

COURSE DESCRIPTION, PLAN AND OUTLINE

SEMESTER:	2
COURSE TITLE:	OLD TESTAMENT SELECTED BOOKS: PENTATEUCH
COURSE CODE:	DPS 109
CREDITS:	2
LECTURER:	Br. Godfrey Odunga OFM Cap. (STL)
LECTURE TIME:	Tuesdays: 14:00hrs-15:35hrs
LECTURE ROOM:	Lecture Room 1
CONSULTATION TIME:	Per Arrangement

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to introduce students to the historical, literary and theological interpretation of the first five Books of Hebrew/Christian Scriptures, the Pentateuch, as containing foundational events, on which Judeo-Christian faith and theologies have been built. This study will investigate how the Pentateuch became the Torah, examine the critical issues in the modern study of the Pentateuch such as its origin, composition, literary form and a focused approach to some passages that present interpretative difficulties.

TEACHING OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the course are:

- To acquaint the students with the knowledge of the first five Books of the Bible, that is, Genesis, Exodus Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.
- To enable students appreciate the originality, diversity and unity of the material found in the Pentateuch.
- To grasp and articulate the major theological themes in the Pentateuch
- To help students understand the historical, political, socio-cultural and religious contexts in which the five books were written and used.
- To motivate the students to learn a variety of methods and literary skills used for interpreting difficult passages in the Pentateuch.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course the Students should be able to:

1. Read and explain the Pentateuch in the context of the Ancient Near East (ANET) and canonical texts.
2. Describe the contents and literary formation of the Pentateuch and the documentary hypothesis theory.
3. Apply lessons learned from critical reading of the Pentateuch to contemporary religious, pastoral and social-cultural issues.
4. Analyze particular texts in the Pentateuch in relation to the different traditions/sources involved in the composition of the material.
5. Effectively critique various issues presented in the Pentateuch such as Creation, Sin, and Salvation.
6. Synthesize the theological and rhetorical themes highlighted in particular texts and the major theological themes in the Pentateuch.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Lecturing
Class Reading and Discussion
Group Discussion and Presentations.

COURSE REQUIREMENT

Attendance and participation in Class
Complementary reading
Write a mid-term Exam
Write an end-semester Exam

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Mid-term Exam 50% of the final mark
End-semester Exam 40% of the final mark
Class attendance & participation 10%

COURSE CALENDAR AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE CONTENT

WEEK	DATE	THEMES/ACTIVITY
1	Tuesday 9 th January 2018	-Course Presentation and outline 1. INTRODUCTION TO THE PENTATEUCH 1.1 The Meaning of Pentateuch/Torah 1.2 The Content
2	16 th January	1.3 The Structure of the Pentateuch 1.4 The Position of the Pentateuch in the Bible
3	23 th January	1.5 Authorship of the Pentateuch -Mosaic Authorship -Documentary Hypothesis Theory
	30 th January	1.6 Literary Forms in the Pentateuch
5	6 th February	1.7 Religious Value of the Pentateuch
6	13 th February	2. GENESIS 2.1 Introduction to the Book of Genesis 2.2 The Biblical Accounts of Creation (Gen. 1-2)
7	20 th February	2.3 The Fall of Humankind (Gen. 3) 2.4 The Floods (Gen. 6-9)
8	27 th February	2.5 God's Promises to Abraham (Gen. 12, 15 & 17) 2.6 God's Covenant with Abraham (Gen. 15, 17)
9	6 th March	3. EXODUS

		3.1 Introduction to the Book of Exodus 3.2 The Exodus (Ex. 1-18)
10	13 th March	MID-TERM EXAM
11	20 th March	3.3 The Passover (Ex. 12) 3.4 The Sinai Covenant (Ex. 19-24 & 32-34)
12	27 th March	3.5 The Ark of the Covenant & the Tabernacle (Ex. 25-31 & 35-40)
13	3 rd April	4. LEVITICUS 4.1 Introduction to the Book of Leviticus 4.2 Sacrifices and Priesthood (Lev. 1-10) 4.3 Holiness and Cleanliness Code (Lev. 11-27)
14	10 th April	5. NUMBERS 5.1 Introduction to the Book of Numbers 5.2 Preparation for the March in the Desert (Num. 1-10) 5.3 The Journey to the Promised Land (Num. 11-36)
15	17 th April	6. DEUTERONOMY 6.1 Introduction to the Book of Deuteronomy 6.2 Sermon on God's Love and the Covenant (Dt 1-11) 6.3 The Deuteronomy Code (Dt 12-34)
16	24 th April	7. THEOLOGICAL THEMES
17	1 st May	Labour Day: No Class
18	8 th May 2018	End Semester Examinations

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- ANDERSON, B, W., *The Living World of the Old Testament*, London 1988.
- BOADT, L., *Reading the Old Testament: An Introduction*, New York 1984, 89-194.
- CHARPENTIERE, E., *How to Read the Old Testament*, SCM, 1982.
- ELLIS, P.F., *The Men and Message of the Old Testament*, Liturgical, MN, 1963.
- GUINAN, M.D., *The Pentateuch*, Message of Biblical Spirituality 5, Collegeville MN 1990.
- MURPHY, R.E., "Introduction to the Pentateuch", *NJBC*, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey 1990, 3-7.
- PRITCHARD, J.A., *The Harper Atlas of the Bible*, New York, 1987.
- SALDARINI, A.J., "The Pentateuch as Torah in the Jewish Tradition", in *The International Commentary*, Farmer, W.R. ed., Collegeville MN 1998, 344-347.
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- SKA, J-L., "The Pentateuch", in *The International Commentary*, Farmer, W.R. ed., Collegeville MN 1998, 335-343.
- WANSBROUGH, L., *The New Jerusalem Bible*, Darton, Longman and Todd, London, 1985.
- WELCH, E. M. & B. SHARKEY, *The Promise*, Oxford University Press, Nairobi, 1981.