



The University of Manchester

School of
Languages & Cultures, Faculty of Humanities
Course Unit Descriptor



Arts,

23.02.2016

GENERAL INFORMATION

Credit Rating	10
Course Unit Title	Pentateuch
Unit Code	211 (Distance learning version 8211)
Unit Level	2
Contact Hours	22 (n/a for distance learning version)
FHEQ Level	5
Teaching Period	Flexible delivery
Teaching Staff	Dr Zoltan Schwab
ECTS	5

EXTERNAL FACING COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW

This unit provides students with resources for engaging in a literary and theological exploration of the Pentateuch. The focus is upon exegetical and theological issues with particular attention to specific passages. Students are introduced to important themes concerning God and his dealings with the world and humankind in creation, judgment, covenant and redemption. Opportunities are provided to consider the present day application of the text.

COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW

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AIMS

To enable students to engage in a literary and theological exploration of the Pentateuch and to consider its contribution to the rest of Scripture.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge and Understanding

By the end of this unit students will be able to:

- Display a broad knowledge of the literary contents of the Pentateuch
- Understand the theological significance of the Pentateuch

Intellectual Skills

By the end of this unit students will be able to:

- Analyse and evaluate some of the major themes of the Pentateuch

- Use appropriate critical skills to identify and assess the Pentateuch's content

Practical Skills

By the end of this unit students will be able to:

- Make informed choices when selecting information from a variety of sources
- Interpret selected texts with critical integrity, using commentaries and other secondary sources
- Demonstrate skills in biblical exegesis

Transferable Skills and Personal Qualities

By the end of this unit students will be able to:

- Assess other people's views on texts and theological ideas
- Structure and communicate their ideas effectively

Employability Skills

Students will consolidate skills such as reading texts appropriately, managing and evaluating information, organizing and presenting their ideas. These skills are vital to a range of employment contexts.

SYLLABUS

Lecture 1: Introduction, date and authorship of the Pentateuch
 Lectures 2-3: How to interpret creation stories?
 Lecture 4: The rest of Genesis
 Lecture 5: Exodus (historicity, Tabernacle and Sabbath)
 Lecture 6-7: Leviticus (nature of 'law,' types of sacrifices, dietary laws)
 Lecture 8: Numbers ('an unusual book,' Balaam: how to ask good questions?)
 Lecture 9-10: Deuteronomy (monotheism and violence; humility and remembering)
 Lecture 11: Summary (Shema, principles of reading the Pentateuch well)

TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

211: Interactive lectures
 8211: Distance learning

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Assessment task	Length	Weighting within unit
Formative:		
• 211: An essay plan	500 words	n/a
• 8211: An essay plan	500 words	n/a
Summative:		
• 211: An essay	2500 words	100%
• 8211: An essay and a learning journal*	2500 words	100%

* Distance learning students are required to pass this element. So long as this element has been passed, they will be eligible for compensation if the overall unit mark is within the compensation zone (30-39%), and the compensatable credit allowance as set out in the Degree Regulations has not been exceeded.

FEEDBACK METHODS

- Oral feedback in class (211 only)
- Written feedback on formative and summative written submissions within 15 working days

REQUISITES

Available on which programme(s)?	BA in Theology
Available as Free Choice (UG) or to other programmes (PG)?	Core Unit (UG)
Pre-requisite units	n/a
Co-requisite units	n/a

RECOMMENDED READING

General Introductory works and lexicons

Alexander, T. Desmond & David W. Baker (eds), *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch* (Leicester: IVP, 2003) [Available in Perlego]

Anderson, Bradford A., and Paula Gooder, *An Introduction to the Study of the Pentateuch* (London: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2017) [Available in Perlego]

Kaminsky, Joel S., Joel N. Lohr, *The Torah* (Oxford: Oneworld Publications, 2011) [Available in Perlego]

Multiple articles, videos, and further resources on the website:
<https://www.bibleodyssey.org/>

Archaeology and ancient Near Eastern background

Arnold, Bill T. and Brent A. Strawn, *The World around the Old Testament, The People and Places of the Ancient Near East* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing, 2016) [Available in Perlego]

Dalley, Stephanie, *Myths from Mesopotamia* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008) [The relevant chapter will be available via Moodle]

Hoffmeier, James K., Alan R. Millard, Gary A. Rendsburg (eds.), *Did I Not Bring Israel Out of Egypt? Biblical, Archaeological, and Egyptological Perspectives on the Exodus Narrative* (Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2016) [Available in EBSCO: <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=1435739&site=ehost-live>]

Price, J. Randall and H. Wayne House, *Zondervan Handbook of Biblical Archaeology* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2017) [Available in Perlego]

Walton, John H., *Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament*, 2nd edition (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing, 2018) [Available in Perlego]

Teaching and theology of the Pentateuch

Clines, David J.A., *The Theme of the Pentateuch*, 2nd edn (Sheffield: SAP, 1997) [Available in Perlego]

Fretheim, Terence E., 'Is Genesis 3 a Fall Story?', *Word & World* 14/2 (1994) 144-153 [This article will be available via Moodle]

Keel, Othmar and Silvia Schroer, *Creation, Biblical Theologies in the Context of the Ancient Near East* (Winona Lake, Indiana: Eisenbrauns, 2015) [Available in EBSCO: <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=1065513&site=ehost-live>]

Lucas, Ernest C., et al., 'The Bible, Science and Human Origins', *Science and Christian Belief*, 28/2 (2016) 74-99. [The section chapter will be available via Moodle]

McConville, J. Gordon and Karl Möller (eds.), *Reading the Law* (London: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2007) [Available in Perlego]

Moberly, R. W. L., *The Theology of the Book of Genesis* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009) [Available in EBSCO: <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=304753&site=ehost-live>]

Oliver, Simon, *Creation: A Guide for the Perplexed* (London: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2017) [Available in Perlego]

Sailhamer, J.H., *The Pentateuch as Narrative: A Biblical-Theological Commentary* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992) [Available in Perlego]

Walton, John H., *The Lost World of Adam and Eve, Genesis 2-3 and the Human Origins Debate* (Downers Grove, Illinois: IVP, 2015) [Available in EBSCO: <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=959523&site=ehost-live>]

SCHEDULED ACTIVITY HOURS

22 contact hours (n/a for distance learning version)

PLACEMENT HOURS

n/a

INDEPENDENT STUDY HOURS

78 (100 for distance learning version)

ADDITIONAL NOTES

APPROVAL

Date approved by UGC	
Valid from Date (Publishing Date)	