



Washington University of Virginia

**PENTATEUCH, BOT 201E
COURSE SYLLABUS
FALL, 2015
INSTRUCTOR: William Attaway**

OFFICE: I am an adjunct instructor and do not have an office on campus
OFFICE HOURS: I will be available to meet with you from 11:45-12:15 on
Wednesdays (before class), and at other times by appointment
E-MAIL ADDRESS: wattaway@wuv.edu
PHONE: 703-579-7642
WEB PAGE: <http://www.wuv.edu>
CLASS HOURS: 12:15-2:45 p.m. Wednesdays

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

1. School Catalog Description

This class is designed to survey the first five books of the Old Testament with special attention given to the major themes of the Pentateuch, such as Creation, Exodus, Law, the Tabernacle, Theocracy, and the Ten Commandments.

2. Instructor's Supplement

This course builds on the material covered in Old Testament Survey, going deeper into the foundational books of the Pentateuch. By growing in their understanding of these books, students can make appropriate application of these texts and their themes for life today.

B. COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. The student will be familiar with the basic storylines of the Pentateuch.
2. The students will be able to explain the theological importance and significance of each book of the Pentateuch.
3. The student will be able to identify the covenants in the Pentateuch and their importance.
4. The student will describe how the framework of the Pentateuch fits into God's salvation history.
5. The student will be able to identify and explain the significance of the covenant blessings and curses in light of Old Testament history.

C. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

1. Class format will be primarily lecture. Students are expected to maintain careful notes.

2. A copy of the lecture slides will be made available to assist the student.
3. Class participation through discussion and questions is strongly encouraged.
4. Audio visual materials and archaeological artifacts will be used whenever possible.

D. TEXTS

1. REQUIRED:

English Bible: NIV, NASB, NRSV, or ESV

Wolf, Herbert. *An Introduction to the Old Testament Pentateuch*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 1991.
ISBN: 978-0-8024-4156-0

2. RECOMMENDED:

Attaway, William. *Lead: Leadership Lessons from the (Not So) Minor Prophets*. Eriall Press, 2014.

Brisco, Thomas V. *The Holman Bible Atlas*. Broadman and Holman Reference, 1999.

McEntire, Mark. *Struggling With God: An Introduction to the Pentateuch*. Macon: Mercer University Press, 2008.

E. REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING POLICY

1. Reading

a. Weekly assigned textbook reading from *An Introduction to the Old Testament Pentateuch*

b. Supplemental reading (as assigned)

2. Writing - a 5-7 page paper (due December 2) on a topic related to the Pentateuch - topic to be chosen by the student from a provided list (10% of your grade)

3. Evaluations

a. Weekly quizzes over assigned reading (35% of your grade)

b. Midterm and final exams (each 20% of your grade)

4. Attendance and discussion/engagement in class (10% of your grade)

5. Reading of the Pentateuch during this semester (5% of your grade). A sample weekly reading plan is provided with your assigned reading in the class schedule section of this syllabus.

F. ATTENDANCE POLICY

It is highly recommended that students not miss class. Regular class attendance is expected; attendance will be recorded in every class. Students will be excused for up to three absences per semester. Three tardies will equal one absence.

If a class must be missed, it is the students' responsibility to contact instructors for assignments to make up the course work they have missed. The instructor may allow up to two weeks for students to complete the make-up assignments.

The grade for all make-up work not completed within the given time frame will be recorded as zero by the instructor. Students in danger of failing the classes due to excessive absences and/or tardiness will be notified by their instructors.

Class cancellation policy: WUV follows the cancellation policy of Fairfax County Public School System in Virginia. When FCPS cancels classes, WUV will have no morning classes. In the case of a two hour delay, WUV will have no cancellation.

G. ACCOMODATION STATEMENT

Individuals with documented impairments who may need special consideration for exams, participation, or assignments must contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester for such consideration to be given.

H. GRADING SCALE

A	95-100	A-	90-94	B+	86-89	B	83-85
B-	80-82	C+	76-79	C	73-75	C-	70-72
D+	66-69	D	63-65	D-	60-62	F	0-59

I. CLASSROOM CODE

1. Cell phone use is prohibited in class. You may use laptops/tablets to take notes, but use them responsibly (i.e. don't spend time with e-mail or internet surfing instead of paying attention in class).
2. No tampering is allowed with audio-visual recording equipment in the classroom.
3. Questions related to the topic are encouraged and may be asked during the lecture in the designated time set by the professor.
4. Courtesy and integrity are expected in all interactions with other students and with the professor.

J. TECHNOLOGY

On the Virginia campus, students may use the following for wireless internet access:
 SSID: WUV or WUV1 (in the library, use WUV Library)
 Password: wuv12345

K. CLASS SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Assigned Reading</u>
Wed, Aug 26, 2015	Course introduction, backgrounds, approaches	Wolf, 1-57 Gen. 1-18
Wed, Sept 2	Authorship, Textual criticism	Wolf, 59-92 Gen. 19-31
Wed, Sept 9	Genesis 1-11: Beginnings	Wolf, 93-128 Gen. 32-44
Wed, Sept 16	Genesis 12-50: Abraham and his family	Wolf, 129-148 Gen. 45-Ex. 9
Wed, Sept 23	Exodus, Plagues, and Passover	Wolf, 149-167 Ex. 10-23
Wed, Sept 30	Exodus, Sinai, and Tabernacle	Wolf, 168-190 Ex. 24-36

Wed, Oct 7	Leviticus: Sacrifices	Wolf, 191-203 Ex. 37-Lev. 10
Wed, Oct 14	Midterm exam	Lev. 11-22
Wed, Oct 21	Reading week (no class)	Lev. 23-Num. 5
Wed, Oct 28	Leviticus: Priests, Holiness, and Obedience	Wolf, 204-218 Num. 6-17
Wed, Nov 4	Numbers: Tribes and Rebellion	Wolf, 219-231 Num. 18-30
Wed, Nov 11	Numbers: Wandering in the Wilderness	Wolf, 232-244 Num. 31-Deut. 6
Wed, Nov 18	Deuteronomy: Moses' Final Address	Wolf, 245-255 Deut. 7-21
Wed, Nov 25	Deuteronomy: Blessing and Cursing	Wolf, 256-263 Deut. 22-34
Wed, Dec 2	The Pentateuch and the rest of Scripture (paper due)	
Wed, Dec 9	Final exam	

L. SUGGESTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brisco, Thomas V. *The Holman Bible Atlas*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman Reference, 1999.

Hamilton, Victor P. *Handbook on the Pentateuch*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book Publishing, 2005.

Harrison, R.K. *Introduction to the Old Testament: With a Comprehensive Review of Old Testament Studies and a Special Supplement on the Apocrypha*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1969.

LaSor, William Sanford, Hubbard, David Allen, and Busch, Frederic William. *Old Testament Survey: The Message, Form, and Background of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1982.

Wenham, Gordon J. *Exploring the Old Testament: A Guide to the Pentateuch*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2003.

K. PAPER TOPIC POSSIBILITIES

Below is a list of topic possibilities for your paper. If you would like to choose a topic that is not on this list, please let me know and I will consider your request.

- Late Date vs. Early Date for the Exodus
- Form Criticism
- Canonical Criticism
- Redaction Criticism
- Tradition Criticism
- Literary Criticism
- Progressive Creationism
- 6 Day Creationism
- How the holiness code is relevant for Christians today
- Treaties in the Ancient Near East
- The strengths and weakness of the Noth-Cross approach
- The archaeological evidence from Jericho
- Levirate marriage
- Covenant
- Biographical paper on Moses, Miriam, or Aaron