DE 5010 | THE PENTATEUCH

3 sem. hrs.

I. Course Description

A study of the contents of the Pentateuch against its archaeological background, together with consideration of the particular Pentateuchal problems of evolution and higher criticism. The laws which form the basis of Israel’s theocracy will be examined with regard to their content, meaning and applicability today.

II. Course Objectives

A. To gain knowledge of the content of the five books of Moses and gain principles for their interpretation.

B. To interpret Genesis 1-11 and offer arguments in defense of the biblical teaching vs. evolutionary claims.

C. To understand and to sketch out the answers to the higher critical attack upon the unity of the Pentateuch.

D. To learn the history given in the Pentateuch against its archaeological background and show its bearing on the interpretation of the text.

III. Course Materials


B. The Holy Bible: Each chapter of the Pentateuch (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy) should be read at least twice. Each reading should be completed in a different modern translation, preferably New King James Version, New American Standard, New International Version, or the New Revised Standard Version.


E. Topical Texts: Choose any TWO of the following works:


**IV. Course Requirements**

A. The student is expected to provide concise answers to the study questions both in the Study Guide and those listed in the "Documents" area in TriNet. These should be completed before taking the exams.

B. The student is required to participate in the discussion areas of TriNet. Thoughtful responses should be given to at least one question in each discussion area, and responses to the comments of other students are encouraged.

C. Two exams must be taken--closed book and without notes. The first exam should be taken following Lecture #13, and the second exam should be taken following Lecture #24.
D. The exams will cover the material from the recorded lectures, the biblical chapters, and the textbooks. The biblical chapters and textbooks should be read in accordance with the schedule of lectures as outlined in this syllabus below (i.e., assigned chapters and pages should be read along with the listening to each lecture). There will be a place on each exam for the student to record the completion of this reading.

E. Two books must be reported on from the "topical texts' listed above. These books are to be read thoroughly and thoughtfully. The student must prepare a brief report (typed) on each, three to five pages in length. The book report should consist of: (1) a one-to-two page summary of the thesis and key points of the book; (2) a one-to-two page critical evaluation of the book’s main ideas; and (3) a one-to-two page application arising from the book.

F. The student must write a brief research paper (4000 words) on some topic of importance touched upon in the lectures or Bible reading. Questions regarding format and style should be addressed by consulting the *TIU Style and Format Guide*, which can be obtained from the Distance Education office. You may contact us to obtain these at 800.588.7705, ext. 6554 (847.317.6554) or email the Distance Education office. Some suggested topics are:

- A critical evaluation of the “Gap Theory.”
- An analysis and evaluation of the views concerning the length of the creative days.
- A critical evaluation of the evolutionary theory.
- The date of the Exodus from Egypt.
- The route of the Exodus.
- An analysis of the code of Hammurabi and the laws of Moses.
- A survey of the nature and significance of the Abrahamic Covenant.
- A survey of the nature and significance of the various sacrifices presented in the early chapters of Leviticus.
- New Testament teachings supporting the inspiration of the Pentateuch.
- A chronological overview from the Patriarchs to the wilderness wandering including biblical references, Egyptian history, and a chart.
- A synthetic overview of the major literary movements within the Pentateuch (or a book of the Pentateuch), which includes a chart.
- A critical evaluation of Josephus’ writings concerning the events taught in the Pentateuch.

**IV. Course Grading**

- Study Questions: 15%
- TriNet Discussion Questions: 5%
First Exam: 20%
Second Exam: 20%
Two Book Reports: 20% (10% each)
Research Paper: 20%

All assignments should be submitted directly to your Course Tutor using the Submit Work icon within your TriNet course. Exams should be mailed by your proctor to the address below. Course work may be submitted by mail if necessary.

Distance Education
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
2065 Half Day Road
Deerfield, IL 60015

If you have questions related to your assignments, please contact your Course Tutor in TriNet. All other questions should be directed to the Distance Education office (email or 847-317-6554).

Reading schedule (per lecture (not including your choice of “Topical Texts”)):

Lecture I:  
Lecture II:  
Lecture III:  
Lecture IV:  
Lecture V:  
Lecture VI:  
Lecture VII:  
Lecture VIII:  
Lecture IX:  
Lecture X:  
Lecture XI:  
Lecture XII:  
Lecture XIII:  
Lecture XIV:  
Lecture XV:  
Lecture XVI:  
Lecture XVII:  
Lecture XVIII:  
Lecture XIX:  
Lecture XX:  
Lecture XXI:  
Lecture XXII:  
Lecture XXIII:  
Lecture XXIV:  

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