I COURSE DESCRIPTION

A general introduction to the study of the Old Testament in terms of authority (inspiration and canonicity), interpretation (the tools and methods) and resources (languages and original sources, the roles of archaeology, history, culture, chronology and geography). Some attention will be given to text and literary criticism but the major objective will be to inform and strengthen the student's commitment to the scripture as the Word of God.

II COURSE SCHEDULE

26 May  Lecture 1  Introduction: Canon, Inspiration, Historicity, Languages
26 May  Lecture 2  Textual Criticism; ANE Backgrounds
27 May  Lecture 3  The Law
27 May  Lecture 4  The Law, continued
28 May  Test on lectures 1-4
28 May  Lecture 5  Literary Criticism
28 May  Lecture 6  The Prophets
29 May  Lecture 7  Form Criticism
29 May  Test on Lectures 5-7
29 May  Lecture 8  Oral Tradition, Rhetorical Criticism, Canonical Criticism, etc.
             Selected topics in biblical theology

III COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A Required readings = REQUIRED TEXTS (WITH PAGES TO BE READ), as listed below. These count 10% of the course grade. Use reading report attached to syllabus. The reading report must be stapled to your final paper and submitted with it. Reading reports submitted late will not receive full credit, but will receive proportional credit at the discretion of the professor.
Required Texts

Required readings are as follows and will count 10% of the course grade:

Niehaus, Jeffrey, *God at Sinai* (Zondervan, 1995)
-------------------, *Ancient Near Eastern Themes in Biblical Theology* (Kregel, 2008)
-------------------, *An Argument against Theologically constructed Covenants* (on reserve)
---------------------, “Covenant: an Idea in the Mind of God” (draft article)

B  Old Testament Readings

1  For lectures 1-4, skim the Pentateuch, and read the book of Genesis carefully.
2  For lectures 5-7, skim the historical books and the prophetical books, and read Joshua and Isaiah carefully.
3  For lectures 8-9, skim through Psalms and read Proverbs carefully.

C  Tests

Two one-hour tests will be given. These will cover specified lectures (as indicated on the COURSE SCHEDULE). Each test will count 10% of the course grade.

D  Required Paper

A 15-page, double-spaced paper is required, and will count 70% of the course grade. Locate and discuss examples of anti-supernatural bias in critical approaches to the Pentateuch, or some portion of it. Look at the various commentaries on the pentateuchal books, select cases of anti-supernatural bias, and discuss them critically, reaching your own conclusions at the end of the paper. Feel free to draw on any conservative commentaries or literature you desire, for assistance. Note all references in footnotes or endnotes. Due 4 p.m., 26 June.

IV  CONSERVATIVE COMMENTARIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Genesis</th>
<th>Numbers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kidner, <em>TOTC</em></td>
<td>Budd, <em>WBC</em></td>
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<td>Vos, <em>EBC</em></td>
<td>Wenham, <em>TOTC</em></td>
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<td>Exodus</td>
<td>Deuteronomy</td>
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<td>Cole, <em>TOTC</em></td>
<td>Craigie, <em>NICOT</em></td>
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<td>Youngblood, <em>EBC</em></td>
<td>Thompson, <em>TOTC</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Leviticus</td>
<td>Pentateuch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wenham, <em>NICOT</em></td>
<td>Keil &amp; Delitzsch, <em>Eerdmans</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Harrison, <em>TOTC</em></td>
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V SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY


Cassuto, Umberto, *The Documentary Hypothesis* (Jerusalem: Magnes, 1941)


Gaebelein, Frank E., *The Expositor's Bible Commentary* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1982).


----------------------, *By Oath Consigned* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1968).


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Pages</th>
<th>Read</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harrison, R. K.</td>
<td><em>Introduction to the OT</em></td>
<td>pp 3-662</td>
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<tr>
<td>Helyer, Larry R.</td>
<td><em>Yesterday, Today, and Forever</em></td>
<td>pp. 1-420</td>
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<td>Niehaus, J. J.</td>
<td><em>God at Sinai</em></td>
<td>pp. 1-383</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Ancient Near Eastern Themes</em></td>
<td>pp 8-181</td>
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<td></td>
<td>*An Argument against Theologically</td>
<td>pp 259-73</td>
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<td><em>constructed Covenants</em></td>
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<td><em>Covenant, an Idea</em></td>
<td>pp 1-46</td>
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