



**Trinity International University
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School**

**OT 5100
Pentateuch**

3 Credit Hours

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. Luke 24:27 (NIV)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course leads the student through a study of the five books of the Pentateuch or, as it is known in the Hebrew language, the Torah. Special attention will be given to the literary structure of these books as well as to the implications of those books for the Christian life today. *Three credits.*

COURSE OVERVIEW

The Pentateuch is foundational both to the Old Testament as well as to the entire Bible. These books are to the Old Testament what the four gospels are to the New Testament, but they also provide a foundation for all New Testament teaching. They set forth the basic teachings of what we know about God, about His covenants, and His relationship with His people.

This course will guide the student through a detailed study of the five books that make up the Pentateuch, examining them from the historical-grammatical perspective of the original recipients of those books, how they would have been received and understood by later believers in the Old Testament era, and then taking into account the additional perspective of the New Testament writers, and then applying them to the 21st century Christian.

OBJECTIVES

It is expected that through this course, the student will:

- Gain an appreciation for the books of the Pentateuch and their relevance both to the rest of the Old Testament message as well as to Christian ministry today.
- Exhibit an understanding of the flow of thought and major turning points in the books that make up the Pentateuch.
- Demonstrate a familiarity with the historical, cultural, and theological background of the Pentateuch.
- Gain an understanding of the key themes introduced in the Pentateuch and how they relate to the rest of the Biblical message.
- Develop a series of Bible studies and/or sermons from the Pentateuch that demonstrate both an understanding of the issues faced by the original characters, understood by the original readers as well as applications relevant to the needs of a 21st Century congregation. This will involve exegeting Postmodern American culture in light of the Pentateuch.

COURSE MATERIALS

A. Required Texts.

- A. John Stevenson, *Genesis: The Book of Beginnings, Genesis 1-22*. Hollywood, FL: Redeemer, 2009.

- B. O. Palmer Robertson, *The Christ of the Covenants*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 1981.
- C. John Oswalt, Allen Ross, and Philip W. Comfort (Editor), *Genesis, Exodus (Cornerstone Biblical Commentary)*, 2008.
- D. David W. Baker, Dale A. Brueggemann, Eugene H. Merrill, and Philip W. Comfort (Editor), *Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy (Cornerstone Biblical Commentary)*, 2008.

B. Recommended Texts.

- A. All PowerPoint presentations for the class will be available for free download from <http://JohnStevenson.net> (they are generally posted the day prior to the class). Make certain that you select the classes that are taught at Trinity International University as there are other files that have been organized for other schools that do not follow the schedule for this class.
- B. Dorsey, David A., *The Literary Structure of the Old Testament: A Commentary on Genesis-Malachi*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1999.
- C. John Stevenson, *A Survey of the Old Testament: The Bible Jesus Used*. Hollywood, FL: Redeemer, 2008.

COURSE POLICIES

1. Documentation

All written work (e.g. worksheets/essay questions, reflection papers, final projects, etc.) must conform to the TIU Style and Format Guide (Humanities).

Failure to use and cite others' work or ideas properly will lead to charges of academic dishonesty.

2. Academic Integrity

As a member of the Trinity community, we ask you to hold yourself and others to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Violations take many forms, which include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Plagiarism: using another's work or ideas without proper documentation, which requires citing the author or authors' name(s), date of publication, and page number (if applicable)
- Cheating: using notes, books, or crib sheets during closed-book quizzes or exams, or copying from another's student's work
- Submitting Previous Work: submitting your work that was previously turned in for credit
- Ghosting: writing a paper or taking a quiz (or any other evaluation) in place of another student

- Aiding and Abetting: helping others to commit acts of academic dishonesty, or failing to report those who have or plan to commit dishonest acts

3. Late Work

All assignments must be turned in on or before the date they are due. Any assignment turned in late will be deducted as follows:

- 10% off for up to 24 hours late
- 20% off for up to 48 hours late
- Assignments more than two days late will receive a zero

An extension on the time needed to submit course requirements will be granted only in unusual circumstances. Such extensions within the span of the semester can be granted by the professor, but any extensions beyond the end of the semester must be filed with the Director of Academic Operations prior to the administration of the final exam.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. In class participation (100)
2. Writing assignments (600)
3. Final Exam (300)

Total Points = 1000

GRADING SCALE

Percentage	Grade	Percentage	Grade
92-100	A	72-77	C
90-91	A-	70-71	C-
88-89	B+	68-69	D+
82-87	B	62-67	D
80-81	B-	60-61	D-
78-79	C+	0-59	F

COURSE SCHEDULE

Students should come to class having already read the assignments and prepared to discuss the readings.

Class 1: Introduction to the books of the Pentateuch and their setting in the World of the Bible.

Read O. Palmer Robertson, *The Christ of the Covenants*, Pages 1-63.

Class 2: Genesis 1-3.

Read John Stevenson, *Genesis: The Book of Beginnings*, Pages 1-77.

Read John Oswalt, Allen Ross, and Philip W. Comfort (Editor), *Genesis, Exodus (Cornerstone Biblical Commentary)*, Pages 2-16.

Prepare a 4-6 page position paper detailing your views on how one ought to understand Genesis 1-2 in light of current scientific theories.

Class 3: Genesis 4-11.

Read John Stevenson, *Genesis: The Book of Beginnings*, Pages 78-160.

Read O. Palmer Robertson, *The Christ of the Covenants*, Pages 109-125.

Prepare a chronological chart showing the events that were taking place in the ancient world that coincide with the events described in the Pentateuch (start with Genesis 12).

Class 4: Genesis 12-22.

Read John Stevenson, *Genesis: The Book of Beginnings*, Pages 191-266.

Write a paper detailing a word study of the term, "Covenant" (a minimum of five pages in the body of the document).

Class 5: Genesis 23-50.

Read O. Palmer Robertson, *The Christ of the Covenants*, Pages 127-166.

Read John Oswalt, Allen Ross, and Philip W. Comfort (Editor), *Genesis, Exodus (Cornerstone Biblical Commentary)*, Pages 243-254.

Class 6: Exodus 1-18.

Read O. Palmer Robertson, *The Christ of the Covenants*, Pages 167-199.

Read John Oswalt, Allen Ross, and Philip W. Comfort (Editor), *Genesis, Exodus (Cornerstone Biblical Commentary)*, Pages 261-281 and 375-387.

Class 7: Exodus 19-40.

Read John Oswalt, Allen Ross, and Philip W. Comfort (Editor), *Genesis, Exodus (Cornerstone Biblical Commentary)*, Pages 426-451 and 514-542.

Write a paper dealing with the way in which the church can apply one specific area of the stipulations of the law as found in Exodus 21-23 (a minimum of five pages in the body of the document). This can include a specific action plan for your own church.

Class 8: Leviticus 1-15.

Read David W. Baker, Dale A. Brueggemann, Eugene H. Merrill, and Philip W. Comfort (Editor), *Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy (Cornerstone Biblical Commentary)*, Pages 3-54.

Class 9: Leviticus 16-27.

Write a paper on one of the Feasts of Israel as found in Leviticus 23 and how it applies to Jesus as the Messiah (a minimum of five pages in the body of the document).

Read David W. Baker, Dale A. Brueggemann, Eugene H. Merrill, and Philip W. Comfort (Editor), *Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy (Cornerstone Biblical Commentary)*, Pages 168-178.

Class 10: Numbers 1-14.

Read David W. Baker, Dale A. Brueggemann, Eugene H. Merrill, and Philip W. Comfort (Editor), *Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy (Cornerstone Biblical Commentary)*, Pages 217-229 and 285-307.

Class 11: Numbers 15-36.

Prepare a position paper dealing with the issue of Dispensationalism versus Covenant Theology and the use which each of these positions make of the Law (a minimum of six pages in the body of the document).

Read O. Palmer Robertson, *The Christ of the Covenants*, Pages 201-237.

Read David W. Baker, Dale A. Brueggemann, Eugene H. Merrill, and Philip W. Comfort (Editor), *Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy (Cornerstone Biblical Commentary)*, Pages 315-340.

Class 12: Deuteronomy 1-11.

Write a verse by verse commentary dealing with one assigned chapter from Deuteronomy 6-10. There should be at least one paragraph dealing with each verse reflecting your own observations, interpretations, and applications.

Read David W. Baker, Dale A. Brueggemann, Eugene H. Merrill, and Philip W. Comfort (Editor), *Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy (Cornerstone Biblical Commentary)*, Pages 447-465 and 508-513.

Class 13: Deuteronomy 12-26.

Read David W. Baker, Dale A. Brueggemann, Eugene H. Merrill, and Philip W. Comfort (Editor), *Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy (Cornerstone Biblical Commentary)*, Pages 548-571.

Class 14: Preaching & Teaching from the Pentateuch.

Prepare a sermon or Bible study from Leviticus, Numbers, or Deuteronomy (a minimum of seven pages in the body of the document). Be prepared to share in class.

Read David W. Baker, Dale A. Brueggemann, Eugene H. Merrill, and Philip W. Comfort (Editor), *Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy (Cornerstone Biblical Commentary)*, Pages 660-674.

Class 15: Final Exam.

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