



**Course Syllabus**  
**WYB2100H – Pentateuch**  
**Wycliffe College**  
**Toronto School of Theology**  
**Summer 2020**  
**June 1-July 24**

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### ***Instructor Information***

Instructor: Gordon K. Oeste, PhD, Adjunct Professor  
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### ***Course Identification***

Course Number: WYB2101H  
Course Format: Online  
Course Name: Pentateuch  
Course Location: Online  
Prerequisites: WYB1008H – Introduction to the Old Testament as Scripture for the Church

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### ***Course Description***

A survey of the first five books of the Old Testament with an emphasis on the historical background, ancient near eastern context, theology, and literary structure of each book, along with an examination of key interpretive issues and problems encountered in these books. The course emphasizes the ongoing canonical reading and application of the Pentateuchal materials throughout Israel's history and into the church of yesterday and today.

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### ***Course Resources***

#### **Required Course Texts/Bibliography**

- Wenham, Gordon. *Exploring the Old Testament: A Guide to the Pentateuch*. Vol. 1. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2016 (ISBN-13: 978-0830853090).
- Alexander, T. Desmond and David W. Baker, eds. *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch* (DOTP). Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2003 (ISBN-13: 978-0830817818).

#### **Course Website(s)**

- Quercus: <https://q.utoronto.ca/>

This course uses Quercus for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT Quercus login page at <https://q.utoronto.ca/> and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to Quercus using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Quercus-based courses. (Your course registration with ACORN gives you access to the course website in Quercus.) Information for students about using Quercus can be found at:

<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701>. Students who have trouble accessing Quercus should ask Jeff Hocking [[jhocking@wycliffe.utoronto.ca](mailto:jhocking@wycliffe.utoronto.ca)] for further help.

### ***Course Learning Objectives/Outcomes***

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This course will include the use of audio lectures, online discussions, Old Testament and ANE material comparisons, reading quizzes, and a 12-page research paper.

<b>COURSE OUTCOMES</b>	<b>COURSE ELEMENT</b>	<b>PROGRAM OUTCOMES</b>
<b>By the end of this course, students</b>	<b>This outcome will be demonstrated through these course elements:</b>	<b>This course outcome corresponds to these aspects of Wycliffe’s statements of outcomes (MTS, MDiv)</b>
Will have formulated a weekly statement of the relationship between topics in their weekly readings and the life of the church.	Lectures, online discussions	<b>MTS:</b> 1.1, 1.2 <b>MDiv (Pioneer):</b> 1.1, 1.2 <b>MDiv:</b> 1.1, 1.2
Will have constructed their own response to key theological and interpretive questions related to the study of the Pentateuch.	Lectures, readings, online discussions	<b>MTS:</b> 1.1, 1.2, 2.1 <b>MDiv (Pioneer):</b> 1.1, 2.1, 2.2 <b>MDiv:</b> 1.1, 2.1, 2.2
Will have examined a theological or exegetical question in the study of the Pentateuch and have argued for their response to that question in a research paper.	Readings, research paper	<b>MTS:</b> 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2 <b>MDiv (Pioneer):</b> 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2 <b>MDiv:</b> 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2
Will have assessed key historical and theological issues related to the study of the Pentateuch by successfully passing several quizzes.	Readings, quizzes	<b>MTS:</b> 1.1, 1.2 <b>MDiv (Pioneer):</b> 1.1, 1.2 <b>MDiv:</b> 1.1, 1.2

## Evaluation

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### Requirements

The final grade for the course will be based on evaluations in four areas:

1. **Pentateuch Discussions (20%)** – There will be 4 threaded discussions during the course during which students will engage in reflection and discussion on a key point of interpretation or a question based upon course readings or lectures. These discussions will take place over a two-week span.

In the **first week** of a class discussion, students will post an initial response (about 200-300 words in length) to a discussion question on the class website. In the initial post (by Sunday at midnight of the 1<sup>st</sup> of the 2 weeks), students will answer the initial discussion question (**200-300 words maximum**).

In the **second week** of the discussion, students will respond to at least 2 other students' posts (by Sunday at midnight of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the 2 weeks) by gracefully adding additional perspectives, asking questions that probe a classmate's response with additional information for consideration, or additional reasons why one might agree with a classmate's post. A student's success will be based upon the quality of participation.

As a guideline, students should plan their activities according to the following schedule:

**Week 1** (Monday-Sunday) - Review the discussion question and post an initial response

**Week 2** (Monday-Sunday) - Post at least 2 engaged responses to the initial post of a classmate

2. **DOTP Reading Quizzes (40%)**—The student is expected to read the dictionary entries in the *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch* (DOTP) listed in the Course Schedule (see Section VIII below).

Student will write true/false and multiple-choice quizzes (10 questions) on scheduled DOTP readings by logging on to the course website and taking a *timed* quiz (the student will have 10 minutes to complete the quiz). This will be a closed book quiz (meaning you cannot have DOTP or any other resource open while writing the quiz). Once you have taken the quiz, you will not be able to retake it. You must log on and write the quiz before the end of the course week (i.e. you will no longer be able to access the quiz after 11:59 pm on the Sunday night of the week of the quiz).

The best 4 of the 5 quizzes will be counted towards the student's final grade.

**Due Dates – See Course Schedule Below**

3. **Reading-Reflection Journal (10%)**—The student will read the assigned pages given in the Course Schedule (See Section VIII below) from Wenham (*Exploring the Old Testament: A Guide to the Pentateuch*). For each assigned reading, students will write a 100-word reflection (please remember to keep your reflections short and close to the 100 word-guideline) on the relevance or applicability of a topic of their choosing from that reading to issues of life and ministry in the

21<sup>st</sup> century. Students will submit the completed journal at the end of the class on the designated due date.

**Due: July 24**

4. **Research Paper (30%)** – Students will write a 12-page research paper on a topic of the student’s interest or on an exegetical crux in the interpretation of a passage related to the study of the Pentateuch (**Due July 31**). The paper will include a bibliography of at least 10 different contemporary scholarly sources (none of which can be from Wikipedia) drawn from commentaries and academic journal articles (at least 3) and will contain the following sections (hint: you can find many academic articles at the following website <http://search.ebscohost.com/> - see the librarian for log-on information):

- i) A statement of the problem
- ii) A discussion of past solutions
- iii) Your own thoughts about the issue/problem with supporting evidence
- iv) Your conclusion
- v) A 1-page outline of how you would preach/teach the passage/issue, including:
  - a. The one thing you would want your audience to know
  - b. The one thing you would want your audience to do
  - c. A brief statement on how the issue/problem examined is relevant to our world

**Due: July 31, 2020**

#### **Optional Zoom (Video Conferencing) Meeting Dates**

Students may opt to join a Zoom video conference Q & A/Discussion session with the instructor. These discussions will take place twice during the semester:

**Wednesday, June 17, 2020, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

**Wednesday, July 15, 2020, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

#### **Assignment Submissions and Late Assignments**

1. Due Dates: Assignments are due at the end of the week (Sunday, 11:59 pm, unless otherwise stated). Assignments should be e-mailed to the instructor as a doc (or docx) file and **NOT as a pdf**.
2. The assumption is, of course, that all written work will be submitted on or before the corresponding due dates. Should this fail to occur, the following policy will govern the evaluation of the student’s work. For the first week late, the assignment’s final grade will be reduced by 10%, a full letter grade. Thereafter, for each further week late, the grade will be reduced by 10%. Thus, an assignment that is two weeks late will lose 20%, three weeks late 30

%, etc. Please note that the deduction is accumulated weekly, not daily, and so a student will receive the same penalty whether the assignment is one or six days late.

3. Extensions *may* be available, but are generally granted only in very unusual circumstances and must be submitted and arranged at least 5 days beforehand with the instructor. Extensions will NOT be granted for things like: church ministry responsibilities, mission trips, heavy workload, computer or server problems. Extensions will only be granted for exceptional circumstances (e.g. a family death, hospitalization, etc.). Thus, it is best to have your work completed and ready to submit 24 hours before it is due.
4. As noted above, the 10% penalty is not applied to students with documented medical or compassionate difficulties or exceptional reasons (e.g., a death in the family or a serious illness); students facing such difficulties are kindly requested to consult with their faculty adviser or basic degree director, who should make a recommendation on the matter to the instructor and request an SDF.
5. Basic Degree students are expected to complete all course work by the end of the term in which they are registered. Under **exceptional circumstances**, with the written permission of the instructor, students may request an extension (SDF = “standing deferred”) beyond the term. An extension, when offered, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. An SDF must be requested no later than the last day of classes of the term in which the course is taken. The request form is available on the college website or from the Registrar’s office.

**One percentage point per day will be deducted on the course grade if an extension has not been requested by the stated deadline.**

### **Summary of Assignments and Grade**

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

Bi-weekly Reflection Exercises	20 %
Reading-Reflection Journal	10 %
Reading Quizzes on DOTP	40 %
Final Paper	30 %
<b>Total Grade</b>	<b>100 %</b>

### **Grading System - Basic Degree Students**

1000, 2000 and 3000 level courses use the following numerical grading scale (see section 11.2 of the BD Handbook):

90-100 (A+)	Profound and Exceptional
85-89 (A)	Outstanding
80-84 (A-)	Excellent
77-79 (B+)	Very Good
73-76 (B)	Good

70-72 (B-)	Acceptable
0-69 (FZ)	Failure

Please see the appropriate handbook for more details about the grading scale and non-numerical grades (e.g. SDF, INC, etc).

**Course grades.** Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor’s college before being posted to ACORN. Grades are not official until they are posted to ACORN. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy found at [www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/grading.pdf](http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/grading.pdf), policies found in the TST conjoint program handbooks, or college grading policy.

## **Policies**

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**Accessibility.** Students with a disability or health consideration, whether temporary or permanent, are entitled to accommodation. Students in conjoint degree programs must register at the University of Toronto’s Accessibility Services offices; information is available at <http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/>. The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

**Plagiarism.** Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* and the Graduate program Handbooks (linked from <http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks> and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=4871>. A student who plagiarizes in this course will be assumed to have read the document “Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing” published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges [http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library\\_Archives/Theological\\_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm](http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library_Archives/Theological_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm).

**Other academic offences.** TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>.

**Back-up copies.** Please make back-up copies of essays before handing them in.

**Obligation to check email.** At times, the course instructor may decide to send out important course information by email. To that end, all students in conjoint programs are required to have a valid utoronto email address. Students must have set up their utoronto email address which is entered in the ACORN system. Information is available at [www.utorid.utoronto.ca](http://www.utorid.utoronto.ca). The course instructor will not be able to help you with this. 416-978-HELP and the Help Desk at the Information Commons can answer questions you may have about your UTORid and password. *Students should check utoronto email regularly* for messages about the course. **Forwarding** your utoronto.ca email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from utoronto.ca addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that emails from your

course instructor may end up in your spam or junk mail folder. Students in non-conjoint programs should contact the Registrar of their college of registration.

**Email communication with the course instructor.** The instructor aims to respond to email communications from students in a timely manner. *All email communications from students in conjoint programs must be sent from a utoronto email address.* Email communications from other email addresses are not secure, and also the instructor cannot readily identify them as being legitimate emails from students. The instructor is not obliged to respond to email from non-utoronto addresses for students in conjoint programs. Students in non-conjoint programs should only use the email address they have provided to their college of registration.

## Course Schedule

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Week	Content	Wenham	DOTP Quiz	Other Assignments
June 1-7	Introduction Genesis 1	pp. 1-34	Cosmology pp. 130-138	1 <sup>st</sup> Discussion
June 8-14	Genesis 1-11		Flood pp. 315-326	
June 15-21	Abraham, Isaac, Jacob & Joseph	pp. 35-56		2 <sup>nd</sup> Discussion
June 22-28	Moses & the Exodus	pp. 57-80	Exodus, Date of pp. 258-272	
June 29 – July 5	Moses & the Sinai Covenant			3 <sup>rd</sup> Discussion
July 6-12	Leviticus & the Law	pp. 81-101	Atonement, Day of pp. 54-61	
July 13-19	Numbers	pp. 103-158	Covenant pp. 139-155	4 <sup>th</sup> Discussion
July 20-24	Deuteronomy & Holy War	pp. 123-143, 187-195		Reading/Reflection Due (July 24)
July 31				Major Paper Due

## Select Bibliography

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