OT 501 Theology of the Pentateuch  
Spring 2013  
Instructor: Carol Kaminski

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30—11:00am  
Office Hours: TBA

Provisional Course Outline

1. Course Objectives:

The primary objective of this course is to introduce students to the content and theology of the Pentateuch. Attention will be given to the structure, content, and biblical themes of individual books, while also considering how each book contributes to the redemptive story of the Bible as a whole.

As a result of this course, a student should be able to summarize each book in the Pentateuch and the historical context of each book, demonstrate knowledge of central biblical themes in the Pentateuch, understand higher critical issues with regard to authorship of the Pentateuch, and be familiar with key ancient Near Eastern Texts (Gordon-Conwell Mission Statement #1—2).

Course Requirements:

1. Required Reading, along with notebook/notes (worth 20%):

Reading to be completed prior to the midterm exam:

1. T. Desmond Alexander, *From Eden to the Promised Land* (Baker Academic, 1995), pp. 7-31, 113-314. Select chapters to be completed prior to lectures; see schedule below.
6. Articles:
   (iii) Wolff, “The Kerygma of the Yahwist.”
   (iv) Clines, D.J.A., “Theme in Genesis 1—11.”

Reading to be completed prior to the final exam:


10. Ancient Near Eastern Texts:
   (i) The Creation Epic, Enuma Elish (*ANET*, pp. 60-72)
   (ii) Gilgamesh Epic (*ANET*, p.72-99)
   (iii) Atrahasis Epic (*ANET*, pp. 104-109)
   (iv) Hammurabi’s Code (*ANET*, 163-180)

11. The Pentateuch: English Bible

NOTEBOOK: You are required to submit a Reading Report (see p. 9), along with a notebook (either handwritten, provided it is neatly written, or typed), demonstrating that you have read the material carefully. It is recommended that you use the *Cornell two-column note system* (although this is not required), which encourages you to provide main points for each chapter, along with supporting details. You are required to write a 4-5 page summary of each book, outlining the main points of each chapter. For the ANE texts, you are required to summarize the basic storyline of the creation epics (one-page each), and provide a one-page summary of Hammurabi’s Code. The reading assignments from *From Paradise to the Promised Land*, along with the articles noted in the syllabus are to be completed prior to the class assigned. Other readings are to be completed as per the schedule above. The notebook is to be submitted at the time of your final exam. It is worth 20% of your final grade. This notebook will help you prepare for your exams as you will be tested on the assigned readings.

2. **In-class Participation (worth 10%)**:  
You will be called upon in class to review the material from the previous week, along with the assigned readings from T.D. Alexander and any other assigned readings for that week. Class participation will account for 10% of your final grade. The purpose of the weekly in-class participation is that you might actively engage with the material being discussed and be thinking through the theological implications of the theme for the Old Testament. It is recommended that as you read the assigned readings, you have in mind that you need to come to class prepared to summarize what you have read, and provide your critique of the material that is being discussed.

3. **Mid-term Exam (worth 30%) and Final exam (worth 50%)**:  
For the mid-term and final exams you need to be able to a) demonstrate knowledge of the required readings, which includes being able to summarize the main points of the works cited and give your critique; b) be able to provide a summary of each book of the Pentateuch (Genesis—Leviticus for the midterm; Genesis—Deuteronomy for the final), demonstrating knowledge of the historical context of each book, its key theological themes and its contribution to the theology of the Old Testament; and c) on the final exam you should be able to discuss authorship of the Pentateuch, which includes being able to provide a summary and critique of higher critical views of authorship, the history of interpretation, and an evangelical view of authorship. The midterm is worth 30% of your grade, and the final is worth 50% of your grade.
# Provisional Course Schedule

| Week 1 | Tuesday Jan. 29  
|---|---|
| **Intro to Course & Pentateuch**  
**Introduction to authorship** | Thursday, Jan. 31 (Genesis)  
*God’s Temple City* (ch.7)  
Read Wenham, “Sanctuary Symbolism in the Garden of Eden.” |
| Week 2 | Tuesday, Feb. 5 (Genesis)  
*Royal Lineage* (ch. 9)  
Read Robinson, “Literary Function of Genealogies.” | Thursday, February 7 (Genesis)  
*Blessing to the Nations* (ch.10)  
Read Wolff, “The Kerygma of the Yahwist.” |
| Week 3 | Tuesday, Feb. 12 (Genesis)  
*Paradise Lost* (ch. 10)  
Read Clines, “Theme in Genesis 1—11.” | Thursday, February 14 (Genesis)  
*Abrahamic Promises*  
Read Clines, *Theme of the Pentateuch*, Chs. 5—6. |
| Week 4 | **Reading Week Feb 18—22** |  |
| Week 5 | Tuesday, Feb. 26 (Genesis)  
*By Faith Abraham . . .* (ch.12) | Thursday, Feb. 28 (Genesis)  
*Faith and obedience*  
| Week 6 | Tuesday, March 5 (Exodus)  
*Who is the LORD?* (ch. 13 & 14) | Thursday, March 7 (Exodus)  
*The Golden Calf Story: God’s grace* |
| Week 7 | Tuesday, March 12 (Exodus)  
*The Covenant at Sinai* (ch.15) | Thursday, March 14 (Exodus)  
*The Covenant at Sinai*  
Read Dumbrell, *Covenant & Creation*, Ch. 3. |
| Week 8 | Tuesday, March 19 (Leviticus)  
*The Tabernacle* (ch.16)  
Jenson, *Graded Holiness*, pp. 88-114. | Thursday, March 21 (Leviticus)  
*Be Holy* (ch.17)  
Jenson, *Graded Holiness*, pp. 40-55, |
| Week 9 | **Reading Week March 25—29** |  |
| Week 10 | Tuesday, April 2 (Leviticus)  
*The Sacrificial System* (ch.18) | Thursday, April 4 (Leviticus)  
*Clean and Unclean Foods* (ch.19) |
| Week 11 | Tuesday, April 9 (Numbers)  
*To the Promised Land* (ch. 21) | **Midterm exam**  
**Thursday, April 11** |
| Week 12 | Tuesday, April 16 (Deut.)  
*Love and Loyalty* (ch. 22) | Thursday, April 18 (Deut.)  
*Why Israel?* (ch. 23) |
| Week 13 | Tuesday, April 23 (Deut.)  
*The Pentateuch* (ch. 24) | Thursday, April 26 (Deut.)  
*Theological Themes* |
| Week 14 | **Final Exam Week: Exam TBA** |  |
BIBLIOGRAPHY


Clines, D. J. A., *The Theme of the Pentateuch* (JSOTSup, 10; Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1979).


__________, *From Noah To Israel: Realization of the Primaeval Blessing After the Flood* (JSOTSup 413; T&T Clark, 2004).


__________, *CASKET EMPTY: God’s Plan of Redemption through History. Old Testament Timeline* (Casket Empty Media, 2010).


______, *Ancient Orient and Old Testament* (Downers Grove, IL and Leicester: InterVarsity Press, 1966)


______, *Tracing the Eschatological Movement of the Kingdom of God from Creation to Consummation* (Two Age Press, 2002)


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Wilson, R.R. *Genealogy and History in the Biblical World* (YNER 7; New Haven, Yale University, 1977).

**Commentaries**

**Genesis**

**Exodus**
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**Leviticus**


**Numbers**


**Deuteronomy**


Merrill, E.H., *Deuteronomy*. NAC (Broadman & Holman, 1994).
### Reading Report:
To be submitted with your book report at the final exam

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Box #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Left column:** Please mark *only* those books/articles that you have read. If you have *not* read the book in its entirety, please note the *percentage* of the book/article that you have read.

**Right column:** Please check all books/articles that you have included in your notebook.

I have read the following books (or the *percentage* of the book read):

- [ ] D.J.A. Clines, *Theme of the Pentateuch* (JSOTSup, 10; Sheffield Academic Press, 1978).
- [ ] Sailhamer, *The Pentateuch as Narrative*
- [ ] Articles:
  - [ ] D.J. Clines, “Theme in Genesis 1—11.”
  - [ ] Robinson, “Literary Function of Genealogies.”
  - [ ] Wolff, “The Kerygma of the Yahwist.”
- [ ] Ancient Near Eastern Texts:
  - [ ] The Creation Epic, Enuma Elish (*ANET*, pp. 60-72)
  - [ ] Gilgamesh Epic (*ANET*, p.72-99)
  - [ ] Atrahasis Epic (*ANET*, pp. 104-109)
  - [ ] Hammurabi’s Code (*ANET*, 163-180)
- [ ] English Bible: The Pentateuch

I have read all the books/articles checked above (column 1), and I have included in my notebook all the books checked above (column 2):

Signed: ___________________________  Date: