Reformed Theological Seminary, Atlanta
Thursday, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
February 04 – May 20

Instructor: John J. Yeo, Ph.D.
Spring 2010

3 Credit Hours

RTS Catalog Description:
An expository approach to the developments in redemptive history: creation, covenant, promise and fulfillment, from creation through Israel's occupation of the Promised Land. (Required for all degree programs)

I. PURPOSE OF THE COURSE
To gain an adequate comprehension of the books from Genesis through Joshua—including their background, content, interpretation, and criticism—in order that we may effectively communicate the revealed truths of the Old Testament as it relates to Jesus Christ and His Gospel.

This course shall attempt to accomplish the following goals:
1) to present an expository approach to the development of redemptive history from Creation through the Conquest of the Promised Land;
2) to examine the theological themes of the Pentateuch and Joshua, including Creation, covenant, election, promise and fulfillment, Yahweh as divine warrior, cherem warfare, etc;
3) to acquaint the student with the historical events of the Pentateuch including the book of Joshua, as well as pertinent literary and legal parallels found in ancient Near Eastern history;
4) to acquaint the student to the geography and topography of Palestine;
5) to introduce and evaluate the salient features of several interpretive methodologies to the Old Testament, including: Source Criticism, Redaction Criticism, Form Criticism, Tradition Criticism, Comparative Religions, Canonical Criticism, and New Literary Criticism;
6) to evaluate current scholarship on critical matters such as the authorship, dating and unity of the Pentateuch along with the book of Joshua; and
7) to aid the student in preparation for the preaching of the texts from Genesis through Joshua, highlighting Christological approaches such as typology, promise/fulfillment, and redemptive-historical.

II. COURSE SCHEDULE

February 04- Syllabus Review and Course Requirements
Prolegomena: Authorship, Dating, and Text of the Pentateuch

February 11- Authorship, Dating, and Text of the Pentateuch (Cont.)
GENESIS: The Primeval History
The Genesis Account vs. ANE Mythology
February 18-

- Encountering the Old Testament, pp. 21-87
- An Introduction to the Old Testament, pp. 38-62
- An Old Testament Theology, pp. 173-208

February 25-

- An Old Testament Theology

March 04-

- Genesis 1-2:3: Exegesis of the Creation Account
- Plundering the Egyptians, pp. 120-135: (including all endnotes)

March 11-

- Patriarchal Narratives
  - Exegesis of the Call of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3)
  - Excursus: Theme of the Covenant (The Covenant of Works and the Covenant of Grace)
- Encountering, pp. 89-101
- Plundering the Egyptians, pp. 102-116 (including all endnotes)
- An Old Testament Theology, pp. 305-345

March 18-

- Spring Break

March 25-

- Patriarchal Narratives continued
  - Exegesis of the Sacrifice of Isaac (Genesis 22)
  - Jacob/Joseph Cycles
  - Excursus: Christological Interpretation of the Old Testament
  - Intro to the OT, pp. 17-37
  - Readings ANE, pp. 76-82 (“Tale of Sinuhe”)

Due: Map of Israel

April 01-

- Midterm Examination (2 hours)

April 08-

- EXODUS
  - Moses Narratives
  - Date of the Exodus
    - Exegesis of the Passover (Exodus 13:17-15:21)
- Intro to the OT, pp. 63-80
- Encountering, pp. 103-115
- An Old Testament Theology, pp. 346-404

April 15-
Law and Covenant: Legal Texts and Exodus
- Exegesis of the Decalogue (Exodus 20:1-20)
Tabernacle, the Golden Calf, and Covenant Renewal
- An Old Testament Theology, pp. 405-444

April 22-
LEVITICUS
The Sacrificial System (Leviticus 1-7)
- Exegesis of the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16)
- Intro to the OT, pp. 81-91
- An Old Testament Theology, pp. 445-478

NUMBERS
Preparations and Wanderings
- Encountering, pp. 127-139
- Intro to the OT, pp. 92-101

April 29-
DEUTERONOMY
Covenant Treaties of the 2nd Millennium B.C.
The Structure of Deuteronomy and Biblical Authority
- Encountering, pp. 141-154
- An Intro to the OT, pp. 102-119
- An Old Testament Theology, pp. 479-511

May 06-
The Theology of Deuteronomy (Election, Holy War, etc.)
- Exegesis of the Paradigm Prophet: Moses (Deuteronomy 17)

JOSHUA
A Deuteronomistic History?: The Historical Books in relation to Deuteronomy
The Conquest: Fact or Fiction?
- Encountering, pp. 157-179
- Intro to the OT, pp. 120-132
- An Old Testament Theology, pp. 512-533

May 13-
Thematic Paper Due

May 20-
Final Examination (2 hours)

III. ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS

A. Map of Israel (See Handout)
B. Paper
Write a 10-12 page paper on a major theological theme found in the books, Genesis through Joshua. As an integral part of the paper, show and discuss how the theme relates to the overall narrative plot found in these books. More details will be announced.

C. Midterm and Final Examinations (To be discussed in class)

IV. GRADING

A. Scale. The standard RTS grading scale will be used.

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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B. Basis for computation
- Midterm Examination: 30%
- Final Examination: 30%
- Paper: 25%
- Map: 5%

V. BOOK LIST

Required-


(Purchase the book directly from the instructor, Dr. Yeo, at a discounted price.)

Highly Recommended-

Clines, David J.A. *The Theme of the Pentateuch*. Second edition. Sheffield: Sheffield


