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

14 Sep Lecture 1 Introduction: Canon, Inspiration, Historicity, Languages
21 Sep Lecture 2 Textual Criticism; ANE Backgrounds
28 Sep Lecture 3 The Law
5 Oct Lecture 4 The Law, continued
12 Oct READING WEEK
19 Oct NO CLASS [PROFESSOR AWAY]
26 Oct Test on lectures 1-4
2 Nov Lecture 6 The Prophets
9 Nov READING WEEK
16 Nov NO CLASS [PROFESSOR AWAY]
23 Nov Lecture 7 Form Criticism
30 Nov Lecture 8 Oral Tradition, Rhetorical Criticism, Canonical Criticism, etc.
7 Dec Test on Lectures 5-8
Lecture 9 Select Topics in OT 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.

B Old Testament Readings

1 For lectures 1-4, skim the Pentateuch, and read the book of Genesis carefully.
2 For lectures 5-6, skim the historical books and the prophetic books, and read Joshua and Isaiah carefully.
3 For lectures 7-8, skim through Psalms and read Proverbs carefully.
C  Tests

Two 45-minute 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. 22 Dec. (January grads 11 Dec.)

IV  Required Texts

Niehus, Jeffrey, *God at Sinai* (Zondervan, 1995)
-------------------------------, *Ancient Near Eastern Themes in Biblical Theology* (Kregel, 2008)
-------------------------------, ”An Argument against Theologically Constructed Covenants,”
**JETS 50**, No. 2 (June, 2007), pp 259-273 *On CAMS*
*On CAMS*

V  CONSERVATIVE COMMENTARIES

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Genesis</th>
<th>Numbers</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kidner, <em>TOTC</em></td>
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<th>Pentateuch</th>
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<td>Wenham, <em>NICOT</em></td>
<td>Keil &amp; Delitzsch, <em>Eerdmans</em></td>
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<td>Harrison, <em>TOTC</em></td>
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VI 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).


READING REPORT

NAME...............................................
DATE................................................

Assigned: Read:

Harrison, R. K., *Introduction to the OT* pp 3-662 ............

Helyer, Larry R. *Yesterday, Today, and Forever* pp. 1-420 ............


Niehaus, J. J., *God at Sinai* pp. 1-383 ............

-------------, *Ancient Near Eastern Themes* pp. 8-181 ............

-------------, "An Argument..." pp. 259-273 ............

-------------, "Covenant: an Idea..." pp. 225-246 ............