Provisional Course Outline

1. Course Objectives:
The primary objective of this course is to introduce students to the content and theology of the Pentateuch. Attention will be given to the structure, content, and biblical themes of individual books, while also considering how each book contributes to the redemptive story of the Bible as a whole. As a result of this course, a student should be able to summarize each book in the Pentateuch and the historical context of each book; demonstrate knowledge of central biblical themes in the Pentateuch; understand higher critical issues with regard to authorship of the Pentateuch; and be familiar with important ancient Near Eastern Texts (Gordon-Conwell Mission Statement #1—2).

2. Course Requirements:

2.1 Required Reading
You are required to read the Pentateuch over the course of the semester. This means approximately 14 chapters per week, or two chapters per day. It is recommended that you read the books according to the class lectures. No grade is assigned, but points will be deducted from your final grade for incomplete reading. You will be asked on your final exam to indicate how much of the Pentateuch you have read. You are also required to read *Handbook of the Pentateuch* (2nd edit., Baker Academic, 2005) in its entirety according to the schedule below. Chapters have been assigned for each class, and they are to be read prior to class. You are required to check mark all readings done prior to class, and submit this with your reading report. While no grade is assigned for this reading, points will be deducted for readings not completed prior to class.

2.2 Additional required reading and book report (worth 40%)
The following books/chapters are required reading in addition to *Handbook of the Pentateuch* (approximately 500 pages). You are required to write a four-page, single spaced book report on each of the following books. This four-page summary should include a detailed summary of the main thesis/ideas, followed by a short critique of it, highlighting its strengths, contributions, and any weaknesses.

Introduction (pp. 27-76).

2. 3 In-class 20 minute presentation, group project with individual paper (30%)
You will be assigned a study group at the beginning of class, with each group having between 4-5 students. Ten minutes each week will be spent on collaborating on this project, and the group will identify key assignments for each person each week. The idea is that this presentation would be something that could be done in a local church setting. Your group should prepare a single-spaced, one page summary handout that will be given out to the class on the day of the presentation. In addition, you are individually required to submit a four to five-page, single spaced document (plus bibliography) to be submitted to me for a grade by Wednesday, April 17 @ 4:00pm. Your individual paper will incorporate some of your group research, but it will include your own research as well. It is to be written individually by each person in the group, so this means that each individual paper will have some elements common to the group but also supplemental information from your own research. The dates for the presentations are on the course schedule. The topics options are as follows:

1. Slavery in the Pentateuch and ANE
2. Death penalty in the Pentateuch and ANE
3. Sexual ethics in the Pentateuch and ANE
4. Inheritance laws in the Pentateuch and ANE
5. Laws of warfare in the Pentateuch and ANE
6. Divorce in the Pentateuch and ANE

Each presentation is to comprise of the following five parts:

a. Ancient Near Eastern background/teaching on the topic, citing key texts
b. Old Testament teaching on the topic (focus on the Pentateuch)
c. NT teaching on the topic
d. Application for the church today
e. Bibliography, identifying several good resources for pastors and lay people

**Ancient Near Eastern Texts:**
In terms of ANE material, several volumes provide a collection of texts. A helpful resource is Bill Arnold and Bryan Beyer, *Readings from the Ancient Near East* (Baker, 2002). Another

3. Final exam (worth 30%):
The final exam will comprise of short essays on the books in the Pentateuch. In preparation for this exam, you should be familiar with the content of the individual books, and be able to summarize major themes of each book, noting how they contribute theologically to the Pentateuch, and to the Old Testament as a whole. Your essays should also demonstrate familiarity and with the required readings, including being able to incorporate the readings into your essays. On the final exam you should also be familiar with authorship of the Pentateuch, including being able to provide a summary and critique of higher critical views of authorship, the history of interpretation, and an evangelical view of authorship.

**Provisional Course Schedule**

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<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Monday Jan 28</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Intro to Course &amp; Pentateuch</td>
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<td>• Introduction to the Pentateuch and authorship</td>
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<td>• Introduction to Genesis: Creation &amp; Fall (Gen 1-3)</td>
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<td>☐ Reading completed before class: Handbook: ch. 1</td>
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<th>Week 2</th>
<th>Monday Feb 4</th>
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<tr>
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<td>• Genesis: Sequence after Creation &amp; Fall (Gen 4-11)</td>
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<th>Week 3</th>
<th>Monday Feb 11</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Genesis: Abraham (Gen 11:26—25:11)</td>
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<td>☐ Reading completed before class: Handbook: ch. 3</td>
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<th>Week 4</th>
<th>Reading Week Feb 18—22</th>
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<th>Week 5</th>
<th>Monday Feb 25</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Genesis: Jacob and Joseph (Gen 25—50)</td>
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<td>☐ Reading completed before class: Handbook: chs. 4-5</td>
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<th>Week 6</th>
<th>Monday March 4</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Exodus: Moses, Plagues, Passover, Exodus (Exod 1—18)</td>
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<td>☐ Reading completed before class: Handbook: ch. 6-8</td>
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<th>Week 7</th>
<th>Monday March 11</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 20 minute class presentation: Slavery</td>
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### Theology of the Pentateuch

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<th>Week 8</th>
<th><strong>Reading Week March 18—22</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Week 8</strong></td>
<td>Exodus: Law and Covenant, Tabernacle, Golden Calf, Covenant Renewal (Exod 19—40)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 9</strong></td>
<td><strong>Monday March 25</strong>&lt;br&gt;• 20 minute class presentation: Death Penalty&lt;br&gt;• Leviticus: The Sacrificial System, priestly ordination, clean and unclean (Lev 1—15)</td>
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<td><strong>Week 10</strong></td>
<td><strong>Monday, April 1</strong>&lt;br&gt;• 20 minute class presentation: Sexual ethics&lt;br&gt;• Leviticus: The Day of Atonement, the holiness manifesto (Lev 16—27)</td>
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<td><strong>Week 11</strong></td>
<td><strong>Monday, April 8</strong>&lt;br&gt;• 20 minute class presentation: Inheritance laws&lt;br&gt;• Numbers: Preparations for departure from Sinai, From Sinai to Kadesh, from Kadesh to Moab</td>
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<td><strong>Week 12</strong></td>
<td><strong>Monday, April 15</strong>&lt;br&gt;• 20 minute class presentation: Laws of warfare&lt;br&gt;• Deuteronomy: Remember the Past, be careful in the future (Deut 1—11), Intro to the Laws of Deuteronomy (Deut 12—34)</td>
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<td><strong>Week 13</strong></td>
<td><strong>Monday, April 22</strong>&lt;br&gt;• 20 minute class presentation: Divorce&lt;br&gt;• Deuteronomy: The Laws of Deuteronomy, Blessings and Curses, Moses' Farewell (Deut 12—34)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 14</strong></td>
<td><strong>Monday April 29</strong> Final Exam</td>
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**BIBLIOGRAPHY**


______, *The Theme of the Pentateuch* (JSOTSup, 10; Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1979).


______, *From Noah To Israel: Realization of the Primaeval Blessing After the Flood* (JSOTSup 413; T&T Clark, 2004).


_____, *Ancient Orient and Old Testament* (Downers Grove, IL and Leicester: InterVarsity Press, 1966)


____, *Kingdom Prologue* (South Hamilton, MA: M. G. Kline, 1993; revised edition by Two Age Press, 2000; reprinted by Wipf and Stock, 2006).

____, *Tracing the Eschatological Movement of the Kingdom of God from Creation to Consummation* (Two Age Press, 2002)


Wilson, R.R. *Genealogy and History in the Biblical World* (YNER 7; New Haven, Yale University, 1977).


**Commentaries**

**Genesis**


**Exodus**


**Leviticus**


**Numbers**

**Deuteronomy**
Merrill, E.H., *Deuteronomy*. NAC (Broadman & Holman, 1994).