



Nipawin Bible College
BI1013 Pentateuch
Fall 2022
3 Credit Hours
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This class provides an introduction to the first five books of the Old Testament. These books are known as the Pentateuch (Greek) or the Torah (Hebrew). There will be special reference to their background, history, contents, and major themes.

This class will highlight the abiding significance of these books as the foundation of God's redemptive relationship with the world and the Law that Jesus came to fulfill, not abolish. One cannot understand the New Testament without understanding the Old Testament.

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

The Bible (a translation, *not a paraphrase*). **200 Pages.**

Wenham, Gordon J. *Exploring the Old Testament: A Guide to the Pentateuch*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003. **195 Pages.**

THE BIG QUESTION

What is the abiding significance of the Pentateuch for our lives as followers of Jesus?

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Appreciate the value of the Pentateuch for Christians.
2. Identify the purpose, themes, and structure of the Pentateuch.
3. Use basic principles for interpreting biblical law passages.
4. Explain how the Pentateuch informs their interpretation of the New Testament.
5. Relate the message of the Pentateuch to their own life and ministry.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Participation in Class – 5%

- The student will be engaged in class discussion and classroom practical activities throughout the course (such as the Passover “meal”).

Bible Reading – 15%

- The student will read the entirety of the Pentateuch throughout the class. During the last class period they will indicate how many chapters they read out of the 187 chapters in the Pentateuch.

DUE: Wednesday, December 7th

Bible Memorization – 10%

- The student will memorize one passage from each book of the Pentateuch. The student will write out the passage word for word (indicating the translation) at the beginning of the class period. The verses to be memorized are:
 - Genesis 15:6 ***DUE: Wednesday, October 5th***
 - Exodus 34:6-7 ***DUE: Wednesday, October 26th***
 - Leviticus 20:7-8 ***DUE: Wednesday, November 16th***
 - Numbers 6:24-26 ***DUE: Wednesday, November 23rd***
 - Deuteronomy 6:4-5 ***DUE: Wednesday, December 7th***

Textbook Reading Comprehension Quizzes – 30%

- The student will be prepared for a quiz that corresponds to the assigned reading for the class period. All quizzes will be based on the content of *Exploring the Old Testament: A Guide to the Pentateuch*.

DUE: weekly, with assigned reading (see course schedule)

Exegetical Paper – 20%

- The student will write a 3 page exegetical paper, consulting and citing at least 3 sources (including at least two commentaries), on one of the laws found in the Pentateuch (not one of the Ten Commandments). Significant sections of laws are Exodus 21-23; Leviticus 17-27 Numbers 30; Deuteronomy 12-26. The outline for the paper should be as follows:

Basic Outline:

The verse(s): Write out the passage and indicate what translation you used (this does not count towards your page count).

1. **Context:** .5 page (some passages may need more or less contextual consideration).
 - a. **Historical Context:** Is there a determinable historical context behind the specific passage? Does any of the historical context behind the general period of the book as a whole help to interpret *this passage*?
 - b. **Literary Context:** Why is this passage in this part of the book? Is there anything in the passage preceding my passage or the passage following my passage that *helps to interpret it*? Are there other laws of a similar nature surrounding this law?
2. **Content:** 2 pages of exegetical work through the specific passage (meaning of key terms, interpretive decisions, evaluation of competing theories, etc.). Is there an example in the Bible of this law being applied? What is the timeless principle behind the law? It is likely that the law is linked with one of the Ten Commandments, if so, indicate which one and why. What does the New Testament say about this law (if anything)?
3. **Application:** .5 page. Show how the law (or principle behind the law) applies to your life as a follower of Christ.

DUE: Wednesday, November 30th

Final Exam – 20%

- The student will take a final exam covering the content of the course. The quiz questions and memory verses will be necessary to know for the exam.

DUE: exam week

GRADING

Participation:	5%
Bible Reading:	15%
Bible Memorization:	10%
Quizzes:	30%
Exegetical Paper:	20%
Final Exam:	20%
TOTAL:	100%

NOTE: All written assignments are to be typed in accordance with the guidelines in Kate L. Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 9th ed. (Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press, 2018) for papers. **(See NBC Sample Paper - 2022.)** Assignments will be graded on the basis of content, clarity, grammar, and spelling.

Assignments will be due **at the beginning of the class period** on the day that they are assigned.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2022-2023

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY:

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2022-2023

Reading: 395 pages

Writing: 3 pages

PENTATEUCH COURSE SCHEDULE:

Date	Subject	Reading	Written
Sept. 21	Syllabus review & Pentateuch overview		
Sept. 28	Genesis: 1-11	Chapters 1-2	• Quiz 1
Oct. 5	Genesis: 12-50/Exodus	Chapter 3	• Quiz 2 • Genesis 15:6
Oct. 12	Exodus	Chapter 4	• Quiz 3
Oct. 26	Exodus		• Exodus 34:6-7
Nov. 2	Exodus/Leviticus	Chapter 5	• Quiz 4
Nov. 7-11	Reading Week		
Nov. 16	Leviticus		• Leviticus 20:7-8
Nov. 23	Numbers	Chapter 6	• Quiz 5 • Numbers 6:24-26
Nov. 30	Numbers/Deuteronomy	Chapter 7	• Quiz 6 • Exegetical Paper
Dec. 7	Deuteronomy	Chapters 8-10	• Quiz 7 • Deuteronomy 6:4-5 • Bible Reading
Dec. 14-16	Final Exam		

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- _____. *The Book of Genesis: Chapters 1-17*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1990.
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- Hartley, John E. *Word Biblical Commentary: Leviticus*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1992.
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- Merrill, Eugene H. *The New American Commentary: Deuteronomy*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994.

Rooker, Mark F. *The New American Commentary: Leviticus*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2000.

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