

Victor P. Hamilton, *Handbook on the Pentateuch* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005).

Bill T. Arnold and Brent A. Strawn, ed., *The World around the Old Testament: The People and Places of the Ancient Near East* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2016).

John D. Currid, *Ancient Egypt and the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1997).

Ellis R. Brotzman and Eric J. Tully, *Old Testament Textual Criticism: A Practical Introduction*, 2nd Edition (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2016).

Assignments

1. Read all Biblical books in English and all the textbooks (Alexander, pp. 113-314). These readings constitute **15%** of the term grade. There will be a reading report the final exam where the student will indicate the percentage completed. (The student is encouraged to begin these readings as soon as possible, even before the course begins. **NO AUDIO BOOKS ALLOWED.**)
2. Hebrew students will be responsible for weekly translations and parsing (see translation schedule below). Non-Hebrew students will write three separate

three-page reviews of Alexander, Gignilliant, and Currid's book. This will constitute **15%** of the term grade. This assignment is **due April 16**.

Feb.	5	Translation 1
	12	Translation 2
	19	Translation 3
	26	Translation 4
Mar.	5	Translation 5
	19	Translation 6
	26	Translation 7
Apr	2	Translation 8
	9	Translation 9
	16	Translation 10
	23	Translation 11
	30	Translation 12

Examination

1. Five English Bible quizzes will be given during the semester on each book of the Pentateuch. Students must read each book of the Pentateuch and be prepared to answer questions by the date of each quiz. These quizzes will constitute **20%** of the term grade. The quiz schedule is as follows:
Feb. 19—The book of Genesis
March 5—The book of Exodus
March 26—The book of Leviticus
April 9—The book of Numbers
April 23—The book of Deuteronomy
2. Mid-term Exam on Lectures, **March 19**. This exam will constitute **25%** of the term grade.
3. Final Exam on Lectures and Reading, **Final Exam Week**. This exam will constitute **25%** of the term grade.

**Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes
With Mini-Justification**

Course: Genesis-Deuteronomy (OT508)
 Professor: Dr. Michael G. McKelvey
 Campus: RTS-Jackson
 Date: Spring 2019

<u>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None 	
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Strong	Significant academic paper stresses clear writing, cogent thought, and concision.
Scripture	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Strong	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Significant exegetical work 2. Original languages used in assignments and paper, and 3. Emphasis in seeing and understanding the books in the light of the whole Bible.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	Classically reformed approaches are brought to bare in the consideration of the texts
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Study of the text is part of sanctification 2. Exegetical work ends in application
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Moderate	Applications to the different areas of life made from the biblical texts
Winsomely Reformed/ Evangelistic	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	Strong	Courteous, careful interaction with other scholarship is a part of the lectures, assigned reading, and writing
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Moderate	The course focuses on bringing understanding of the text to the point where homiletical work can continue
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Minimal	Interpretation and understanding of God's revelation leads to worship
Shepherd	Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.	Moderate	Biblical knowledge and hermeneutical skill is vital in the area of church life
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	Understanding the whole Bible through biblical theology is necessary to communicating its message