



The Pentateuch

VIKTB-1150-C

Course Credits: 1 Unit

Course Professor: Brian Russell Ph. D

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About the Teacher:

Dr. Brian D. Russell is professor of Biblical Studies and Dean of the School of Urban Ministries at Asbury Theological Seminary. He is based on Asbury’s Orlando, Florida campus. He has taught at the seminary since 2000 and is the recipient of the 2004-2005 Award for



Teaching and Learning.

He received a B.A. from the University of Akron, 1991; a M.Div. from Asbury Seminary, 1994; and a Ph.D. in Bible from Union Presbyterian Seminary, 2002.

Brian is an expert on the missional interpretation of Scripture and creating a missional ethos in communities of faith. He is the author of *The Song of the Sea: The Date of Composition and Influence of Exodus 15:1-21* (Peter Lang, 2007) as well as many articles and reviews. He also contributed the study notes on the book of Exodus for the *Wesley Study Bible* and served as part of the scholarly review team for *The Voice* translation of the Bible. As part of his commitment to reading Scripture for the Church, he regularly writes curriculum for Adult Bible study classes. He has two projects that are forthcoming: *(re)Aligning with God: Reading Scripture for Church and World* (Wipf and Stock early 2015) and *Invitation to the Bible* (Seedbed late 2014).

Brian's passion is the study of the Scriptures. His engaging teaching style brings the Bible to life and inspires others to live as God's missional people in and for the world. You can sample his writing at <http://missionalhermeneutics.blogspot.com>.

Brian is married to Astrid Robles. He is passionate about soccer, playing guitar and eating well.

Course Description

This course will introduce you to the first five books of Moses (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy) and disclose how God created a covenant people and how they could live either under the blessings of covenant obedience or the curses of disobedience to the covenant. Through a missional paradigm we will delve into the five books of the Pentateuch. This sets the agenda for God's relationship to humankind for the rest of history.

Course Objectives

Course Aims

The purpose of this course is to provide knowledge of the form, content, and historical and cultural background of Genesis-Deuteronomy in the Old Testament.

Course Learning Outcomes

As a result of successful completion, you will be able to:

- Recognise the books of the Pentateuch
- Analyse the covenants within the books of the Pentateuch
- Explain the major themes from the books of the Pentateuch
- Explain what it means to be created in God's image
- Recognise God's creational intentions for humanity
- Recite from memory Genesis 12:3 (NIV2005) "I will bless those who bless you and whoever curses you I will curse: and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you"
- Recite from memory Exodus 19:4-6 (NIV2005) "You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out

of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”

- Explain the role of deliverance in the Exodus story
- Analyse the role of sacrifice and atonement from within the book of Leviticus
- Explain the purpose and functions for the book of Deuteronomy

You will find a more detailed learning objective section for each learning block below.

Course Resource Block

Course Format: Learning Blocks Explained

- Read all directions within the course.
- Review the first block and Course Resources Block and complete the GET STARTED quiz; after completing this quiz continue with Learning Block 1.
- Review the Learning Block 1 materials. View the video lecture and then complete the Learning Block 1 quiz. Group discussion questions can be located in this syllabus.
- Each subsequent Learning Block should be completed in sequence.
- You can progress at your own speed.

Managing Your Time

This 1 Unit, certificate level course requires approximately 45 hours:

Task	Hours
Reading/Course Materials Text approx. 264 pgs Scripture approx. 200 pgs.	1 0 - 1 2 8-10
Lectures and Interaction	9-10
Final Assignment	4-5
Multiple-Choice Quizzes	6-8
Total	37-45

Below is a table with the corresponding textbook reading and video lecture times to assist you in planning your schedule:

Learning Block	Video	Reading	Chapter Names for Kindle
1.Intro. the Pentateuch & Gen.1-11	1a-1:05 :40	-Wright intro.chs 1,2 -Genesis 1	-Introduction -Who are we and what are we here for? -People who know the story they are part of

2. Intro. continued	1b-1:04 :28	-Wright chs. 3-4 -Genesis 2-11	-People who care for creation -People who are a blessing to the nations
3. Gen.12-50 A New Hope: Abraham, Israel, and God's New Humanity	2a-1:02 :54	-Wright ch.5 -Genesis 12-25	-People who walk in God's way
4. Gen. 12-50 continued	2b-1:00:17	-review chs 1-5 -Gen.26-50	
5. Exodus and Mission	3a-1:02:05	-Wright chs 6-7 -Exodus	-People who are redeemed for redemptive living -People who represent God to the world
6. Exodus and Mission continued	3b-1:01:41	-Wright chs 8-10	-People who attract others to God -People who know the one living God and Savior -People who bear witness to the living God
7. Covenant and the Mission of God's People	4a-1:06:48	-Wright chs 11-13 -Leviticus	-People who proclaim the gospel of Christ -People who send and are sent -People who live and work in the public square
8. Covenant and the Mission continued	4b-1:04:57	-Wright chs14-15 -Numbers -Deuteronomy	-People who praise and pray -The journey so far and the journey ahead

Required Course Text

Students are asked to read all of the following material for class work. Please review the learning objectives/outcomes to determine how you will be tested on these materials: Course Textbook, Outline and Scripture Reading.

➤ *The Bible:*

- *Genesis*
- *Exodus*
- *Leviticus*
- *Numbers*
- *Deuteronomy*

➤ Wright, Christopher J.H.. Biblical Theology for Life, The Mission of God's People. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010. ISBN: 978-0-310-29112-1.

It is available on Amazon.com¹ in both kindle and paperback formats.

¹ <http://www.amazon.com/> Simply type in the authors first and last name in the search area.

Note: Kindle files can be used by anyone who has a computer. A kindle tablet or reader is not necessary. The kindle reader application is free, and installs on all platforms.²

Course Grade Explanation

Your grade for this course will be comprised of:

- **8 Learning Block quizzes** consisting of multiple choice questions. Each quiz will be based upon the Learning Block requirements. This is worth 80% (each quiz is worth 10%) of your overall course grade. They are open book and you will have 2 attempts to take each quiz. Please take into account the amount of time you will require to complete each of the 8 LEARNING BLOCKS and the FINAL Assignment Block. Please schedule your time wisely. You will not be able to answer the questions on the quizzes without a full understanding of each learning block's learning outcomes and reading requirements. With each lecture, the student will make use of the following:
 - The video or audio lecture,
 - *Power Point slides for learning blocks 1, 2, 3 and 4 only* (videos 1.1, 1.2 , 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 4.1 and, 4.2)
 - *Outline covers all video lectures for learning blocks 1-8*
- **The Final Assignment** worth 20% of your course grade. You will complete the below assignment and then take the Final Assignment Quiz located in the Final Assignment Block of the course. For this assignment you will memorise 2 different passages from Scripture.
 - a. Genesis 12:3 (NIV2005) I will bless those who bless you and whoever curses you I will curse: and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.
 - b. Exodus 19:4-6 (NIV2005) You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

--Thoughts for preparing yourself to memorise Scripture:

- Remember to pray, pray, pray! Ask God for the ability to write His word upon your heart and mind. Deuteronomy 11:18 says to “Fix

² <http://www.amazon.com/gp/feature.html?ie=UTF8&docId=1000493771> To purchase a book through Kindle, you need to setup an Amazon account. Amazon's automated system will take you through these steps as you install the software.

these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.”

- Read <https://www.biblegateway.com/blog/2013/03/ten-tips-for-memorizing-bible-verses/>
- Speak clearly, slow down, and repeat. Saying the verses out loud can help with the memorization process.
- After you have memorized the 2 Scripture passages you will go into the Final Assignment Block of the course and complete the brief quiz. This should be completed toward the end of the course before the closing deadline. The quiz will ask you multiple choice/short answer style questions.

Video and Virtual Support

If you experience any issues with the on-line courses, streaming videos or audio, please create a ticket from the webpage bottom right, “Give Feedback”.

Learning Block Information

General guidelines for the Interactive/Study and Discussion Questions

If you are meeting together to watch the lectures in a group, then utilise the Interactive Component for each of the lectures listed below during your group times. If you are viewing the lectures individually then work through the questions independently.

Learning Block 1—video lecture 1a (1:05:40) Introducing the Pentateuch and Gen 1-11

Learning outcomes

1. Recognize the importance of genre and its implications for reading Scripture.
2. Recognize and be able to match the 5 Covenants with their key characteristics.
3. Explain each of the major themes from the Pentateuch.
4. Textbook-Chapter 1- Analyze the primary purpose for why we are here as a people.
5. Textbook-Chapter 2- Recognize the two fundamental questions that the Creation story answers.

Reading and lecture requirement

- Read Wright: Chapters 1, 2 (see textbook objectives below)
- Read Genesis 1

- View/listen to video 1a or audio.
- Power point slides 1a (slides 1-9) and Outline material
- Final Assignment:
 1. Start memorizing verses from lecture 2a: Memorize in order to fill in missing words, Genesis 12:3 (NIV2005) “I will bless those who bless you and whoever curses you I will curse: and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you”
 2. And verse from lecture 3a Memorize in order to fill in missing words, Exodus 19:4-6 (NIV2005)

“You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”

Interaction and Study Questions

In groups of 2-5 or independently discuss/answer:

- What are the 5 Covenants and their characteristics for understanding a missional community?
- Do I trust that God has my best interests at heart as well as the interests of those whom I love? Does that trust reflect in my words and actions?
- When you think about sin and atonement do you reflect on the first sacrifice, in the garden, God kills an animal to provide the covering for Adam and Eve? Sin is covered by the blood sacrifice of an animal.
- What is a missional community?

In your personal TIME with God:

- ❖ Read and reflect-Isaiah 6:8, Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us? Then I said, “Here am I. Send me!”
- ❖ Read and reflect-Mark 16:15, And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”

Learning Block 2 -video lecture 1b (1:04:28)

Introducing the Pentateuch and Gen 1-11 cont.

Learning outcomes

1. Explain what it means to be created in God’s image.
2. Explain the first Biblical Covenant.
3. Recognize what is rooted in God’s creational intentions for humanity.
4. Textbook-Ch. 3- Analyze the means by which creation is reconciled to God.
5. Textbook-Ch.4. Recognize the main purpose of the Abrahamic covenant.

Reading and lecture requirement

- Read Wright: Chapters 3 and 4 (see textbook objectives below)
- Read Genesis 2-11
- View/listen to 1b video or audio.
- Power point slides for 1b (slides 10-35) and Outline material
- Work on memory verses

Interaction and Study Questions

In groups of 2-5 or independently discuss:

- What does the bible (both the first and second testaments) have to tell us about the people of God?
- Why do the people of God exist?
- What is it that they are supposed to be and do in the world?
- What do theology and mission have to do with each other?
- What response do you have to Wright's statement, "No theology without missional impact; no mission without theological foundation"?
- Explain the connection between Jesus and the new humanity. How does this relate to the creation story?

In your personal TIME with God:

❖ Read Acts 20:24

Reflect on this: What is your mission? Where is your mission field?

Learning Block 3-video lecture 2a (1:02:54) Genesis 12-50 A New Hope: Abraham, Israel, and God's New Humanity

Learning outcomes

1. Explain the calling and promises that God made to Abraham.
2. Analyze purpose of Genesis 10.
3. Final Assignment objective: Memorize in order to fill in missing words, Genesis 12:3 (NIV2005) "I will bless those who bless you and whoever curses you I will curse: and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you"
4. Explain how Abraham and Sarah receive partial fulfillment of God's promise of land.
5. Textbook_Ch. 5 List the 5 words that summarize the law from Deuteronomy 10:12-19.

Reading and lecture requirement

- Read Wright: Chapter 5
- Read Genesis 12-25

- View/listen to 2a video or audio.
- Power point slides for 2a and Outline material
- Memorize scripture verses

Interaction and Study Questions

In groups of 2-5 or independently:

1. Discuss the impact of this verse on the ministries that the Lord has placed in our path. The LORD said to Abram, “Depart now from your land, your kindred, and your family for the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make your name great so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and curse the one who curses you. Through you all peoples on the earth will be blessed.” (Gen 12:1-3)
2. Thinking missionally, Abraham was in his seventies when this calling came forth. What was Abraham’s response to this call?
3. Would you respond as Abraham did?
4. How does understanding the OT scriptures impact this calling?
5. What about our knowledge of the NT, would that make a difference? How do the books of the Pentateuch that we have looked at thus far, give us insight into the relational aspect of God and the New Testament?

Personally:

- ❖ Reflect: Faithful obedience is something that God is looking for in His people. How often do you ‘check’ your faith level? In a previous lecture you were asked, “Do you truly believe that God has your best interests at heart?” Did you think about this? Did God speak to you about this? Did you ask Him to reveal areas that your faith needs to be ‘checked’?

Learning Block 4-video lecture 2b (1:00:17) Genesis 12-50 A New Hope continued

Learning outcomes

1. Explain Gen 50:20 and its relevance to God’s mission.
2. Recognize the appropriate human response to God’s grace.
3. Recognize who Jacob was in the book of Genesis.
4. Recognize who Joseph was in the book of Genesis.
5. Recognize what Genesis 12-50 shows us about how God wants His new humanity to live out their calling.

Reading and lecture requirement

- Review main points from Wright: Chapters 1-5

- Read Genesis 26-50
- View/listen to 2b video or audio
- Power point slides for 2b and Outline material
- Continue to memorize scripture verses

Interaction and Study Questions

In groups of 2-5 or independently:

1. How does God care for his people?
2. What does it mean to be a sojourner in a foreign culture? Where is your true citizenship?
3. Discuss the stories discussed in the lecture and the divine perspective even a negative story can bring? What examples can you name from scripture where bad behavior was still used to carry God's plan forward?

Personally:

- ❖ Reflect: What promises has God answered? Whether in the affirmative or in the negative?
- ❖ Read Romans 8:28. How do we recognize wrong for what it is, and obtain a divine perspective?
- ❖ Reflect on 2 Cor 5

Learning Block 5-video lecture 3a (1:02:05) Exodus and Mission

Learning outcomes

1. Explain the relevance of the birth of Moses and God's missional purpose.
2. Explain the importance of God hearing the cries of His people.
3. Recognize the two calls of Moses. This lecture explains the initial call at Horeb.
4. Analyze the phrase "God remembered."
5. Analyze the role deliverance plays in the Exodus story.
6. Final Assignment objective--Memorize in order to fill in missing words, Exodus 19:4-6 (NIV2005)
 - "You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."

Reading and lecture requirement

- Read Wright: Chapters 6-7
- Read Exodus
- View/listen to 3a video or audio and follow along with Outline material
- Continue with memory verses

Interaction and dialogue

In groups of 2-5 or independently:

1. Discuss the Scholar's Debate from the Outline. Why was the Meneptah Stele important?
2. The theme of deliverance through subversive acts of power: Egypt thwarted by women: midwives, Moses mother and sister, and Pharaoh's daughter. Why would this be relevant to mention?
3. The birth of Moses as New Hope, his being saved from the water in an ark just as Noah was saved in an ark. Have you ever thought about this connection?

Personally:

- Reflect on the relevance of water in Genesis through Exodus.
- The book of Exodus isn't just a Freedom from..., it is also a freedom for... God's mission in the world. Do you believe that you have been freed in order to serve in God's mission?

Learning Block 6-video lecture 3b (1:01:41) Exodus & Mission cont.

Learning outcomes

1. Recognize the two calls of Moses. This lecture explains the prophetic calling.
2. Analyze the role the plagues play in the Exodus story.
3. Recognize the importance of God's recommissioning Moses' original calling for ministry today.
4. Analyze the role of the signs as spiritual warfare: God overcoming powers, principalities and false gods.
5. Discern and analyze the presence of God's grace in the Exodus event.
6. Recognize the text in Exodus that shows God's heart for relationship and community as a response to deliverance.
7. Memorize in order to fill in missing words, Exodus 19:4-6 NIV
 - "You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured

- possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.
8. Textbook Ch. 9, Understand how the theology in the book of Deuteronomy portrays Israel's concept of who God is.

Reading and lecture requirement

- Read Wright: Chapters 8-10
- View/listen to 3b video or audio and follow along with Outline material
- Continue with memory verses

Interaction and dialogue

In groups of 2-5 or independently:

1. Discuss God calling himself "I AM". What is the relevance of this name?
2. Discuss the importance of water in God's plan.
3. What is the goal of the Exodus? What does it mean to 'remember'?
4. How do each of the plagues reflect a missional God?
5. How can you best summarize the theology in the book of Deuteronomy?

Personally:

- Reflect on: God liberates us. God liberates me.
- When you think of who you are, do you think of yourself as your vocation? What is your identity? How did Professor Russell end the lecture about your identity?

Learning Block 7- video lecture 4a Covenant and the Mission of God's People

Learning outcomes

1. Recognize what is at the heart of covenant.
2. Explain the purpose of the Sinai Covenant.
3. Recognize the importance and function of The Tabernacle.
4. Analyze why there is a future for God's people.
5. Explain the importance of the Book of Leviticus concerning sacrifice and atonement.
6. Match the types of sacrifices and their purpose.

7. Textbook-Ch.12- Recognize the 2 main objectives that stand out in the Old Testament Sendings.
8. Textbook-Ch.13- Recognize the four main points about what God says about our life in the public square.
9. Textbook-Ch.13- Explain our role in Missional Engagement in the Public Square.

Reading and lecture requirement

- Read Wright chapters 11-13
- Read Leviticus (30 pages)
- View/listen to 4a video or audio and follow along with Outline material
- Continue with memory verses

Interaction and dialogue

In groups of 2-5 or independently:

1. The term covenant, how does God enter into a covenant relationship with humans? What is the key human response to God's gracious gift of covenant?
2. Name and describe some of the covenants from the scriptures?
3. Discuss the purpose of the Ten Commandments? Are they to be used as an indictment to the world or as a way to witness to the world with the way we are to live our lives so that others would want to follow God?
4. How does knowing God impact the syncretism that is so easily succumbed to in our world today?
5. What is a missional holiness? What does it mean to be unclean? How did Jesus change this?

Personally:

- ❖ Reflect on: Being God's treasured possession... God is a missional God. What is your mission? What is your identity?
- ❖ How should your community and your own life look if you were to embody the Ten Commandments?

Learning Block 8—video lecture 4b Covenant and the Mission of God's People cont.

Learning outcomes

1. Analyze the dangers of disobedience.
2. Recognize the lesson from the book of Numbers.
3. Examine the covenant structure of Deuteronomy.
4. Describe the themes of Deuteronomy.
5. Recognize the main idea of Deuteronomy.

Reading and lecture requirement

- Read Wright chapters 14-15
- Read Numbers (50 pages)
- Read Deuteronomy (35 pages)

- View/listen to 4b video or audio and follow along with Outline material
- Continue with memory verses

Interaction and dialogue

In groups of 2-5 or independently:

1. How does knowing God impact the syncretism that is so easily succumbed to in our world today?
2. How would you explain to someone the relationship between the Old Testament Pentateuch and Jesus?
3. Identify where in the Pentateuch that you can find a “missional” God?
4. In Wright, chapter 14, Abraham is described as interceding on the behalf of Sodom in Genesis 18:22-33, how does this intercessory prayer provide us a template for our ministries today?

Personally:

- ❖ Are you living life and sharing the gospel in a way that makes other’s hungry for more?
- ❖ Did you have an “Ah-Hah?” moment during any of the lectures? Reflect on this. Have you grown closer in your relationship with the God of the Bible after reading through the Pentateuch?

Local Hub/Site Activities

(check with your local site/hub to see if you will be participating in a local group community, otherwise you will be working independently through the course)

All students in a local site learn within communities of 2-7 students. A site coordinator/hub mentor will guide each learning community through the course. This person is not the teacher, but rather the *facilitator*. (However, if you are tackling this course on your own, please work through the discussion questions as well.) The following interactive components are likely to take place within the group meetings (hub mentors/coordinators might add to or subtract from this list to enhance their group’s learning experience contextually):

1. Questions for group discussion after each lecture or couple of lectures.
2. The use of brief presentations by students, either presenting an aspect of a particular lecture, or their “take” on it.
3. Asking students to adopt opposing positions through debate to tease out certain aspects of the course content.
4. Questions that focus on application: essentially how will this lecture change your life or ministry? These can be combined with suggestions for ministry time or ministry activities.