

#115 Pentateuchal Studies
Western Reformed Seminary (www.wrs.edu)
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Pastoral Mentorship Program
Academic Year 2006-2007

Course Requirements

Course Goal

To survey the Pentateuch, tracing its various themes and examining its unified message found particularly in God's covenant promises; to establish the Pentateuch's relation to and place of importance within the canon; to become familiar with the religious and cultural setting of Moses' message; to introduce the history of the study of the Pentateuch and interact with certain higher critical theories; and especially to survey the Pentateuch chapter by chapter to draw out its theological emphases and show the literary integrity of the five books of Moses.

REQUIRED READINGS (No separate test on the readings, but you will be asked if you completed the reading assignments.)

- #1 Genesis through Deuteronomy in a version you don't frequent
- #2 Victor Hamilton, *A Handbook to the Pentateuch*
- #3 O. P. Robertson, *The Christ of the Covenants*, pp. 1-218
- #4 G. Archer, *A Survey of OT Introduction*, chpts. 6-9

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

Choose ONE of the following options:

#1 Do a brief INVESTIGATION on each of the five books of the law. This may be an exposition of a passage (scholarly, not homiletic...) that has caught your interest, a thematic study, an issue of interest, or a comparative word study focusing mainly on how the word (or phrase) is used within that particular book (or by Moses in general). Hamilton gives some cogent examples of word studies. Prior review of the course notes will yield topics for development.

For each investigation, plan on about two-three pages of material (double-spaced), either in composition or outline form. This is not a literary production but a research project, so be sure

to get right to the point. Include a list of works cited (try to use at least 2-3 commentaries besides other general reference tools).

#2 Prepare ten BIBLE STUDY or DEVOTIONAL OUTLINES, two for each book of the Pentateuch. These studies can be on a passage or on a theme in the book. Include thumbnail illustrations and make applications for the target audience.

Each Bible study should be one-two pages long. If you borrow outlines or key phrases from commentaries, be sure to credit your source (use parentheses *in locus*).

#3 Read John Sailhamer, *The Pentateuch as Narrative*, and write a three page review of this work.

EXAMS

There will be three exams over the course notes: one over Genesis, one over Exodus, and one combined exam over Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy. I recommend the completion of the relevant readings before each exam in order to reinforce your mastery of the notes.

Also included are study questions that highlight and frame the study of notes in preparation for the exams. Most test questions will be taken from the study questions; often there will be true and false questions not addressed in the study questions, however.

At the end of the June debriefing there may be an oral exam covering the material emphasized during the summer session.

MEMORIZATION (Look these verses over occasionally before coming to WRS. These short memory assignments will be accomplished over the 9 class sessions in Tacoma.)

Genesis 50:20

Exodus: Short form of 10 Commandments

Leviticus 11:45; or 19:17-18

Numbers 6:24-26

Deuteronomy 10:12-13

GRADING

Exams	= 60%
Readings	= 15%
Written Assignments	= 15%
Memorization	= 5%
Oral Exam	= 5%

DEADLINES

- Memory verse schedule: You may recite or write out the five verses for a proctor at home or in Tacoma during the June session.

- Readings:
 - Read Archer and Genesis by October 1
 - Read Robertson and Exodus by November 1
 - Read Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Hamilton by January 1

- Exams: (electronic submissions are OK if accompanied by a certification email from the proctor)
 - Submit Exam 1 by February 1
 - Submit Exam 2 by June 29
 - Submit Exam 3 by July 14

- Written Assignments:
 - #1 or #2
 - Submit Genesis report(s) in October
 - Submit Exodus report(s) in November
 - Submit Leviticus report(s) in February
 - Submit Numbers report(s) in March
 - Submit Deuteronomy report(s) in April
 - #3: Read and turn in review of this third option by the end of April