GOAL:

This course is an exposition of the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Hebrew Bible. As such, it is a course that studies beginnings: the beginning of the universe, the creation of mankind, the appearance of sin, the founding of the nation of Israel, and so forth. Our approach will be both exegetical (historical-grammatical) and theological (the unfolding of redemptive history). In this manner, we will attempt to understand the import of the writings in their time as well as in our own time. We will also spend significant time analyzing the ancient Near Eastern background of the Pentateuch, particularly focusing on Egyptian and Canaanite cultures. Finally, an examination of Messianic prophecy and typology will be vital to our discussion. In this respect, the student should become aware of the many issues in Pentateuchal studies, and how these have been understood and interpreted. Ultimately, this course should provide a good foundation for the student to apply Scripture to all of life.

TEXTBOOKS:

The following books are required for this course, and they may be purchased in the bookstore:

1. *New American Standard Version* or *New International Version* or *New English Version*. The student must bring his Bible to class everyday for exegesis purposes. Students who have taken Hebrew are required to bring their Hebrew Bibles to class.


REQUIREMENTS:

The grade for the course will be determined on the basis of the following factors:
1. There will be a mid-term and a final, which will comprise 100% of the final grade. Each examination is worth 50% of the final grade. The mid-term examination is scheduled for Wednesday, October 17.

2. On the final examination, the student is required to report the amount of reading done for the course. 10% of the final examination grade. Included in the reading are the five books of Moses and the required outside textbooks.

3. In addition, the student is required to do an out of classroom assignment. Which work is done depends on whether or not the student has studied the Hebrew language.

   a. If the student has taken Hebrew I and II, then he must fulfill the following language requirement. Each Monday before class at 7:30 pm, we will begin reading together the Book of Exodus in Hebrew. 3-4 verses will be done each Monday morning. The student is required to be prepared to read at that time and to parse all verbs that appear in the assigned passage. Computers will not be allowed in class during that half hour period. All translations and parsing must be done by hand. On the final examination a few verses will be given for the student to translate from sight and to parse the relevant verbs. That will count for 15% of the final examination grade.

   b. If the student has not taken Hebrew, then he must fulfill the following assignment. The student must write a 5-7 page essay (no footnotes necessary; double-spaced) that analyzes the blessing that Jacob gave to his sons in Genesis 49 and the blessing that Moses gave to the tribes of Israel in Deuteronomy 33. How do they relate? Are there any similarities? Dissimilarities? Does Moses purposefully rely on Genesis 49? Does he quote from Genesis 49? Does he change any of the “blessings” that Jacob gave to his sons? Are any sons or tribes missing? Why? These and similar questions need to be answered in the space of the essay.

4. Class attendance and participation are expected regularly. My office hours will be held 11:00 am to noon on Tuesdays through Fridays on a weekly basis. In addition, I will have IM (Instant Messaging) time on each Monday from 11:00 am to noon. You may ask any questions relevant to the course during that hour.

**OUTLINE OF THE COURSE:**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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2
I. Introduction to the Pentateuch

1. August 29
   Syllabus
   Exegesis of Deuteronomy 32:45-47
   Authorship of Pentateuch

II. Creation

2. September 5
   Exegesis of Genesis 1:1-3
   Views of Time in Creation

3. September 12
   No class (Labor Day)

4. September 12
   Creation of Mankind

III. The Fall

IV. Redemption: Unfolding of the Two Seeds

5. September 19
   Causes of the Fall

6. September 19
   Results of the Fall

7. September 26
   Seed of the Serpent
   Seed of the Woman

8. October 3
   Fusion of the Two Seeds
   Flood Story
   Call of Abraham

9. October 10
   Lot: the Foil of Abraham
   Sacrifice of the Seed
   Jacob and Esau

10. October 10
    No class (Reading Week)

11. October 17
    Jacob and Esau
    Joseph
    MID-TERM EXAMINATION
V. Israel and Egypt (the Seed Conflict)

9. October 24
   - Israel in Egypt
   - Plagues
   - Passover

VI. Seed of the Woman at Sinai

10. October 31
    - No class

11. November 7
    - The Law
    - The Tabernacle
    - Exodus Patterns

VII. Laws of the Israelite Cult

12. November 14
    - Priesthood in Israel
    - Sacrificial System
    - Dietary Laws

13. November 21
    - Sabbath
    - Kinsman-Redeemer
    - Pagan Religions: Canaan

VIII. Israel in the Wilderness

14. November 28
    - Numbers
    - Bronze Serpent
    - Israel and Idolatry

IX. Second Law

15. December 5
    - Deuteronomy as a Vassal Treaty
    - Ten Commandments as Structural
    - Concept of Law in the ancient Near East
    - Finale: The Song of Moses