

## **4OT508: GENESIS – JOSHUA**

### *Course Syllabus*

Reformed Theological Seminary, Atlanta  
Spring 2011  
Thursdays, 6: 00 PM – 9:00 PM

Instructor: John J. Yeo, Ph.D.  
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Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> – Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>

#### **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. 3 Credit Hours.*

#### **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, chere 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 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;
- 5) to evaluate current scholarship on critical matters such as the authorship, dating and unity of the Pentateuch along with the book of Joshua;
- and 6) 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**

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|----------------------|---|
| <b>August 25-</b>    | <i>Syllabus Review and Course Requirements</i><br><b>Prolegomena:</b> Authorship, Dating, and Text of the Pentateuch                    |
| <b>September 01-</b> | Authorship, Dating, and Text of the Pentateuch (Cont.)<br><b>GENESIS:</b> The Primeval History<br>The Genesis Account vs. ANE Mythology |

- *Encountering the Old Testament*, pp. 21-87
  - *Readings from the Ancient Near East* edited by B. Arnold & B. Beyer, Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002, pp. 31-50 (“Enuma Elish”)
  - *Introduction to the Old Testament*, pp. 38-62
  - *Old Testament Theology*, pp. 173-208
- September 08-** Exegesis of the Creation Account (Genesis 1-2)
- E.J. Young and M.G. Kline on Genesis 1-2
  - *Old Testament Theology*, pp. 209-247
- September 15-** The Fall and the Two Lineages (Genesis 4-5)
- *Old Testament Theology*, pp. 248-283
- September 22-** The Flood Narrative and the Prophecy of Noah (Genesis 6-10)  
*Excursus: The Source-critical Division of the Flood Narrative*
- *Old Testament Theology*, pp. 284-304
- September 29-** *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
  - *Old Testament Theology*, pp. 305-345
- October 06-** *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
- October 13-** **Midterm Examination** (2 hours)
- October 20-** **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
  - *Old Testament Theology*, pp. 346-404
- October 27-** Law and Covenant: Legal Texts and Exodus  
Exegesis of the Decalogue (Exodus 20:1-20)  
Tabernacle, the Golden Calf, and Covenant Renewal
- *Old Testament Theology*, pp. 405-444
- November 03-** **LEVITICUS**

- The Sacrificial System (Leviticus 1-7)
- The Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16)
- *Encountering*, pp. 117-126
- *Intro to the OT*, pp. 81-91
- *Old Testament Theology*, pp. 445-478

### NUMBERS

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

**November 10-**

### DEUTERONOMY

- Covenant Treaties of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Millennium B.C.
- The Structure of Deuteronomy and Biblical Authority
- *Encountering*, pp. 141-154
- *Intro to the OT*, pp. 102-119
- *Old Testament Theology*, pp. 479-511

**November 17-**

**Fall Break – No Class**

**November 24-**

**Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class**

**December 01-**

- The Theology of Deuteronomy
- Exegesis of the Paradigm Prophet: Moses (Deuteronomy 17)

### JOSHUA

- A Deuteronomic or 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
- *Old Testament Theology*, pp. 512-533

**December 09-**

**Thematic Paper Due**

**December 15-**

**Final Examination (2 hours)**

## III. ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS

### A. Paper

Write a 10-12 page paper on a major theological theme found in the books, Genesis through Joshua. Please do not go over the maximum limit of 15 pages including bibliography. 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.

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

### **C. Reading Assignments**

All reading assignments have been designated by bullets in the course schedule. In addition to the readings assigned from the required textbooks, all students are also required to read the entire corpus from Genesis through Joshua before December 15, 2011.

### **Extension Policy**

All assignments and exams are to be completed by the deadlines announced in this syllabus or in class.

Extensions for assignments and exams due within the normal duration of the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. Extensions of two weeks or less beyond the date of the last deadline for the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. A grade penalty may be assessed.

Extensions of greater than two weeks but not more than six weeks beyond the last deadline for the course may be granted in extenuating circumstances (i.e. illness, family emergency). For an extension of more than two weeks the student must request an Extension Request Form from the Student Services Office. The request must be approved by the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed. (RTS Catalog p. 42 and RTS Atlanta Student Handbook p. 14)

Any incompletes not cleared six weeks after the last published due date for course work will be converted to a failing grade. Professors may have the failing grade changed to a passing grade by request. (RTS Catalog p. 42)

## **IV. GRADING**

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

A (97-100)	C (80-82)
A- (94-96)	C- (78-79)
B+ (91-93)	D+ (75-77)
B (88-90)	D (72-74)
B- (86-87)	D- (70-71)
C+ (83-85)	F (below 70)

**B. Basis for computation**

Midterm Examination	33.3%
Final Examination	33.3%
Paper	+ 33.4%
	<u>100%</u>

## **V. BOOK LIST**

**Required-**

Arnold, Bill T. & Bryan E. Beyer. *Encountering the Old Testament*. Second edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008.

Longman, Tremper, III & Raymond B. Dillard. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. Second edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.

Waltke, Bruce K. with Charles Yu. *An Old Testament Theology: An Exegetical, Canonical, and Thematic Approach*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007.

**Highly Recommended-**

Alexander, T. Desmond. *From Paradise to the Promised Land*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1995; revised second edition, 2002.

Clines, David J.A. *The Theme of the Pentateuch*. Second edition. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1997.

Clowney, Edmund. *Preaching Christ From All the Scriptures*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2003.

Currid, John D. *Doing Archaeology in the Land of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1999.

Dorsey, David A. *The Literary Structure of the Old Testament: A Commentary On Genesis-Malachi*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1999.

Garrett, Duane. *Rethinking Genesis: The Sources and Authorship of the First Book of the Pentateuch*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991; reprinted by Christian Focus Publications, 2000.

Goldsworthy, Graeme. *According to Plan: The Unfolding Revelation of the God In the Bible*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2002.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.

Greidanus, Sidney. *Preaching Christ from the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999.

Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. *The Old Testament Documents: Are They Reliable & Relevant?* Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2001.

Kline, Meredith G. *Kingdom Prologue*. South Hamilton, MA: M.G. Kline, 1993; reprinted by Wipf & Stock, 2006.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Structure of Biblical Authority*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1975; reprinted by Wipf & Stock Publishers, 1997.

- Robertson, O. Palmer. *The Christ of the Covenants*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 1980.
- Sailhamer, John H. *The Meaning of the Pentateuch: Revelation, Composition, and Interpretation*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2009.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Pentateuch as Narrative: A Biblical-Theological Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.
- VanGemeren, Willem. *The Progress of Redemption*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1988.
- Wenham, Gordon. *Exploring the Old Testament: A Guide to the Pentateuch*. Vol. One. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2003.
- Wolf, Herbert. *An Introduction to the Old Testament Pentateuch*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1991.
- Yeo, John J. *Plundering the Egyptians: The Old Testament and Historical Criticism at Westminster Theological Seminary (1929-1998)*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 2010.