

COURSE SYLLABUS

GENESIS TO JOSHUA 6OT508/01

Fall Session, 2008

Tuesday Evenings, 7:30pm to 10:00pm, September 2 to December 16
McLean Presbyterian Church

INSTRUCTOR: Peter Y. Lee

EMAIL: plee@rts.edu

- **COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course takes an expository approach to the major developments in the history of redemption: creation, covenant, promise, and fulfillment of the promises. This portion of the biblical revelation covers the period from Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden to Israel in the Promised Land.

- **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**
 - Comprehension:
 1. To increase your knowledge of the English Bible in Genesis to Joshua.
 2. To increase your knowledge of introductory issues in each book from Genesis to Joshua.
 3. To increase your knowledge of the development of redemptive themes as they progress in Genesis to Joshua.
 - Competence
 1. To sharpen your ability to interpret Genesis to Joshua in their historical, theological, and literary contexts.
 2. To sharpen your ability to apply the teaching of Genesis to Joshua in your own life and in the life of the local church.
 3. To prepare those who are called to the ministry for licensure and ordination exams at their local presbyteries.
 - Character
 1. To be a person of growing faith.
 2. To be a person of increasing hope.
 3. To be a person of deepening love.

- **REQUIRED READINGS.** There are approximately 1100 pages of required reading (with the exception of the Biblical books). Students are encouraged to do the readings before the start of class *in the order provided below*. For the Biblical books of Genesis to Joshua, students are free to use any English translation of their choice.
 - Biblical books of Genesis to Joshua in an English translation of student's choice.

 - T. D. Alexander. *From Paradise to Promised Land: An Introduction to the Pentateuch*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academy, 2002.

 - R. Dillard and T. Longman, III. *Introduction to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994. pp. 17-117.

- Geerhardus Vos. *Biblical Theology: Old and New Testaments*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1948. pp. 3-182.
- Meredith G. Kline. *Images of the Spirit*. Self-published, 1986. Chapters 1 and 2.
- Michael Horton. *God of Promise: Introducing Covenant Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2006.
- Peter Enns. "William Henry Green and the Authorship of the Pentateuch: Some Historical Considerations." *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 45/3 (September, 2002): 385-403.¹
- Bill T. Arnold and Bryan E. Beyer. *Encountering the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1999. pp. 21-179.
- Bill T. Arnold and Bryan E. Beyer. *Readings from the Ancient Near East*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1999. Readings #5, 6, 12, 24.
- Peter Y. Lee. *Genesis to Joshua: Course Outline* (provided by instructor on the first day of class).²

• **REQUIREMENTS:**

- Attendance:
 - ✓ You are required to attend each class.
 - ✓ If you know you cannot make it to a class session, notify me in advance.
- Reading Report:
 - ✓ In place of a Mid-term exam, you will turn in a Reading Report.
 - ✓ Write a brief summary of **EACH CHAPTER** in each of the required readings below.
 - T. D. Alexander. *From Paradise to Promised Land*.
 - Meredith G. Kline. *Images of the Spirit*. Chapters 1 and 2.
 - Michael Horton. *God of Promise: Introducing Covenant Theology*.
- Paper Assignment: You will turn in a term paper of 10-15 pages. The focus of this assignment is to see if you understand the concepts discussed in class, *not the length of your paper*. Cite passages from Scripture as needed. Proofread your papers for spelling and grammatical errors. The due date is provided below via email to the instructor. See below for the topics of the paper assignment.

¹ A copy of this article will be provided on the first day of class.

² Students will make payments to the instructor for this outline: \$20.00 for paper copies, \$10.00 for electronic.

- Exam: In order to fit in all the materials for this course in the given time, there will be only one FINAL EXAM.
 - ✓ The exam will cover materials from the class lectures and required readings.
 - ✓ The exam will be take-home, thus will require a proctor.
 - ✓ The exam will be mailed to you when you turn in your paper assignment above.
 - ✓ The exam is to be completed and post-dated to the instructor no later than **DECEMBER 22**. Any exam later than that date will be penalized.

- Due Dates of Assignments:

✓ Reading Report	Due December 9 (Tuesday) in class to instructor
✓ Term Paper	Due December 16 (Tuesday) in class to instructor
✓ Final Exam	Due December 22 (Monday) via mail (postdate)

- Total Grade:

✓ Reading Report:	25% of total grade
✓ Term Paper:	25% of total grade
✓ Final Exam:	50% of total grade

- **OFFICE HOURS:**

- Every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon ~ 3:30pm to 5:30pm at the RTS office
- Or by appointment (contact the instructor to setup a time and place).

- **INFORMATION ON PETER LEE:** If you have questions, cannot attend a class, or need any further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

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Possible Term Paper Topics

Students are free to choose from any of the topics below for their paper assignment. Inform the instructor of your choice by October 7 (Tuesday). Students are free to change their topics with prior notice to the instructor. Students can choose paper topics outside of the options below with consent of the instructor.

A. Hebrew Exegetical Paper:

1. Choose a passage from the Pentateuch (including Joshua). Write an exegetical paper on that passage. This requires a reading knowledge of Biblical Hebrew.

B. Pentateuchal Criticism:

1. Discuss the development of higher critical methods as they have been applied to the Pentateuch. Be sure to mention significant names and methods.
2. Read and interact with the article by Professor Peter Enns from your required reading list. Describe the strengths and weaknesses of the article as well as your overall assessment of his thoughts on the matter of Mosaic authorship.

C. Literature and Exegesis:

1. The title of this course (Genesis to Joshua) has strayed away from the traditional title found in other seminaries (Pentateuch). Explain why. Include the place of redemptive themes found in these books in the overall structure of the history of redemption.
2. Discuss how Ancient Near Eastern covenantal treaties (suzerain-vassal treaties) provided the structure for the formation of the Old Testament canon.
3. Read *The Genesis Debate*, edited by David G. Hagopian (CruxPress, Mission Viejo, CA, 2001). This book outlines the various positions on the interpretations of Genesis 1 with responses. Take a position on this issue and defend it. You may use materials from this book or from the class materials.
4. Describe the theology of the atonement in the Book of Leviticus.

D. Biblical Theology options:

1. Describe the theme of the PEOPLE OF GOD as found in the covenant of Abraham. Discuss the development of this theme from a biblical-theological analysis in terms of its promise and its fulfillment.
2. Describe the theme of the LAND OF GOD as found in the covenant of Abraham. Discuss the development of this theme from a biblical-theological analysis in terms of its promise and its fulfillment.
3. Describe the theme of KINGSHIP as it is found within the corpus of the Genesis to Joshua. Although comments should be focused to Genesis to Joshua, briefly include its development into the NT.

E. Covenant Theology Options:

1. Describe each covenantal administration that is found in the corpus of Genesis to Joshua. Be sure to describe the covenant parties and the principle that determines the reception of the blessings of that covenant. Provide a description on the relationships of these various covenantal arrangements.
2. Describe the state of the difference within reformed theological circles on the nature of the Sinaitic covenant. Take a position and defend it from Scripture. Elaborate on its relationship with the Abrahamic Covenant.
3. Read the article “Covenant Theology under Attack,” by Meredith G. Kline.³ Describe the critique of Dr. Kline on the theology of Daniel Fuller and what is at stake in this discussion. Describe the covenant theology as offered by Kline.

³ The instructor has a copy of this article that can be provided for any student interested in this paper topic.