



The University of Manchester



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

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 <i>and a learning journal*</i>	2500 words	100% Pass/fail*

* 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, *From Paradise to Promised Land: An Introduction to the Pentateuch* (Carlisle: Paternoster, 2002)
- Alexander, T. Desmond & David W. Baker (eds), *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch* (Leicester: IVP, 2003)
- Hamilton, Victor P., *Handbook on the Pentateuch*, 2nd edn (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005)
- Kaminsky, Joel S., Joel N. Lohr, Mark Reasoner, *The Abingdon Introduction to the Bible, Understanding Jewish and Christian Scriptures* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2014)
- Wenham, Gordon J., *Exploring the OT: Vol 1, The Pentateuch* (London: SPCK, 2003)

Archaeology and ancient Near Eastern background

- Dever, William G., *Who Were the Early Israelites and Where Did They Come From?* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 2003)
- Hallo, W. W. (ed.), *The Context of Scripture* (Leiden & Boston: Brill, 2003)
- Hays, Christopher B., *Hidden Riches, A Sourcebook for the Comparative Study of the Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near East* (Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2014)
- 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)

Teaching and theology of the Pentateuch

- Clines, David J.A., *The Theme of the Pentateuch*, 2nd edn (Sheffield: SAP, 1997)
- Fretheim, Terence E., *The Pentateuch* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1996)
- Keel, Othmar and Silvia Schroer, *Creation, Biblical Theologies in the Context of the Ancient Near East* (Winona Lake, Indiana: Eisenbrauns, 2015)
- Lalleman, Hetty, *Celebrating the Law? The Relevance of Old Testament Ethics* (Carlisle: Paternoster, 2004, 2nd edn 2016)
- McConville, J. Gordon, *Grace in the End: A Study in Deuteronomistic Theology* (Carlisle: Paternoster, 1993)
- Moberly, R. W. L., *The Theology of the Book of Genesis* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009)
- Sailhamer, J.H., *The Pentateuch as Narrative: A Biblical-Theological Commentary* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992)
- Walton, John H., *The Lost World of Adam and Eve, Genesis 2-3 and the Human Origins Debate* (Downers Grove, Illinois: IVP, 2015)
- Wright, Christopher J.H., *Old Testament Ethics for the People of God* (Leicester: IVP, 2004)

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)