



INDIANAPOLIS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

PENTATEUCH
Dr. John D. Currid
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Fall 2016
3 credits

TA: Katy McIlvaine
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Course Tutor: Dr. Nicholas G. Piotrowski
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Lectures:
Fri. September 9, 7–10pm
Sat. September 10, 9am–5pm
Fri. October 14, 7–10pm
Sat. October 15, 9am–5pm

Colloquia:
Tues. September 20, 7–10pm
Tues. October 4, 7–10pm
Tues. October 25, 7–10pm
Tues. November 8, 7–10pm
Tues. November 29, 7–10pm
Tues. December 13, 7–10pm

All meetings at Redeemer Presbyterian Church, 1505 N. Delaware Street

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

BT 511

Pentateuch

3 credits

A detailed study of the Old Testament “Books of Moses”: Genesis–Deuteronomy. Focus will be on introductory material, salient literary features, theology, canonical contribution, and contemporary debates.

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 for today. 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.

COURSE OUTCOMES:

As part of the ITS Learning Outcomes, this course contributes to shaping students in becoming adept in:

Hermeneutics & Biblical Theology

proficient at reading and interpreting biblical Hebrew and Greek, appreciating the rhetorical functions of the biblical books in their original social contexts, comprehending the contours of redemptive history within a covenantal framework, and possessing a very high biblical literacy and trenchant understanding of the gospel.

Spiritual Transformation

continually growing in Christ-likeness and bringing forth the fruits of the Spirit, having been transformed by the gospel, and living by grace, applying the gospel to all of life.

TEXTBOOKS:

1. John D. Currid, *Against the Gods: The Polemical Theology of the Old Testament* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2013). The student should pay particularly close attention to chapters 3 and 4 of this book because they will be the basis for two of the colloquia that the student will participate in.
2. O. Palmer Robertson, *Christ of the Covenants* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R, 1987). This book will be the basis for one of the colloquia.
3. M. Van Pelt, *A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the Old Testament: The Gospel Promised* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2016). The student is required to read the Introduction and the chapters dealing with Genesis through Deuteronomy.
4. Two articles will be handed out during the first class period. These articles will be the basis for discussion in two of the students' colloquia.

REQUIREMENTS:

The grade for the course will be determined on the basis of the following factors:

1. The student is required to submit a 12-15 page typewritten paper on a topic assigned during the first class period. The paper is due on Thursday, December 1 at 5:00 pm. You may email it to either me or my TA. Late papers will be docked one full letter grade per day. 50% of the final grade.
2. The student is expected to complete all of the assigned reading, and to read all five books of the Torah. You are to report the amount of reading you have completed with your paper that is due on December 1. 10% of the final grade.
3. A final exam will be given during the final colloquia. 40% of the final grade.

OUTLINE OF THE COURSE:

Friday, September 9

I. Introduction to the Pentateuch

1. Syllabus
2. Exegesis of Deuteronomy 32:45-47

II. Creation

1. Exegesis of Genesis 1:1-3
2. Views of Time in Creation
3. Creation of Mankind and Marriage

Saturday, September 10

III. The Fall

1. Causes of the Fall
2. Results of the Fall

IV. Redemption: Unfolding of the Two Seeds

1. Seed of the Serpent
2. Seed of the Woman

3. Fusion of the Two Seeds
4. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

Friday, October 14

V. Israel in Egypt

1. Joseph in Egypt
2. Call of the Deliverer
3. Plague Account

Saturday, October 15

VI. Seed of the Woman at Sinai

1. The Law
2. The Priesthood
3. The Sacrificial System

VII. In the Wilderness

1. The Bronze Serpent Episode
2. Israel and Idolatry

VIII. The Second Law

1. Deuteronomy as a Vassal Treaty
2. Structure of Deuteronomy
3. Concept of Law in the Ancient Near East

TOPICS FOR COLLOQUIA:

1. Colloquium #1 (Sept. 20): Read “Formation and Canonicity of the Pentateuch” in J. Currid, *A Study Commentary on Genesis*, vol. 1 (Darlington, England: Evangelical Press, 2003), 23-33.

2. Colloquium #2 (Oct. 4): Read “Theistic Evolution is Incompatible with the Teachings of the Old Testament” by J. Currid (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, forthcoming), 1-43.
3. Colloquium #3 (Oct. 25): Read “Genesis 1 and Other Ancient Near Eastern Creation Accounts,” in J. Currid, *Against the Gods: The Polemical Theology of the Old Testament* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2013), 33-46.
4. Colloquium #4 (Nov. 8): Read “Ancient Near Eastern Flood Accounts and the Noahic Deluge of Genesis 6-9,” in J. Currid, *Against the Gods: The Polemical Theology of the Old Testament* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2013), 47-63.
5. Colloquium #5 (Nov. 29): Read O. Palmer Robertson, *Christ of the Covenants* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R, 1987).
6. Colloquium #6 (Dec. 13): Final Examination.

GRADING SCALE:

Letter	Percent	Points	C	74–76	2.00
A	96–100	4.00	C-	71–73	1.67
A-	92–95	3.67	D+	69–70	1.33
B+	88–91	3.33	D	67–68	1.00
B	84–87	3.00	D-	65–66	0.66
B-	80–83	2.67	F	< 65	0.00
C+	77–79	2.33	I	Incomplete	0.00

COURSE POLICIES:

Attendance in class is critical for learning the necessary material. Students are, therefore, expected to attend every class session. ITS understands, however, that unexpected and unavoidable emergencies do occur in the course of study. Two absences (or 6 hours of non-attendance) will not result in a lower grade. Three or four absences (9–12 hours), however, will result in lowering the student’s grade by one letter. Five or more absences (15+ hours) will result in an automatic F.

Incompletes can be granted at the professor’s discretion based on the likelihood that the student can complete the necessary coursework with no more than one month of extra time, and given that the student is currently passing the course at the time of the request. The regular attendance policy still applies. Students are, therefore, encouraged to withdraw if more than four classes will need to be missed.

Plagiarism and cheating will be grounds for an immediate F in any given course. A second occurrence will result in expulsion from the school.