

Deuteronomy: The Book of Covenant and Grace in the Old Testament

Course Syllabus, OT6302d

Spring 2020

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Class Meeting Time: Tuesday 4:00-6:40 PM.

Office Hours: Mon. 11:00–12:00 AM; Tues. 10:00–12:00 AM; Wed., Thurs.
1:00–3:00 PM.

Course Goals:

- 1) Students will identify and engage in informed discussion of major issues in the interpretation of the book of Deuteronomy.
- 2) All students will prepare presentations (an exegesis paper and a sermon) on a passage from Deuteronomy, reflecting awareness of literary and historical issues which arise from this book, and conduct research for these presentations using appropriate commentaries and helps.

Course Objectives:

- 1) The student will acquire an in-depth knowledge of Deuteronomy in its literary, historical, and theological setting.
- 2) The student will acquire knowledge of and be able to discuss and debate the methods and arguments of the commentators listed in “required texts” below.
- 3) The student will learn how to write an exegesis paper on a passage from Deuteronomy, using appropriate library and technological resources.
- 4) The student will learn how to go from “text to sermon” in practical, ministerial application of the research done on the exegesis paper.

Means of Assessment:

Regular class attendance and participation is required. All students should come prepared to discuss the particular section of Deuteronomy assigned for the day. This involves reading the Bible passage for the day, relevant sections in the

commentaries, and doing your own studies of important words and contexts.

2–3 hour final exam:

25%

1 1/2 hour mid-term exam.

25%

One 5–7 page, typed exegesis paper on one passage found in Deuteronomy. 25%

One 5 page, typed sermon or Bible study based on this exegesis paper.

25%

Class Discussions:

Several of the required texts are commentaries. There is a very important reason for this. We will be involved in detailed exegesis of the text of Deuteronomy. These volumes will help you with the preparation of study notes for class preparation, as well as with your exegesis papers. You should come prepared to discuss these passages from week to week as they are assigned.

Preparation of Papers:

Exegesis Paper:

We will be reading and doing exegesis of the text of Deuteronomy. The course will entail “hands on” experience with exegesis of the English text. Those who have had Hebrew or Greek, of course, are encouraged to use those abilities and tools in their exegesis.

Exegesis papers must use the proper research style as laid out in K. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers* (latest edition). Exegesis papers should pay careful attention to the literary context (extended and immediate), use of important terminology, and historical setting. Most importantly, students are expected to use Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, Whitaker’s NRSV Concordance, and/or a Hebrew concordance in order to determine the author’s use of words and phrases. For historical background, you will find John Bright *A History of Israel* (4th edition) particularly helpful. Commentaries and other resources will be suggested throughout the semester (see select bibliography). While I am most interested in your own exegesis of the texts, you should be aware of and make use of important commentaries, dictionaries, word books, introductions, etc. Your final exegesis paper must have at least two sources (articles, books, commentaries, etc.) which you found via the ATLA database in the library.

Also, see the written guide for the preparation of exegesis papers, which you should follow in the preparation of your exegesis paper.

Sermon or Bible Study Series:

The sermon will be based upon the results of your exegesis paper. The sermon or Bible study itself is not an exegesis, but uses the results of exegesis to make practical application for the life of the church. A bibliography and aids for writing a sermon from the Old Testament will be provided.

Required Texts:

All students are encouraged to make use of all relevant scholarly helps in their pursuit of the understanding of the text of Holy Scripture. The following are intended to orient you and to be “conversation partners” for our class discussions, but you will wish to consult other books and articles, particularly for your exegesis paper.

The *New Oxford Annotated Bible of the New Revised Standard Version*, or another good study Bible.

Block, Daniel. *Deuteronomy*. NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011.

Miller, Patrick. *Deuteronomy*. Interpretation Commentary. Louisville: W/JKP, 2011.

Tigay, Jeff. *Deuteronomy*. JPS Torah. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska, 2003.

Recommended Texts:

Walter Brueggemann. *Deuteronomy*. Abingdon Old Testament Commentary. Nashville: Abingdon, 2001.

Mann, Thomas. *Deuteronomy*. Westminster Bible Companion. Louisville: W/JKP, 1995.

Wright, Christopher. *Deuteronomy*. New International Biblical Commentary, Old Testament. Peabody, MA, 1996.

Select Bibliography on Deuteronomy: see bibliography to be provided.

Software, Database, and Internet Resources:

There are several application software and database resources which Austin Graduate School of Theology provides which are especially helpful for the graduate student. All students in OT6309 are expected to become familiar with these resources and utilize them especially in the research and preparation of papers:

Accordance Bible Search software: Computer concordance, Bible, and Bible-related database and search engine. Available on a library computer, or you may elect to use your own Bible search software, such as *Bible Works 10* (no longer available new), *Logos 8*, or *Olive Tree Software Bible Study App* version 6. There is also an excellent Bible search program online, called StepBible.

Online Periodicals: Through EBSCO, Austin Graduate School has access to over 200 full-text journals on the web. See the librarian for access.

ATLA Database: The American Theological Library Association maintains a massive bibliographic database of theological journals and books. You must use this resource for identifying important books and articles for writing the exegesis paper (see above). See the librarian for training and access to this database.

Schedule of lectures:

Week 1, Jan. 21: Introduction to Deuteronomy.

Block, pp. 25–54.

Miller, pp. 1–17.

Tigay, pp. xi–xxxii.

Week 2, Jan. 28: Deuteronomy chaps. 1–3:11.

Block, pp. 55–99.

Miller, pp. 18–42.

Tigay, pp. 3–35.

Week 3, Feb. 04: Deuteronomy chaps. 3:12–5.

Block, pp. 100–179.

Miller, pp. 42–97.

Tigay, pp. 36–74.

Week 4, Feb. 11: Deuteronomy chap. 6.

Block, pp. 180–202.

Miller, pp. 97–110.

Tigay, pp. 74–83.

Week 5, Feb. 18: Deuteronomy chaps. 7–8.

Block, pp. 203–240.

Miller, pp. 110–118.

Tigay, pp. 83–96.

Week 6, Feb. 25: No class; I will be in Orlando, FL.

Week 7, March 03: Deuteronomy chaps. 9–11.

Block, pp. 241–300.

Miller, pp. 118–128.

Tigay, pp. 96–117.

Week 8, March 10: Deuteronomy chaps. 12–14.

Mid-term exam

Block, pp. 301–362.

Miller, pp. 128–134.

Tigay, pp. 117–144.

Week 9, March 17: Spring Break, no class.

Week 10, March 24: Deuteronomy chaps. 15–17.

Block, pp. 363–425.

Miller, pp. 134–149.

Tigay, pp. 144–169.

Week 11, March 31: Deuteronomy chaps. 18–20.

Block, pp. 426–486.

Miller, pp. 149–160.

Tigay, pp. 169–191.

Week 12, April 7: Deuteronomy chaps. 21–23

Block, pp. 487–555.

Miller, pp. 160–177.

Tigay, pp. 191–220.

Week 13, April 14: Deuteronomy chaps. 24–26

Block, pp. 556–620.

Miller, pp. 177–189.

Tigay, pp. 220–246.

Week 14, April 21: Deuteronomy chaps. 27–28

Block, pp. 621–670.

Miller, pp. 189–198.

Tigay, pp. 247–274.

Week 15, April 28: Deuteronomy chaps. 29–31

(Sermons and exegesis papers due)

Block, pp. 671–741.

Miller, pp. 199–223.

Tigay, pp. 274–298.

Week 16, May 05: Deuteronomy chaps. 32–34

Block, pp. 742–818.

Miller, pp. 223–245.

Tigay, pp. 298–340.

*Week 17, May 12: **Final Exam**.*

All final exegesis papers and sermons will be due no later than the date for the final exam, May 12.