

Genesis - Deuteronomy
OT5200/Fall 2020
Tuesdays 1 PM – 4 PM

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Course Description

This course covers the first five books of the Bible through literary, historical, and theological analysis. Major themes are traced through the Pentateuch as each biblical book is examined. Important theological issues, such as creation, fall, covenant, and law, are examined in the context of the ANE and Israel's own historical setting. Such analysis is foundational for understanding the rest of Scripture and for how this section of Scripture has meaning for God's people today.

Course Objectives

- a) To acquire a general knowledge of the content of the first five books of the Bible.
- b) To look at the broad picture and to see how the different parts of this section of the canon relate to each other.
- c) To understand the foundational importance of the Pentateuch for the rest of Scripture by looking at key theological issues.
- d) To examine this section of Scripture in light of the culture and history of the ANE.

Required Reading

Textbooks

- 1) Miles Van Pelt, ed. *A Biblio-Theological Introduction to the Old Testament* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2016), hereinafter *BTIOT* (Introduction; Chapters 1-5)
- 2) Richard P. Belcher, Jr., *Prophet, Priest, and King: The Roles of Christ in the Bible and Our Roles Today* (P&R, 2016), hereinafter *PPK*
- 3) R. Belcher, *The Fulfillment of God's Promises: Understanding Covenant Theology* (Christian Focus, 2020), chapters 1-8, 14 and 2 Appendices
- 4) John D. Currid, *Against the Gods* (Crossway, 2013), Prologue, Chaps 1-4, 9
- 5) Mary Ellen Buck, *The Canaanites* (Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2019)

6) V. Poythress, *The Shadow of Christ in the Law of Moses* (P & R Publishing, 1991), chapters 1-11, 15-17, Appendices A, B, C.

7) Norman C. Nevin, ed., *Should Christians Embrace Evolution? Biblical and Scientific Responses* (P & R Publishing, 2011)

8) Listen to the Convocation Address by Dr. Belcher on “The Historical Adam” available on Canvas

9) John D. Currid, “Theistic Evolution Is Incompatible with the Teachings of the Old Testament,” in *Theistic Evolution: A Scientific, Philosophical, and Theological Critique*, eds. J. P. Moreland, Stephen C. Meyer, et al (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017), 839-878; made available to the students

10) Guy P. Waters, “Theistic Evolution Is Incompatible with the Teachings of the New Testament,” in *Theistic Evolution: A Scientific, Philosophical, and Theological Critique*, eds. J. P. Moreland, Stephen C. Meyer, et al (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017), 879-926; made available to the students

Recommended Books

1) *Theistic Evolution: A Scientific, Philosophical, and Theological Critique*, eds. J. P. Moreland, Stephen C. Meyer, et al (Crossway, 2017)

2) *ESV Bible Atlas*, eds. John D. Currid and David P. Barrett (Crossway, 2010)

3) John D. Currid, *The Case for Biblical Archaeology* (P&R, 2020)

4) *Genesis: The Beginning of God’s Plan of Salvation*, R. Belcher (Christian Focus, 2012)

Assignments

1) The books from Genesis to Deuteronomy must each be read.

2) The Required Reading (see the list above and the schedule below).

3) There will be a quiz each week covering memory verses and outlines (see the Quiz Schedule). The lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Please be on time.

4) There will be two exams (a midterm and a final)

5) A research paper on a law passage (Exodus 21 through Deuteronomy). See the handout on the guidelines for the paper.

Grades

1) Exams	50%	3) Reading	15%
2) Research Paper	25%	4) Quizzes	10%

RTS Internet Policy during Class

RTS Charlotte recognizes how essential it is for students to have reliable, campus-wide access to the internet. For that reason, we have made Wi-Fi available for our student body, not only in the library and student lounges, but also in the classrooms. We know that students need to use the internet to download class materials, access files on the Cloud, and locate other important information. However, we also recognize that internet access in the classroom provides opportunity for abuse and misuse. Some students have unfortunately used their internet access to engage in many activities that distract them from the classroom lectures (e.g., surfing the web, checking sports scores, playing games). Not only does such activity hamper a student's own seminary education, but it distracts other students who can easily view the screens of nearby students. In addition, donors and classroom guests (who often sit in the back) can see this inappropriate internet usage, which reflects poorly on RTS. Classroom etiquette includes leaving cell phones turned off, refraining from surfing the Internet or playing computer games or other distracting activities. In addition, students must respect standards set by individual professors regarding the use of technology during their class.

In order to address this issue, we must appeal to the integrity of the students as ones who are preparing for a lifetime of ministry to Christ and his church. We expect each student to take personal responsibility for proper classroom technology usage and to encourage others around them to do the same. All RTS-Charlotte students are accountable to the policies stated in the Student Handbook and Academic Catalog and are therefore expected to use technology in the classroom only for appropriate class-related activities. Student conduct is under the supervision of the Dean of Students.

Student Instructions for Exams with LockDown Browser

1. Install the LockDown Browser application on the computer you intend to use for exams, prior to sitting for the exam, using this link:
<https://download.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=998253613>
 - This link is ONLY for RTS students and covers Mac and Windows applications.
 - Be sure that you are able to login to your Canvas account from the LockDown Browser before scheduling a time to take your exam.
 - The LockDown Browser application is already installed on the computers in the RTS Charlotte library. (Note that if you elect to use the library computers, your proctor must still be present throughout the duration of the exam.)
 - If you use internet filtering software (for example, Covenant Eyes) you may need to disable it before beginning an exam with LockDown Browser. Some types of filtering software can block your computer's connection to Canvas. Also, please be sure to add an exception for our Canvas URL: <https://rts.instructure.com>

2. Make arrangements with a proctor to supervise the exam within the date timeframe set by the professor. The proctor cannot be a family member, current RTS student (current = taken a class within the past year but not yet graduated), or member of the library staff. Typical proctors are pastors or church staff members. The document "Proctor Expectations Letter.doc" has been provided on your Canvas homepage in order to facilitate communication with your proctor. For your convenience, there will be several on-campus proctor blocks where a proctor will be available to supervise your exam. Dates and times will be posted on Canvas and announced in the weekly Semper.
3. The proctor must observe student taking exam and ensure that there are no devices or resources available other than the computer being used for the exam.
4. Access the exam during the specified date window in the syllabus or for finals, Academic Calendar:
 - a. Start the LockDown Browser application using a wired or known reliable WIFI connection. We do not recommend using restaurant or coffee shop WIFI to take exams.
 - b. Have your student ID number available to input into the exam.
 - c. If you use internet filtering software, you may need to disable it before beginning an exam with LockDown Browser.
 - d. Login to your Canvas account using your Self-Service username and password. If you need to reset your Self-Service password, you may do so at <https://selfservice.rts.edu>.
 - e. Navigate to the exam. You will not be able to access the exam with a standard web browser. For additional details on using LockDown Browser, review this **Student Quick Start Guide (PDF)**.
 - f. Time clock will begin once you open the exam.
 - g. Exam must be completed in one sitting. You may not exit and return to exam later.
 - h. The exam will contain questions requiring the proctor contact information, an honor pledge, and certification that your proctor was present during the entire exam period.
5. Proctors may be contacted to verify information regarding exam administration.
6. In the rare case of a technical issue (for example, if internet service goes out during exam), the proctor should contact the course TA. While the TA's may not be immediately available, the date and time of the email will document when the issue was reported. Please have your TA's contact information available for your proctor before opening the exam. Once you open the exam using the LockDown Browser, you will not be able to access other programs on your computers.

Schedule

<u>Day</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Assigned Reading</u>
August 25	Introduction to the Course Historical, Theological, and Literary: Critical Theories at a Crossroads Authorship of the Pentateuch	Nevin pp. 9-26 Currid Chaps. 1-2 Canaanites, Chaps 3-5

September 1	Genesis 1:1-2:4: An Ancient Text with Modern Implications The Days in Genesis One: A Review of the Options	<u>Genesis 1:1-2:3</u> Currid Chap. 3 Nevin pp. 73-150
September 8	Genesis One and the Meaning of Yôm The Historicity of Adam: What Difference does it Make?	<u>Genesis 2:4-3:24</u> Currid Article Waters Article Belcher Convocation
September 15	Genesis 2-3: The Origin of Our Problems Genesis 4-11: The Outworking of Sin	Nevin pp. 27-72 <u>Genesis 4-11</u> Currid Chap. 4 Cov. Bk Chap. 1-4
September 22	Covenant: God's Way of Relating to Creation Abraham: God Will Fulfill His Promises	Cov. Bk Chap. 5-7 App. 1-2 <u>Genesis 12-36</u> <i>BTIOT</i> Intro
September 29	Finish The Patriarchs Joseph: God Rewards Faithfulness	<i>BTIOT</i> Chap 1 Cov. Bk Chaps. 8, 14 <u>Genesis 37-50</u>
October 6	Fall Break/Reading Week	
October 13	Historical Review: God at Work for the Sake of His People	Nevin pp. 93-157 Canaanites, Chaps 3-5
	Midterm Exam given outside of Class	
	Different Approaches to the Role of the Law Modern Application of the Law	Poythress Chaps. 1-2 Poythress App B-C Poythress 9-11, App. A
October 20	Israel in Egypt: We Cannot Save Ourselves The Plagues: God Fights for His People	<u>Exodus 1-4</u> <i>BTIOT</i> 2 <u>Exodus 5-11</u> Currid Chap. 9

Passage for Paper Due

October 29	Redemption: God Provides For His People 16	<u>Exodus 12-19</u> Nevin pp. 158-220
	The Mosaic Covenant: Law and Tabernacle 17	<u>Exodus 20-40</u> PPK Chaps. 1
November 3	Sacrifices and Priesthood: 20 Approaching a Holy God	<u>Leviticus 1-16</u> <i>BTIOT</i> 3 PPK Chap. 2
	Leviticus 11-16: Cultic Purity 21	Poythress 3-5
November 10	Leviticus 17-27: The Holiness Code	<u>Leviticus 17-27</u> PPK Chaps. 3-5
	Numbers: Israel the Army of God	Poythress 6-8, 17 <u>Numbers</u> <i>BTOT</i> 4
November 17	No Class - ETS	
November 24	Deuteronomy: Covenant Renewal	<u>Deuteronomy</u> <i>BTOT</i> 5 PPK Chaps. 6-8
	Research Paper due Wednesday, December 2	
December 3-4, 7-8	Final Exams	



Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Genesis through Deuteronomy

Professor: Richard P. Belcher, Jr.

Campus: RTS Charlotte

Date: May 29, 2019

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
<p><i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i></p> <p><i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i></p>		<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. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	understanding through lectures and reading, articulation through essay exams and a research paper
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	focus in the class is on understanding the original meaning, with some emphasis on language and more on hermeneutics, with the goal of understanding modern meaning
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	the class has a good dose of Reformed distinctives, such as the emphasis on creation, fall, redemption, covenants, the role of the law
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Minimal	although everything in the class is geared toward better understanding who God is and a proper response to God
Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. Includes ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	several issues in class deal directly with worldview, especially the material in Genesis 1-3
Winsomely Reformed	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.)	Minimal	differing views of issues are set forth in an objective, fair, and winsome way
Pastoral Ministry	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both church and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians.	Very Minimal	this class will help a student understand the word so the student can minister the word of God