

**BIBL 5210 OLD TESTAMENT 1:  
PENTATEUCH AND INTERPRETATION**  
**Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy**

Fall 2026, Hybrid Hyflex Format

- (1) Tuesdays 5:45-7:30 pm CST synchronous sessions (in-person & online)  
[Zoom link for the course](#)
- (2) Weekly asynchronous video lectures

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:**

[J. Nathan Clayton, PhD](#)

E-mail: [jnclayton@northpark.edu](mailto:jnclayton@northpark.edu) (best method of contact)

Office: Nyvall Hall 321 – Office Phone: (773) 244-5236

**Email & Phone Communication**

During the semester, you are welcome to email or call Monday–Friday, 8:00 am–5:00 pm CST. I typically respond to email and voicemail within 24 hours on weekdays.

**Meeting with the Professor**

Students are encouraged to schedule a meeting if needed. If you encounter any difficulties in the course, please reach out early so we can address concerns and problem-solve together.

- To schedule an online meeting via Teams, please use this [Bookings link](#).
- To schedule an in-person office meeting, please use this [Bookings link](#).

**Office Hours (Fall Semester)**

Office hours are scheduled in 30-minute increments:

- **Online (Teams):** Thursdays, 10:00 am–12:00 pm CST
- **In Person (Nyvall 321):** Thursdays, 1:00–2:00 pm CST

If you are unable to find a time within these slots that works for your schedule, please email me and we will arrange an alternative time.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course offers a sustained study of Genesis through Deuteronomy alongside an introduction to major hermeneutical approaches used in interpreting the Old Testament. Students will engage the Pentateuch both canonically and historically—examining its theological message within the final form of Scripture, while also attending to its historical setting, compositional development, and interpretive history within Israel and the wider biblical canon.

Attention will be given to key themes such as creation, covenant, law, holiness, sacrifice, wilderness formation, and the shaping of Israel's identity. In parallel, students will gain a working understanding of major interpretive methods (including historical-critical, literary, canonical, theological, and reader-oriented approaches), learning to evaluate their strengths and limitations in light of a high view of Scripture.

The primary goal of the course is to prepare students to read, interpret, teach, and preach the Pentateuch with historical awareness, theological depth, and pastoral integrity. The narratives and laws of Genesis–Deuteronomy are foundational to the whole canon and central to the Church's understanding of God's redemptive purposes. In keeping with the witness of 2 Timothy 3:16, this course approaches the Pentateuch as God-breathed Scripture—authoritative, theologically rich, and indispensable for the life and ministry of the Church.

**The NPTS Old Testament Course Sequence**

OT1, OT2, and OT3 together provide an integrated introduction to the Old Testament. OT1 focuses on the Pentateuch and the foundations of biblical theology and interpretation. OT2 examines the prophetic books and their theological message within Israel's history. OT3 explores Israel's historical narratives, wisdom literature, and the Psalms, highlighting how these texts contribute to the canonical witness of Scripture. Together these courses aim to equip students to interpret the Old Testament faithfully for the life and ministry of the church.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

An English **Bible**. You may choose your preferred English version. A good study Bible is useful.

**Gorman**, Michael J., ed. *Scripture and Interpretation: A Global, Ecumenical Introduction to the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2017. (8 of the 24 essays [162 pages] in this volume are required reading)

**Hamilton**, Victor P. *Handbook on the Pentateuch*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005. (450 pages)

**Vogt**, Peter T. *Interpreting the Pentateuch: An Exegetical Handbook*. Handbooks for Old Testament Exegesis. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2009. (214 pages)

Options (including e-books) for purchasing the textbooks are available at [this North Park textbook link](#).

*These articles, essays, and book chapters, posted on Canvas, are also required reading:* 5 articles from: Alexander, T. Desmond, and David W. Baker, eds. *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch [DOTP]*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003.

**Alexander**, “Authorship of the Pentateuch;” **Taylor**, “Form Criticism;” **Klingbeil**, “Historical Criticism;” **Baker**, “Source Criticism;” **Garrett**, “Traditio-Historical Criticism.” (53 pages)

2 chapters from: **Averbeck**, Richard E. *The Old Testament Law for the Life of the Church: Reading the Torah in the Light of Christ*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2022.

Chapter 2: “The Nature and Progression of Redemptive Covenants.”

Chapter 3: “The Mosaic Law Collections and the Redemptive Setting of the Law.” (81 pages)

3 essays from: Barry J. Beitzel, ed. *Lexham Geographic Commentary on the Pentateuch*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham, 2023.

Elaine A. **Phillips**, “Manna: A Geographical and Exegetical Analysis.” (6 pages)

Andrew E. **Hill**, “The Spatial Syntax of the Israel’s Tabernacle.” (11 pages)

Vernon **Alexander**, “Geography, Agriculture, and the Israelite Calendar.” (8 pages)

**Reading Requirements and Course Workload**

For a 3-credit course at NPTS, the institutional guideline is that required reading should not exceed approximately 1,000 pages over the course of the semester. The assigned readings for this course total approximately 985 pages, which falls within that guideline.

There is no separate required Bible reading listed in addition to the textbooks. However, students are strongly encouraged to read through the biblical text of the Pentateuch alongside the course. Doing so will significantly deepen comprehension and enrich both discussion and long-term retention.

This hybrid course includes approximately 1.5 hours of synchronous instruction and about 1.5 hours of asynchronous instructional engagement each week. In addition, students should plan to devote approximately three hours per week per credit hour (about nine hours total per week) to reading, preparation, and coursework outside of instructional time.

**Bibliography**

See the select bibliography at the end of this syllabus for further works on the Pentateuch and Old Testament interpretation generally, and for suggestions on works for each book of the Pentateuch.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The major North Park Theological Seminary degree learning outcomes this course intends to address are:

MACF: “Interpret Scripture with historical and theological integrity in relation to Christian formation.”

MACM: “Interpret Scripture with historical and theological integrity in relation to one’s ministry.”

MATS: “Interpret Scripture with historical and theological integrity for diverse communities and contexts.”

MDIV: “Interpret Scripture with historical and theological integrity for diverse churches, communities, and contexts.”

## IDEA OBJECTIVES

North Park University uses the IDEA course rating system to measure student progress towards learning objectives and to measure student satisfaction with their overall learning experience. These course evaluations are administered at the end of the term, and you will be notified by email when they are ready for you to complete. The results of these evaluations are very important to us, and we use them for ongoing efforts to improve the quality of our courses. These are the learning objectives for this course (CLOs):

## COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The following learning outcomes guide the structure of lectures, readings, and assessments in this course:

1. **Identify and describe** the key historical, geographical, literary, and theological features of the Pentateuch within the broader canonical context of Scripture.  
*[Remember, Understand]*  
**Assessed via:** Midterm and Final Exams and related Study Guides
2. **Interpret** selected Pentateuchal passages using appropriate historical, literary, and theological interpretive methods.  
*[Understand, Apply]*  
**Assessed via:** Exegetical Paper and Oral Summary Presentation
3. **Analyze and synthesize** major scholarly perspectives on Pentateuchal passages in order to demonstrate interpretive clarity and theological insight.  
*[Analyze, Synthesize]*  
**Assessed via:** Exegetical Paper and Oral Presentation
4. **Evaluate** theological interpretations of Pentateuchal texts and formulate a biblically grounded interpretation that is informed by academic scholarship and attentive to the life and ministry of the church.  
*[Evaluate, Create]*  
**Assessed via:** Exegetical Paper and Oral Presentation

## COURSE ASSESSMENTS, POLICIES, AND GRADING

### Course Assessments and Grading

Student learning in this course will be assessed through a combination of exams, written work, reading engagement, lecture interaction, and discussion participation. These assessments are designed to support the course learning outcomes by helping students grow in their understanding of the Pentateuch, engage responsibly with biblical scholarship, and develop skills for interpreting Scripture faithfully in the life and ministry of the church.

### Final Grade Breakdown

|                                           |     |
|-------------------------------------------|-----|
| Midterm Exam                              | 15% |
| Final Exam                                | 15% |
| Exegetical Paper                          | 35% |
| <i>Paper Topic &amp; Bibliography</i>     | 5%  |
| <i>Exegetical Issue Essay</i>             | 5%  |
| <i>Final Exegetical Paper</i>             | 20% |
| <i>Summary Outline &amp; Presentation</i> | 5%  |
| Reading Reports (2)                       | 20% |
| Video Lecture Reports (2)                 | 15% |

**Midterm and Final Exams (30%)**

Two exams will assess students' understanding of the core content of the course and their ability to identify the major historical, geographical, literary, and theological features of the Pentateuch.

The midterm exam covers material from the first half of the course: hermeneutics, overview of the Pentateuch, and Genesis. The final exam covers material from the second half of the course: Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

Detailed study guides will be posted on Canvas early in the semester, and all exam questions will flow directly from those guides. Exams will consist of objective questions such as short answer, matching, and fill-in-the-blank.

Students should complete the exams without notes or Bible. At the beginning of each exam students will affirm that the work represents their own effort. There is no time limit, but the exam should be taken in one sitting.

**Exegetical Paper (30%)**

Students will write a 9–12-page exegetical paper on a short passage from the Pentateuch chosen from a provided list. The paper is designed to help students practice careful biblical interpretation by engaging the text closely, interacting with scholarly discussions, and articulating a clear theological interpretation relevant to ministry.

The assignment includes four stages:

- Paper Topic & Bibliography – identifying the passage and beginning research
- Exegetical Issue Essay – analyzing a significant interpretive issue in the passage
- Final Exegetical Paper – presenting a full exegetical and theological interpretation
- Summary Outline & Presentation – communicating the argument clearly

*Detailed instructions and an overview video are provided on Canvas.*

**Reading Reports (20%)**

Students will complete the assigned course readings according to the weekly schedule and submit two reading reports documenting their completion of the readings.

Reading Report #1 – Due Week 7

Reading Report #2 – Due Week 15

For each assigned set of readings, students will record a completion score using the following scale:

4 = 100% completed

1 = less than 50% completed

3 = 75–99% completed

0 = none completed

2 = 50–74% completed

Blank reading report forms will be available on Canvas in the corresponding course modules.

**Video Lecture Reports (15%)**

Because this course follows a hybrid format, students will complete both synchronous class sessions and asynchronous video lectures.

Students will submit two video lecture reports confirming completion of assigned lecture videos.

Video Lecture Report #1 – Due Week 7

Video Lecture Report #2 – Due Week 15

For each assigned set of video lectures, students will record a completion score using the following scale:

4 = 100% completed

1 = less than 50% completed

3 = 75–99% completed

0 = none completed

2 = 50–74% completed

Blank video lecture report forms will be available on Canvas in the corresponding course modules.

### Late Turn-In Policy for the Exegetical Paper

1. The final exegetical paper is due on Canvas by Wednesday, December 2, at midnight CST.
2. Papers may be submitted late, with a penalty, until Thursday, December 10, at midnight CST.
3. For each day the paper is late after December 2 (through December 10), 2% will be deducted from the paper's grade. Papers will not be accepted after December 10.

### Attendance Policy for Synchronous Class Sessions

Students are expected to attend the Tuesday evening synchronous sessions.

- Up to two absences may occur without penalty.
- Three to four absences may impact the final grade at the instructor's discretion.
- Five absences will result in failure of the course.

Attendance will be recorded for each synchronous session. Students should notify the instructor in advance whenever possible if they must miss a class. Additional absences beyond two may affect the final grade.

### North Park Theological Seminary Grading Scale

|          |          |
|----------|----------|
| A 95–100 | C 80–83  |
| A- 93–94 | C- 78–79 |
| B+ 91–92 | D+ 76–77 |
| B 88–90  | D 72–75  |
| B- 86–87 | D- 70–71 |
| C+ 84–85 | F 0–69   |

### Grading Criteria

|                 |                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>A to A-</i>  | Exceptional work demonstrating excellence beyond merely fulfilling course requirements.                                                     |
| <i>B+ to B-</i> | Above average work showing strong engagement and performance beyond minimum expectations.                                                   |
| <i>C+ to C-</i> | Average work that satisfactorily fulfills course requirements.                                                                              |
| <i>D+ to D-</i> | Unsatisfactory work reflecting below-average performance; although the course may be completed, such work indicates significant weaknesses. |

### SYNCHRONOUS SESSION GUIDELINES:

All students should come to the synchronous Zoom sessions prepared for active, informed participation. In this class, these live sessions will consist of a mix of lecturing and interactive discussions (small group breakouts and with the whole class).

As students, think of the physical space from which you join the Zoom call as an extension of the classroom. Ensure that you are in a **private, stable location that is free of visual and audio distractions**. Make sure that you have a **reliable, consistent internet connection**. It's important that we all respect the integrity of classroom discussion. (For this same reason, please do not record class sessions.) **Please keep your camera and microphone on** through the class session. Consider purchasing a quality microphone or headset to improve the quality of your sound.

## ACADEMIC HONESTY

In keeping with our Christian heritage and commitment, North Park University is committed to the highest possible ethical and moral standards. Just as we will constantly strive to live up to these high standards, we expect our students to do the same. To that end, cheating of any sort will not be tolerated. Students who are discovered cheating will receive a *failing grade* on the assignment and are subject to discipline up to and including failure of a course and expulsion. Our definition of cheating includes but is not limited to:

1. Plagiarism – the use of another’s work as one’s own without giving credit to the individual. This includes using materials from the internet.
2. Copying another’s answers on an examination.
3. Deliberately allowing another to copy one’s answers or work.
4. Signing an attendance roster for another who is not present.
5. *Use of ChatGPT or other AI composition software to produce or impersonate individual assignments.*

For additional information, see the [Seminary Academic Catalog](#), pp. 25–26.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

Your experience in this class is important to me. North Park is committed to creating inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. If you have already established your accommodations, please share your accommodation letter with me so we can discuss how your accommodations will be implemented in this course. If you have not yet established services and have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations, **please email the Disability Access Specialist ([ada@northpark.edu](mailto:ada@northpark.edu)) or contact by phone (773-244-5737)**. Student Engagement facilitates the interactive process that establishes accommodations. [This is the webpage](#) for Disability Resources.

## TITLE IX

Students who believe they may have experienced sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking should contact the Title IX Coordinator (773) 244-5664 or [TitleIX@northpark.edu](mailto:TitleIX@northpark.edu) to learn more about reporting options, resources, and support services.

As members of the North Park faculty, we are concerned about the well-being and development of our students and are available to discuss any concerns. Faculty members are private resources, meaning we are legally obligated to share information about the behavior reported above with the University’s Title IX coordinator. If you are unsure whether you want your concerns disclosed to the Title IX Coordinator, we encourage you to contact Counseling Support Services at (773) 244-4897 or [counseling@northpark.edu](mailto:counseling@northpark.edu). Please refer to North Park’s [Safe Community](#) site for reporting, contact information, and further details.

## INCOMPLETE GRADES

If, due to extenuating circumstances (specifically, pregnancy, illness, personal and family issues, military assignment, etc.), a student anticipates they will be unable to complete course work within the allotted time, that student may request a grade of “Incomplete (I)” from the course instructor *before the last week* of class clearly stating the reason(s) for this request. Overscheduling and/or lack of self-discipline are *not* considered extenuating circumstances. If the request is timely and meets the criteria, student and instructor will submit the incomplete grade form and the grade for that class will be listed as “I” until the last day of the following semester. If coursework is not submitted by the last day of the following semester the listing of “I” will automatically be changed to “F.” For the full policy, see page 15 of the [Seminary Academic Catalog](#).

## COURSE SCHEDULE

**Important Note:** All course content, announcements, assignments, and grades will be posted on Canvas. Students are expected to check Canvas and their NPU email regularly.

### ***Week 1—8/25: Introduction and Genesis 1***

By Tuesday class time:

*Watch* online videos for:

**Lecture 1:** Orientation to the Course

*Read:*

Hamilton, ch. 1 “Creation and the Fall (1-3)”

Vogt, chs. 1-2, “The Genres of the Pentateuch,” “The Major Themes of the Pentateuch”

*Start tracking:*

Reading and video lecture completion (Reading report #1 and Video lecture report #1 posted on Canvas)

Tuesday session topics:

Interactive discussion

**Lecture 3:** Genesis 1—Creation

### ***Week 2—9/1: Hermeneutics & Genesis 2***

By Tuesday class time:

*Watch* online videos for:

**Lecture 2:** The World Behind the Text—Hermeneutics 1

*Read:*

Gorman, chs. 1-2:

Zilonka & Gorman, “The Bible: A Book, A Story, an Invitation”

Wenell, “The Setting: Biblical Geography, History, and Archaeology”

DOTP, 2 articles:

Alexander, “Authorship of the Pentateuch” (Posted on Canvas)

Baker, “Source Criticism” (Posted on Canvas)

Tuesday session topics:

**Lecture 4:** Genesis 2—Creation Revisited

### ***Week 3—9/8: Hermeneutics and Genesis 3***

By Tuesday class time:

*Watch* online videos for:

**Lecture 5:** The World of the Text Itself—Hermeneutics 2

*Read:*

Vogt, chs. 3-4, “Getting Started,” “Interpreting the Pentateuch”

DOTP, 2 articles:

Taylor, “Form Criticism” (Posted on Canvas)

Garrett, “Traditio-Historical Criticism” (Posted on Canvas)

Tuesday session topics:

Interactive discussion

**Lecture 6:** Genesis 3—The Fall into Sin

**Week 4—9/18: Hermeneutics, Exegetical Paper, and Library Use**Important note:

This is **campus immersion week**, and this class will meet in person for an extended session on Friday 9/18 from 8 am to noon CST.

By Friday 9/18, 8 am CST:*Read:*

Gorman, chs. 3 & 5:  
McGinnis, “The Scriptures of Israel (The Christian Old Testament)”  
Skinner, “Significant Noncanonical Writings”  
DOTP, 1 article:  
Klingbeil, “Historical Criticism” (Posted on Canvas)

Friday Session Topics:

**Lecture 7:** The Reader in front of the Text—Hermeneutics 3

**Exegetical Paper:** Extended Discussion

**Library use:** Research tools presentation & library visit

**Week 5—9/22-23: Hermeneutics**By Tuesday class time:*Read:*

Gorman, chs. 6 & 7:  
Holmes, “From Books to Library: The Formation of the Biblical Canons”  
Barré, “From Here to There: The Transmission and Translation of the Bible”  
Hamilton, ch. 2 “The Sequence After Creation and the Fall (4-11)”

Tuesday session topics:

**Lecture 8:** Canonical Text and Contextual Theologies—Hermeneutics 4  
Interactive discussion

**Week 6—9/29: Genesis 4-11 & 12-25**By Tuesday class time*Watch* online videos for:

**Lecture 9:** Genesis 4-11

*Read:*

Hamilton, ch. 3 “Abraham (11:26-25:11)”  
Vogt, ch. 5 “Communicating the Genres of the Pentateuch”  
Averbeck, Chapter 2: “The Nature and Progression of Redemptive Covenants” (Posted on Canvas)

Tuesday session topics:

Interactive discussion

**Lecture 10:** Genesis 12-25—Abram, Sarai and Hagar; Isaac and Rebekah

**Week 7—10/6 Genesis 26-50**By Tuesday class time:*Watch* online videos for:

**Lecture 11:** Genesis 26-36—Jacob-Israel and Leah, Rachel, Bilhah, Zilpah

*Read:*

Hamilton, ch. 4 “Jacob (25:11-36:50)” and ch. 5 “Joseph (37-50)”  
Vogt, ch. 6 “Putting in all Together”

*Post:*

**Reading report #1**  
**Video lectures report #1**

Tuesday session topics:

Interactive discussion

**Lecture 12:** Genesis 37-50: Joseph and Aseneth

**Week 8—10/13-26: Reading Week**

*No Class*

**Week 9—10/19-21: Midterm Exam**

*No synchronous class session this week. Monday, 10/19 (8 am CST): midterm exam posted on Canvas.*

Wednesday, 10/21 (midnight CST): completed midterm due, posted on Canvas.

A study guide for the midterm exam will be available on Canvas at the start of the course. Details for taking the midterm will be discussed early in the semester.

Students should also work on their **exegetical papers** this week.

**Week 10—10/27: Introduction to Exodus, Exodus 1-14, and Exegetical Paper**

By Tuesday class time:

*Watch* online videos for:

**Lecture 13:** Introduction to Exodus

*Read:*

Hamilton, ch. 6 “The Emergence of Moses (1-6),” and ch. 7 “Plagues, Passover, and the Exodus (7:1-15:21)”

*Post:*

**Your paper passage choice and your annotated bibliography** as a PDF at the Canvas Week 1 module

Tuesday session topics:

Interactive discussion

**Lecture 14:** Exodus 1-14—Bondage and Hardening; Disaster and Deliverance

**Week 11—11/3: Exodus 15-24**

By Tuesday class time:

*Watch* online videos for:

**Lecture 15:** Exodus 15-18—Creation of a People by the Word of God

*Read:*

Hamilton, ch. 8 “Testing in the Wilderness (15:22-18:27),” and Hamilton, ch. 9 “Law and Covenant (19-24)”

Phillips, “Manna: A Geographical and Exegetical Analysis” (Posted on Canvas)

*Post:*

**Your exegetical issue essay**

Tuesday session topics:

Interactive discussion

**Lecture 16:** Exodus 19-24—At Sinai and the Fear of the Lord

**Week 12—11/10: Exodus 25-40 & Leviticus 1-17**By Tuesday class time:

Watch online videos for:

**Lecture 17:** Exodus 25-40—Name of the LORD, Golden Calf and Tabernacle

Read:

Hamilton, ch. 10 “Tabernacle, the Golden Calf, and Covenant Renewal 25-40,”  
and chs. 11-13: “The Sacrificial System (1-7),” “Priestly Ordination (8-10),”  
“Clean and Unclean (11-15)”  
Hill, “The Spatial Syntax of Israel’s Tabernacle” (Posted on Canvas)

Tuesday session topics:

Interactive discussion

**Lecture 18:** Leviticus 1-17—Sacrifices and the Priesthood

**Week 13—11/17: Leviticus 18-27**By Tuesday class time:

Read:

Hamilton, chs. 14-15: “The Day of Atonement (16),” “A Holiness Manifesto (17-27)”

Tuesday session topics:

Interactive discussion

**Lecture 19:** Leviticus 18-27—The Way of Holiness

**Week 14—11/24: Numbers**By Tuesday class time:

Read:

Hamilton, chs. 16-18: “Preparations for Departure from Sinai (1:1-10:10)” “From Sinai to Kadesh (10:11-20:11)” & “From Kadesh to Moab (20:22-36:13),” and ch. 19: Remember the Past (1:1-4:40)”

Tuesday session topics:

Interactive discussion

**Lecture 20:** Numbers

**Week 15—12/1-2: Deuteronomy & Ten Commandments; Exegetical Paper**By Tuesday class time:

Watch online videos for:

**Lecture 21:** Deuteronomy

Read:

Hamilton, 20: “Remember the Past (1:1-4:40)” & “Be Careful in the Future (4:41-11:32),” and chs. 21-23: “The Laws of Deuteronomy (12-26),” “Blessings and Curses (27-30),” “Moses’ Farewell” (31-34)  
Averbeck, chapter 3: “The Mosaic Law Collections and the Redemptive Setting of the Law” (Posted on Canvas)

Post on Canvas:

**Reading report #2**

**Video lectures report #2**

Tuesday session topics:

Interactive discussion

**Lecture 22:** OT Law & the Christian; The Ten Commandments

By Wednesday, 12/02 (midnight CST):

*Post:*

**Your exegetical paper**

**The summary outline of your exegetical paper**

***Week 16—12/8-10: Final Week***

Tuesday, 12/8:

8 am CST final exam posted on Canvas.

5:45-7:30 pm CST: final synchronous class meeting.

**Topic: each student will present a *brief* oral summary of their exegetical paper, based on the summary outline posted during Week 15**

Thursday, 12/10, midnight CST:

**Last day** that the exegetical paper can be turned in *late* (see late policy stated above)

**Completed final exam due posted on Canvas.** A study guide for the final exam will be available from the beginning of the course. The logistics of taking the final exam will be discussed early in the semester.

## SELECT ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

### 1. Pentateuch and OT Interpretation:

- Alexander, T. Desmond, and David W. Baker, eds. *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003.  
A comprehensive evangelical reference work offering scholarly articles on key themes, texts, and interpretive issues within the Pentateuch.
- Arnold, Bill T., and Brent A. Strawn, eds. *The World Around the Old Testament: The People and Places of the Ancient Near East*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2016.  
Provides essential ANE historical and cultural background for understanding the Pentateuch's world and its theological claims.
- Bediako, Kwame. *Theology and Identity: The Impact of Culture upon Christian Thought in the Second Century and in Modern Africa*. Oxford: Regnum, 1992.  
Explores how Scripture shapes communal identity across cultures, offering important perspective for interpreting covenant and peoplehood in the Pentateuch.
- Beitzel, Barry J. *The New Moody Atlas of the Bible*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2009.  
A geographical and cartographic resource that aids in situating Pentateuchal narratives within their historical landscapes.
- Birch, Bruce C., Walter Brueggemann, Terrence E. Fretheim, and David L. Peterson. *A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament*. 2nd ed. Nashville: Abingdon, 2005.  
Introduces major theological themes of the Old Testament, including creation, covenant, and law, central to Pentateuchal theology.
- Charles, J. Daryl, ed. *Reading Genesis 1–2: An Evangelical Conversation*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2013.  
Presents evangelical perspectives on creation and early Genesis, modeling theological engagement with foundational Pentateuchal texts.
- Dube, Musa W. *Postcolonial Feminist Interpretation of the Bible*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2000.  
Offers methodological tools for examining power, empire, and gender in biblical texts, sharpening hermeneutical awareness in Pentateuch study.
- Fischer, Irmtraud. *Women Who Wrestled with God: Biblical Stories of Israel's Beginnings*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical, 2005.  
Reexamines Genesis narratives through a literary and theological lens that foregrounds often-overlooked female figures.
- Freedman, David Noel, ed. *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.  
A reliable general reference resource for historical, literary, and theological topics relevant to Pentateuchal interpretation.
- Gafney, Wilda C. *Womanist Midrash. Volume 1: A Reintroduction to the Women of the Torah and the Throne*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2017.  
A contextual rereading of Torah narratives that demonstrates how social location shapes interpretation of Pentateuchal texts.
- Halton, Charles, ed. *Genesis: History, Fiction, or Neither? Three Views on the Bible's Earliest Chapters*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2015.  
Presents contrasting evangelical approaches to Genesis 1–11, illuminating debates about genre, history, and theology.

- Hess, Richard S. *The Old Testament: A Historical, Theological, and Critical Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2016.  
A balanced introduction that integrates historical-critical and theological perspectives, including detailed treatment of the Pentateuch.
- Imes, Carmen Joy. *Bearing God's Name: Why Sinai Still Matters*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2019.  
Explores the theological significance of the Sinai covenant, clarifying themes of holiness and identity in Exodus–Deuteronomy.
- Kim, Uriah Y. *Decolonizing Josiah: Toward a Postcolonial Reading of the Deuteronomistic History*. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix, 2005.  
Applies postcolonial theory to Israel's national narratives, offering methodological insights relevant to Deuteronomy and covenantal identity.
- King, Philip J., and Lawrence E. Stager. *Life in Biblical Israel*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2001.  
Provides archaeological and sociocultural context for understanding Israelite life reflected in the Pentateuch.
- Lim, Bo H. *Contextual Theological Interpretation: An Integrated Model for Reading the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2025.  
Lim proposes an integrated hermeneutical model that brings together theological conviction, historical awareness, and contextual sensitivity, offering helpful guidance for reading the Pentateuch with both canonical depth and cultural discernment.
- Longman, Tremper III. *Old Testament Commentary Survey*. 5th ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2013.  
Evaluates major commentaries on the Pentateuch and beyond, guiding students in responsible scholarly research.
- Newsom, Carol A. *The Spirit within Me: Self and Agency in Ancient Israel and Second Temple Judaism*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2021.  
Explores biblical conceptions of selfhood and moral agency, illuminating anthropological themes in Genesis and Deuteronomy.
- Provan, Iain, V. Philips Long, and Tremper Longman III. *A Biblical History of Israel*. 2nd ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2015.  
Engages debates about Israel's history and historiography, providing context for Pentateuchal narrative claims.
- Richter, Sandra L. *The Epic of Eden: A Christian Entry into the Old Testament*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2010.  
Introduces the theological storyline of the Old Testament, highlighting the Pentateuch as foundational to redemptive history.
- . *Stewards of Eden: What Scripture Says about the Environment and Why It Matters*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2020.  
Applies Pentateuchal creation and land theology to contemporary environmental ethics.
- Sailhamer, John H. *The Meaning of the Pentateuch: Revelation, Composition, and Interpretation*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2009.  
Argues for a literary and canonical reading of the Pentateuch that emphasizes its theological unity and messianic trajectory.
- Scholz, Susanne. *Introducing the Women's Hebrew Bible: Feminism, Gender Justice, and the Study of the Old Testament*. Introductions in Feminist Theology. London: T&T Clark, 2007.  
Surveys feminist approaches to the Hebrew Bible, equipping students to assess interpretive frameworks applied to Pentateuchal texts.

- Segovia, Fernando F. *Decolonizing Biblical Studies: A View from the Margins*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2000.  
Calls for interpretive self-awareness and contextual accountability in Old Testament interpretation.
- Sugirtharajah, R. S. *The Bible and the Third World: Precolonial, Colonial and Postcolonial Encounters*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001.  
Traces how biblical texts, including the Pentateuch, have been interpreted in colonial and postcolonial settings.
- , ed. *Voices from the Margin: Interpreting the Bible in the Third World*. 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ed. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2016.  
Collects global interpretive voices that challenge dominant Western readings of the Old Testament.
- Tennent, Timothy C., ed. *Global Theology in Evangelical Perspective*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011.  
Explores how evangelical theology is articulated globally, offering perspective on the cross-cultural reception of Pentateuchal themes.
- Trible, Phyllis. *God and the Rhetoric of Sexuality*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1978.  
A pioneering literary reading of Genesis narratives that shaped modern rhetorical and feminist approaches to Pentateuchal texts.
- Vanhoozer, Kevin J., ed. *Dictionary for Theological Interpretation of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005.  
Provides methodological and theological tools for reading the Pentateuch within the canon and the life of the church.
- Walton, John H. *Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2018.  
Clarifies how ANE conceptual frameworks inform interpretation of creation, law, and covenant in the Pentateuch.
- . *The Lost World of Adam and Eve: Genesis 2–3 and the Human Origins Debate*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2015.  
Applies ANE background and literary sensitivity to interpret Genesis 2–3 in theological dialogue with contemporary debates.
- Walton, John H., and Tremper Longman III. *The Lost World of the Flood: Mythology, Theology, and the Deluge Debate*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2018.  
Engages Genesis 6–9 through comparative ancient literature and theological reflection.
- Walton, John H., J. Harvey Walton, and Mark W. Chavalas, eds. *Behind the Scenes of the Old Testament: Cultural, Social, and Historical Contexts*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2018.  
Offers concise essays on historical and cultural contexts that illuminate Pentateuchal law and narrative.
- 2. Genesis:**
- Arnold, Bill T. *Genesis*. The NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009.  
A pastoral-theological commentary that bridges exegesis and contemporary application while engaging historical and literary issues.
- Baden, Joel S. *The Composition of the Pentateuch*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2012.  
A clear and influential presentation of source-critical approaches to Genesis and the broader Pentateuch.
- Carr, David M. *Genesis 1–11*. International Critical Commentary. London: T&T Clark, 2021.  
A detailed critical commentary attentive to textual, literary, and compositional development in early Genesis.

- Escobar, Samuel. *The New Global Mission: The Gospel from Everywhere to Everyone*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003.  
While not a Genesis commentary, Escobar's theological reflections on identity and mission provide a helpful Latin American evangelical lens on themes of creation, calling, and covenant promise in Genesis.
- Gafney, Wilda C. *Womanist Midrash. Volume 1: A Reintroduction to the Women of the Torah and the Throne*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2017.  
A contextual rereading of Genesis narratives that foregrounds marginalized voices and models socially aware interpretation.
- Hamilton, Victor P. *The Book of Genesis, Chapters 1–17*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990.  
A careful evangelical exegesis emphasizing theology, structure, and Hebrew detail.
- . *The Book of Genesis, Chapters 18–50*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.  
A continuation of Hamilton's exegetically rigorous and theologically attentive treatment of the patriarchal narratives.
- Kim, Uriah Y. *Genesis 1–11: A Postcolonial Reading*. Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2017.  
Applies postcolonial theory to Genesis, sharpening awareness of power, empire, and identity in interpretation.
- Sugirtharajah, R. S., ed. *Genesis in Asian Contexts*. London: T&T Clark, 2006.  
Demonstrates how Genesis is read and appropriated in Asian theological settings.
- Wenham, Gordon J. *Genesis 1–15*. Word Biblical Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.  
A technical yet accessible evangelical commentary attentive to literary structure and Hebrew syntax.
- . *Genesis 16–50*. Word Biblical Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.  
A detailed exegetical resource especially strong in narrative analysis and covenant theology.
- 3. Exodus:**
- Childs, Brevard S. *The Book of Exodus: A Critical, Theological Commentary*. Old Testament Library. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1974.  
A canonical-theological approach that models reading Exodus in its final form within the Christian canon.
- Dozeman, Thomas B. *Exodus*. Eerdmans Critical Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009.  
A major critical treatment emphasizing compositional history and theological development.
- Dube, Musa W. *Postcolonial Feminist Interpretation of the Bible*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2000.  
Provides hermeneutical tools for re-reading liberation themes in Exodus from marginalized contexts.
- Enns, Peter. *Exodus*. The NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.  
Engages historical questions while drawing theological implications for church and mission.
- Imes, Carmen Joy. *Bearing God's Name*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2019.  
Explores Sinai covenant identity and holiness in ways that illuminate Exodus 19–24.
- Propp, William H. C. *Exodus 1–18*. Anchor Yale Bible. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1999.  
A highly detailed philological and historical commentary.
- . *Exodus 19–40*. Anchor Yale Bible. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2006.  
Offers extensive treatment of covenant, law, and tabernacle traditions.

Schmid, Konrad. *The Old Testament: A Literary History*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2012.  
Situates Exodus within broader compositional development of the Pentateuch.

Segovia, Fernando F. *Decolonizing Biblical Studies: A View from the Margins*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2000.  
Segovia offers a Latino postcolonial hermeneutic that is especially illuminating for interpreting Exodus themes of liberation, empire, and covenant identity.

Stuart, Douglas K. *Exodus*. New American Commentary 2. Nashville: B&H, 2006.  
An evangelical exposition attentive to theology and literary flow.

Tennent, Timothy C., ed. *Global Theology in Evangelical Perspective: How the Global Church Is Influencing the Way We Think about and Discuss Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011.  
Shows how covenant and redemption themes resonate in global Christian theology.

#### **4. Leviticus:**

Gafney, Wilda C. *Womanist Midrash. Volume 1: A Reintroduction to the Women of the Torah and the Throne*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2017.  
Offers contextual engagement with Torah traditions including priestly material.

González, Justo L. *Santa Biblia: The Bible through Hispanic Eyes*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996.  
González reflects on how Latino communities read Scripture, offering contextual insight helpful for interpreting holiness and communal identity themes central to Leviticus.

Hartley, John E. *Leviticus*. Word Biblical Commentary 4. Nashville: Word / Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.  
Balances technical detail and theological reflection on holiness and sacrifice.

Milgrom, Jacob. *Leviticus 1–16*. Anchor Yale Bible. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1998.  
A monumental critical study emphasizing ritual, priesthood, and holiness theology.

———. *Leviticus 17–22*. Anchor Yale Bible. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2000.  
Continues Milgrom's influential work on ethics, purity, and covenantal order.

Rooker, Mark F. *Leviticus*. New American Commentary 3. Nashville: B&H, 2000.  
An evangelical exposition focused on covenant theology and worship.

Ross, Allen P. *Holiness to the Lord: A Guide to the Exposition of the Book of Leviticus*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2006.  
A theological exposition connecting Levitical holiness to biblical theology.

Stackert, Jeffrey. *Rewriting the Torah*. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2007.  
Examines inner-biblical legal revision relevant to Levitical law.

Sugirtharajah, R. S. *Voices from the Margin*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2002.  
Encourages contextual engagement with law texts and social power.

Wenham, Gordon J. *The Book of Leviticus*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1979.  
A respected evangelical commentary attentive to structure and theology.

#### **5. Numbers**

Ashley, Timothy R. *The Book of Numbers*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993.  
An evangelical commentary emphasizing covenant testing and wilderness formation.

Cole, R. Dennis. *Numbers*. New American Commentary 3B. Nashville: B&H, 2000.  
Highlights theological themes of obedience, leadership, and judgment.

Levinson, Bernard M. *Deuteronomy and the Hermeneutics of Legal Innovation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997.

Explores legal development, illuminating Numbers–Deuteronomy transitions.

Noth, Martin. *Numbers*. Old Testament Library. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1968.

A classic critical treatment focused on tradition history.

Olson, Dennis T. *Numbers*. Interpretation Commentary. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1996.

A theological commentary attentive to narrative coherence and formation.

Padilla, C. René. *Mission between the Times: Essays on the Kingdom*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1985.

Padilla's Latin American evangelical theology of community and pilgrimage provides a rich theological lens for understanding wilderness formation and covenant testing in Numbers.

Segovia, Fernando F. *Decolonizing Biblical Studies*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 2000.

Sharpens interpretive self-awareness in reading wilderness narratives.

Sklar, Jay. *Numbers*. The Story of God Bible Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 2023.

A theologically focused evangelical commentary that reads *Numbers* within the larger redemptive storyline, highlighting covenant faithfulness and wilderness formation for teaching and preaching.

Wenham, Gordon J. *Numbers*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2008.

A concise evangelical overview useful for classroom engagement.

## **6. Deuteronomy:**

Block, Daniel I. *Deuteronomy*. The NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.

A theological exposition highlighting covenant renewal and obedience.

Craigie, Peter C. *The Book of Deuteronomy*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1976.

A classic evangelical commentary that carefully integrates historical context, literary structure, and covenant theology in Deuteronomy.

De La Torre, Miguel A. *Reading the Bible from the Margins*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2002.

Though broader than Deuteronomy, De La Torre's Latino liberationist hermeneutic sharpens discussion of law, justice, land, and covenant ethics in Deuteronomy.

Gerbrandt, Gerald E. *Deuteronomy*. Believers Church Bible Commentary. Scottsdale, PA: Herald, 2015.

A theological and pastoral commentary that highlights Deuteronomy's vision for covenant community, justice, and faithful obedience within Israel.

Levinson, Bernard M. *Deuteronomy and the Hermeneutics of Legal Innovation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997.

A major study of Deuteronomy's reinterpretation of earlier Torah traditions.

McConville, J. G. *Deuteronomy*. Apollos Old Testament Commentary. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2011.

An evangelical commentary attentive to covenant theology and canonical context.

Merrill, Eugene H. *Deuteronomy*. New American Commentary 4. Nashville: B&H, 1994.

A conservative exposition emphasizing Mosaic covenant theology.

Millar, J. Gary. *Deuteronomy*. Evangelical Biblical Theology Commentary. Bellingham, WA: Lexham, 2025.

A recent evangelical commentary that situates Deuteronomy as the theological climax of the Pentateuch and emphasizes its role in shaping biblical theology and covenant faithfulness.

Sugirtharajah, R. S. *The Bible and the Third World*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001.  
Encourages global readings of covenant and law.

Tennent, Timothy C., ed. *Global Theology in Evangelical Perspective: How the Global Church Is Influencing the Way We Think about and Discuss Theology* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011.  
Demonstrates how covenant theology is received in global evangelical contexts.

Wright, Christopher J. H. *Deuteronomy*. New International Biblical Commentary. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1996.  
Highlights ethical and missional implications of Deuteronomy's covenant theology.