Genesis-Deuteronomy RTS-J  
OT5200 Spring 2021

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 13.**

Feb. 2 Translation 1

9 Translation 2

16 Translation 3

23 Translation 4

Mar. 2 Translation 5

9 Translation 6

23 Translation 7

30 Translation 8

Apr. 6 Translation 9

13 Translation 10

20 Translation 11

27 Translation 12

**Examination**

1. Write a paper (8-10 pages) on one of the problems of interpretation in the Pentateuch (i.e. Relationship Between Genesis 1 and 2, Who are the “sons of God,” The Challenge of Genealogies, etc.) or an exegesis paper on a specific passage from Gen-Deut. Selections require approval by the professor. This paper will constitute **20%** of the term grade. The paper is **due April 6.**
2. Mid-term Exam on Lectures, **March 23**. 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 (OT5200)

Professor: Dr. Michael G. McKelvey

Campus: RTS-Jackson

Date: Spring 2021

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| **MDiv\* Student Learning Outcomes**  *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.*  *\*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.* | | **Rubric**   * **Strong** * **Moderate** * **Minimal** * **None** | **Mini-Justification** |
| **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 | 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 | 1. Significant exegetical work  2. Original languages used in assignments, 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 bear in the consideration of the texts |
| **Sanctification** | Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification. | Moderate | 1. Study of the text is part of sanctification  2. Exegetical work ends in application |
| **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. | Moderate | Applications to the different areas of life made from the biblical texts |
| **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.) | Strong | Courteous, careful interaction with other scholarship is a part of the lectures, assigned reading, and writing |
| **Pastoral Ministry** | Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both churched and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians. | Moderate | The course focuses on bringing understanding of the text to the point where homiletical work can continue; biblical knowledge and hermeneutical skill is vital in the area of church life |