OT 551 Genesis In-Depth
Spring 2011
Mondays 1:15—4:15pm
Carol M. Kaminski

Office Hours: please email Natalie Crowson (ncrowson@gordonconwell.edu) to set up an appointment kaminski@gordonconwell.edu

Course Outline

Aims:
The primary objective of this course is to introduce students to general principles used for the interpretation of Bible. This includes helping students: a) learn foundational tools and methods needed for the exposition of biblical texts; and b) learn the Hebrew and Greek alphabets so that basic word studies can be done in the original languages (Gordon-Conwell Mission Statement #1—2).

The secondary objective of this course is to introduce students to the content and theology of the book of Genesis in preparation for teaching and preaching. This will be achieved through a detailed exegetical analysis of key chapters in Genesis. Focus will be given to theological issues arising from the text, with an emphasis on how Genesis contributes to redemptive history (Gordon-Conwell Mission Statement #1—2).

Required Texts:
1. The Hebrew-Greek Key Study Bible (ed. S. Zodhiates; Chattanooga, AMG Publ. 1990). Please note: the New American Standard Version (NASB) will be used in class; this is the recommended version for this course (this version is coded with Strong's numbers).

Recommended Texts:
1. Fee, G.D., and Stuart, D., How to Read the Bible for all its Worth (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1982).
2. G. Fee and D. Stuart, How to Read the Bible Book by Book
Resources for Genesis:

    _____, *The Theme of the Pentateuch* (JSOTSup, 10; Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1979).
Course Requirements:

1. **Reading Requirement:** You have two primary reading requirements for this class: the book of Genesis (read twice), and Arnold’s commentary on Genesis in its entirety. Additional journal articles will be assigned during the course. Please note that when you take the final exam, you will be asked to state the percentage of reading that you have completed. Failure to complete the reading requirements may result in a grade penalty. You are expected to interact with the commentary in the final exam.

2. **Word Studies:** You are required to complete several word studies due before the appropriate lecture, as per the schedule below (word studies are not to be submitted). Students will be called upon in class to discuss the homework assignments. Failure to have completed the homework before class may result in a grade penalty. When you take the final exam, you will be asked to note the percentage of word study assignments that you completed before class.

3. **Mid-term Exam:** you will be required to reproduce both the Hebrew and Greek alphabets, and read basic Hebrew and Greek words. Your mid-term exam is worth 20% of your grade. The mid-term exam is scheduled for **Monday March 7**.

4. **Exegetical paper:** you are required to write a 15 page (double-spaced) exegetical paper. Choose 5-6 verses from Genesis (any passage provided it is not a text we have done in class). Your paper needs to include 5 Hebrew word studies and 1 Greek word study. Your paper is due on **Friday April 15th** (submit it in the mailroom prior to closing).

The paper is to be structured according to the 6 steps of exegesis (sample essays will be on the reserve shelf at CUME). Further information will be given about the paper at the commencement of the course. It is worth 50% of your grade.

* Organize your essay according to the “6 exegetical steps” outlined below. The last page of your paper should be a bibliography of works cited. Label each step with the following headings:
  - Translation
  - Author
  - Circumstances
  - Key Words
  - Literary Context
  - Explain the Text
Late Penalties:
The paper must be submitted on the due date. Late penalties will apply for papers submitted after April 15th (1/3 grade per day, except in the case of special circumstances (eg. personal illness, bereavement etc. or for other legitimate reasons). If you have special circumstances, you will need to file for an extension with registration at CUME. If I do not receive your final paper, you will fail the class.

5. **Final Exam: TBA.** Your final exam will comprise a language component (see above #3) and essay questions on Genesis (see below). You will also be required to reproduce in English 2-3 verses from Genesis; this is a text of your choosing that you would like to memorize. Further details will be given throughout the course. The final exam is worth 30% of your grade.

The **Final Exam** will include *two* essays from the following topics (you will not be able to choose which essays to answer so you need to be prepared to answer a question on any of the following topics):

1) The Fall: Sin and Its Consequences (Gen. 3-4)
2) The Theme of Sin, Judgment and Grace in Genesis
3) The Outworking of the Creation Mandate, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth" (Gen. 1:28; 9:1) in Genesis
4) The Form and Function of Genealogies in Genesis
5) God’s Promises to Abraham: Their Content, Significance and Fulfilment
6) The Relationship between Faith in Gen. 15:6 and Circumcision in Gen. 17; see also Rom. 4.
7) Slave or Heir: Gen. 15-16, 21; Gal. 4.

6. **Class Attendance:** Please note that class attendance is required. If for some reason you miss more than two classes, you will not be able to take the class for credit.

7. **No Internet During Class:** Please note that you are not permitted to check email or be on the web during class. You may do so during the break, but not when class is in session.

8. **Cell phone:** Please turn cell phones to silent during class, unless prior permission.
**Tackle the Text: 500 Level**

Six steps to help you interpret the biblical text.

**Translations:**
- Compare translations (e.g. NIV, NASB, KJV).
- Note the major differences in translations.
- Use this to alert you to key words and grammatical issues.

**Author:**
- **Who** wrote the book/letter? when?
- **What form of writing** did the author use to communicate?
  - e.g. narrative, gospel, prophecy, poetic, apocalyptic, letter.

**Circumstances:**
- What was going on at the time of writing?
- Why did the author write the book/letter?
- What circumstances does the author address?

**Key words:**
- Do word studies on important words in your passage.
  - (i) Use the Hebrew-Greek Key Study Bible to locate the Strong’s number.
  - (ii) Look up words in either the Hebrew or Greek Englishman's Concordance.
  - (iii) Summarize the “range of meaning,” then decide what meaning best suits the context in which the word occurs. Why?
- **NT Grammar:**
  - (i) Note structural relationships ("therefore," "so that," "but," "in order that").

**Literary Context:**
- How is the biblical book structured?
- How does your passage fit into the argument, story or structure?
- How does your passage contribute to the message(s) of the book?

**Explain the Text:**
- Where is your text located in God's redemptive story?
- Is your passage discussed elsewhere in the Bible? Where?
- What does your passage teach about God, his people, other issues?
- How does your passage relate to us today?
## Provisional Lecture Outline at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>References</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Mond. Jan. 31 | Introduction to Genesis  
Aims of the Course and Requirements  
The Hebrew Alphabet and Hebrew Word Studies |                                      |
| Mond. Feb. 7 | The Creator God: Yahweh Elohim  
Genesis 1—2  
Authorship of Genesis |                                      |
| Mond. Feb. 14 | Life with God in the Garden  
Genesis 2—3 |                                      |
| Mond. Feb. 21 | **Reading Week** |                                      |
| Mond. Feb. 28 | The Fall and its Consequences (part 1)  
Genesis 3—4 |                                      |
| Mond. March 7 | The Fall and its Consequences (part 2)  
Genesis 3—4  
**Mid-term exam** |                                      |
| Mond. March 14 | Sin, Judgment and Divine Grace  
Genesis 6—8 |                                      |
| Mond. March 21 | **Reading Week** |                                      |
| Mond. March 28 | The Function of Genealogies in Genesis  
Genesis 5:1-32; 9—11 |                                      |
| Tues. April 4  | God’s Promises to Abraham and his “seed”  
Genesis 12, 17 and Gal. 3 |                                      |
| Tues. April 11 | The Abrahamic Covenant and Circumcision  
Genesis 15—17 and Rom. 4 |                                      |
|             | **Exegesis paper due April 15** |                                      |
| Tues. April 18 | Who will be Heir: A Slave or a Son?  
Genesis 15, 16, 21 and Gal. 4 |                                      |
|             | **Final Exam**  
TBA |                                      |
Provisional Course Schedule:

• **Monday January 31**
  • Introduction to Genesis
  • Aims of the Course and Requirements
  • Introduction to Hebrew, Word Studies, and the Study Bible
  • Introduction to the 6 steps of exegesis, **TACKLE the Text**
  • HOMEWORK TO BE COMPLETED **BEFORE NEXT CLASS**:
    - Bible Reading: Genesis
    - Commentary Reading on Genesis
    - Learn the Hebrew Alphabet
    - Do a word study on the verb, ‘to form’ in Gen. 2:8 (Strong's #3335).
    - Exegetical Question: What is the difference between ‘forming’ and ‘creating’ (in Gen. 1:1)? How would you explain what the verb ‘to form’ means to your congregation? Give a few biblical examples to illustrate it.

• **Monday February 7**
  • The Creator God: Yahweh Elohim (Genesis 1—2)
  • Authorship of Genesis
  • Introduction to the Greek Alphabet
  • HOMEWORK TO BE COMPLETED **BEFORE NEXT CLASS**:
    - Bible Reading: Genesis
    - Commentary Reading on Genesis
    - Learn the Greek Alphabet
    - Do a word study on the verb, “helper” in Gen. 2:18 (Strong's #3335).
    - Exegetical Question: What type of “tasks” does a ‘helper’ usually do? Any thoughts on how this may relate to Eve’s role in the context of the garden?

• **Monday February 14**
  • Life with God in the Garden (Genesis 2—3)
  • HOMEWORK TO BE COMPLETED **BEFORE NEXT CLASS**:
    - Bible Reading: Genesis
    - Commentary Reading on Genesis
    - Do a word study on the word, “pain” (Gen. 3:16, only in Genesis). Who experiences “pain” in Genesis? Do a word
study in the word, “desire” (Gen. 3:17). Where else does this word occur?

• **Monday February 21  Reading Week**

• **Monday February 28**
  - **The Fall and its Consequences (Genesis 3—4)**
  - HOMEWORK TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE NEXT CLASS:
    - ▶️ Commentary Reading on Genesis
    - ❄️ Start working on your Exegesis Paper!

• **Monday March 7**
  - ✢ Mid-term exam
  - **The Fall and its Consequences (Genesis 3—4)**
  - HOMEWORK TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE NEXT CLASS:
    - ▶️ Commentary Reading on Genesis
    - ❄️ Do a word study on the Hebrew verb, “to blot out” (Gen. 6:7).
    - ✢ Exegetical Question: If you had less than 5 minutes to explain what this verb means, what would you say? Give *biblical* examples to illustrate the meaning of this verb.

• **Monday March 14**
  - **Sin, Judgment and Divine Grace (Genesis 6—8)**
  - ▶️ Commentary Reading on Genesis
  - ✢ Continue working on your Exegesis Paper!

• **Monday March 21  Reading Week**

• **Monday March 28**
  - **The Function of Genealogies in Genesis (Gen. 5, 9—11)**
  - HOMEWORK TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE NEXT CLASS:
    - ▶️ Bible Reading: Gal. 3
    - ▶️ Commentary Reading on Genesis
    - ❄️ Do a word study in the word “[“descendants” (Gen. 17:7, Genesis only). Do a word study on the Greek word “seed” in Gal. 3:16 (only in Romans and Galatians).
Exegetical Questions: How is the word “seed” translated in Genesis? (Give examples). How important is the word “seed” in Genesis? Why? How is Paul using “seed” language in Galatians?

- **Monday April 4**
  - **God’s Promises to Abraham and his “seed” (Genesis 12, 17 and Galatians 3)**
  - **HOMEWORK TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE NEXT CLASS:**
    - Bible Reading: Rom. 4
    - Commentary Reading on Genesis
    - Do a word study on the Greek term “ungodly” (Rom. 4:5).
    - Exegetical Questions: Who are the “ungodly” in the book of Romans and elsewhere in the New Testament? If Abraham is one of the “saints”, why does Paul refer to him in this way?

- **Monday April 11**
  - **The Abrahamic Covenant and Circumcision (Gen. 15, 17 and Rom. 4)**
  - **HOMEWORK TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE NEXT CLASS:**
    - Bible Reading: Genesis; Gal. 4
    - Commentary Reading on Genesis
    - Work on exegesis paper.

- **Exegesis paper due Friday April 15.**

- **Monday April 18**
  - **Who will be the heir: a slave or a son? (Gen. 15, 16, 21 and Gal. 4)**
  - **HOMEWORK TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE NEXT CLASS:**
    - Bible Reading: Genesis; Gal. 4
    - Commentary Reading on Genesis
    - Prepare for your final exam.

- **Final exam, TBA**