

Pentateuch, 111
 Instructor: R. V. McCabe, Th.D.
 Course Outline

Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary
 Fall Semester
 2009

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A study of the first five books of the Old Testament. This will include an examination of their authorship, date, unity, and canonical status. Emphasis will be placed upon the unifying motif for the Pentateuch, the creation account, the flood, the origin of the nation of Israel, its religious institution, and the unfolding of its history under Moses.

OBJECTIVES:

In this course the student should

1. become acquainted with key critical issues and is able to defend the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch;
2. understand the key interpretative problems in the Pentateuch and know the germane conservative solutions to these problems;
3. be able to understand how the Pentateuch ties in with its ancient Near Eastern milieu; and
4. have an appreciation for the message of the Pentateuch and its theological content.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. **Tests:** There will be two exams. The mid-term will focus on the material in the syllabus that covers the Introduction and Genesis (pp. 1–50) and the final exam on Exodus through Deuteronomy (pp. 51–101). The mid-term will be given on **October 29** and the final exam on **December 17—90% of grade.**

Tests must be taken at the time the exam is formally scheduled, unless a student has an excusable absence. If a student has an excusable absence, he must take the exam no later than 4:00 P.M. on the day he returns to seminary. After this 4:00 P.M. deadline on the day he returns to class, a late penalty of 10% per day begins accruing for each day that he goes beyond the 4:00 P.M. deadline. This penalty will be subtracted from the student's earned grade for the exam. If a student has an inexcusable absence, he will receive a 10% penalty for not having an excusable absence. He must take the exam no later than 4:00 P.M. on the exam's scheduled day to avoid any daily late penalties. If he takes the exam after 4:00 P.M. on the exam's scheduled day, his daily late penalties begin accruing after 4:00 P.M. of that same day. For example, if a student misses a scheduled exam with an unexcused absence and if he takes it before the 4:00 P.M. deadline on the same day of the exam, he will lose 10% as a penalty for not having a legitimate excuse. However, if the student takes the exam after 4:00 P.M. on the same day, but no later than 4:00 P.M. on the following day, he will lose 20% from his earned grade. He loses 10% for not having a legitimate excuse and 10% as a daily late penalty for not having taken the exam by 4:00 P.M. on the next day.

In addition, tardies are unacceptable when a test has been scheduled. A tardy may result in a 10% penalty for the exam.

2. **Reading requirement:** If the student completes all the assigned reading in accordance with the reading schedule, he will receive a 98%. If the student does not complete the assignment on schedule, he will have 1% subtracted from 98% for every 25 pages or chapters (if from the Bible) that he is short of the total pages due on the assigned date. A

reading report will be submitted to the professor just prior to the administration of each exam—**10% of grade**.

Reading Schedule:

The following must be read by the time when the test has been assigned for the class:

A. Mid-term (total pages due by this exam is 356)

Genesis 1–50 (50 chs.)
Hamilton, pp. 19–132 (113 pp.)
Merrill (1991), pp. 7–87 (81 pp.)
Wolf, pp. 13–124 (112 pp.)

B. Final (total pages due by this exam is 628)

Exodus 1–Deuteronomy 34 (137 chs.)
Feinberg (1981), pp. 39–77 (39 pp.)
Freeman, pp. 21–28 (8 pp.)
Hamilton, pp. 135–464 (329 pp.)
Whitcomb (Fall 1985), pp. 201–17 (17 pp.)
Wolf, pp. 125–222 (98 pp.)

CLASS ABSENCES:

The policy for absenteeism at Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary is as follows. A student is allowed one week of unexcused absences and three weeks of excused absences. The maximum number of absences is four weeks for a class. Anyone who is absent from class beyond this will receive an “F” for that course, except by vote of the faculty in extenuating circumstances.

When a student has consumed his one week of permissible unexcused absences for a given course, his final grade will be penalized by 1% per hour of class that he has gone beyond this limit and extending until he has missed four full weeks of class. After this, he will receive an “F” for the course.

An excused absence is one where the student’s absence is beyond his control. In order to have his absence excused, the student must submit to the course instructor a **written explanation** for his absence. Based upon this the instructor will then determine whether or not the absence should be excused.

Three periods of tardiness will be counted as one unexcused absence.

TEXTBOOKS:

1. Hamilton, Victor P. *Handbook on the Pentateuch*. 2nd ed., Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005.
2. McCabe, Robert V. and Mark A. Snoeberger. “Pentateuch.” Unpublished syllabus, Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary, 2008.
3. Wolf, Herbert. *An Introduction to the Old Testament Pentateuch*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1991.

GRADING SYSTEM:

96–100	A	86–87	B-	76–77	D+
94–95	A-	84–85	C+	72–75	D
92–93	B+	80–83	C	70–71	D-
88–91	B	78–79	C-	69 & below	F

FULL CITATION OF REQUIRED READING FROM BOOKS AND ARTICLES

Mid-term (total pages due by this exam is 356)

Genesis 1–50

Hamilton, Victor P. *Handbook on the Pentateuch*. 2nd ed., Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005; **pp. 19–132**

Merrill, Eugene H. “A Theology of the Pentateuch.” In *A Biblical Theology of the Old Testament*. Edited by Roy B. Zuck, Eugene H. Merrill, and Darrell L. Bock. Chicago: Moody Press, 1991; **pp. 7–87**

Wolf, Herbert. *An Introduction to the Old Testament Pentateuch*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1991; **pp. 13–124**

Final (total pages due by this exam is 628)

Exodus 1–Deuteronomy 34

Feinberg, John S. “Salvation in the Old Testament.” In *Tradition and Testament: Essays in Honor of Charles Lee Feinberg*. Edited by John S. and Paul D. Feinberg. Chicago: Moody Press, 1981; **pp. 39–77**

Freeman, Hobart E. “The Problem of Efficacy of the Old Testament Sacrifices.” *Grace Journal* 4 (Winter 1963); **pp. 21–28**

Hamilton, Victor P. *Handbook on the Pentateuch*. 2nd ed., Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005; **pp. 135–464**

Whitcomb, John C. “Christ’s Atonement and Animal Sacrifices in Israel.” *Grace Theological Journal* 6 (Fall 1985); **pp. 201–17**

Wolf, Herbert. *An Introduction to the Old Testament Pentateuch*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1991; **pp. 125–222**

