

GOT 528 Exposition of the Pentateuch

Summer 2021 (online)

[the following is a partial syllabus containing the core information for the course. A full syllabus will be posted closer to the course start date]

Instructor Information

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Office Hours: varies

Office Location: Student Life Office

The best way to connect with Dr. Goodwill is through email. He will check email daily and do his best to respond within 24 hours. If you do not receive a respond within 24 hours, please assume that the email was accidently overlooked and send a follow-up email.

If your question needs a response sooner than 24 hours, please call/text.

Course Description: A survey of the content of the Pentateuch with an emphasis on the historical/cultural setting and its intentional problems. This course will also introduce the student to the narrative genre and its interpretative requirements. (3 credit hours)

Prerequisite: none

Textbook Information:

Required Texts/Materials:

John Sailhamer, [*The Pentateuch as Narrative*](#). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1992.

Students joining the class virtually must have a computer, internet connection, video camera, and a headset with a microphone.

Recommended Texts:

T. Desmond Alexander and David W. Baker, eds. [*Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch*](#). Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2003.

Victor P. Hamilton, [*Handbook on the Pentateuch*](#), 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2005.

Ken Casillas, [*The Law and the Christian: God's Light Within God's Limits*](#). Greenville, SC: BJU Press, 2008.

MBU Institutional Outcomes supported by this course:

1. **Biblical Interpretation:** Students will interpret Scripture using the historical-grammatical method with careful attention to the immediate and board biblical context.
2. **Doctrinal Defense:** Students will defend the historical biblical faith.

3. **Historical Understanding:** Students will analyze the influence of philosophical ideas on societal trends throughout history.
4. **Written Communication:** Students will write correctly and cohesively with compelling argumentation.

Course Goals: By the end of this class, I desire the student to...

1. Understand the basic chronology of the five books of Moses.
2. Articulate the difference in function between the legal/covenant texts and the narrative texts in the Pentateuch.
3. Develop relevant and appropriate applications from the legal law codes to believers living under the dispensation of the church.
4. Appreciate the value of studying the patriarchs as models for spiritual growth.
5. Know how the law and the structures that it established were designed to function within the nation of Israel and in the lives of its people.
6. Appreciate legal extensions which took place from Exodus/Leviticus to Deuteronomy, and to understand both the advantages of the conservative/ canonical explanation for this development and the methodological flaws in typical liberal explanations.
7. Demonstrate how to use preaching topically and sequentially through a Minor Prophet book.

Course Objectives: By the end of this class the student will be able to...

1. Explain the basic timeline and background of the Pentateuch including the key theological developments from each book.
2. Articulate Biblical positions on key issues of interpretation.
3. Develop expository sermons from the Pentateuch with appropriate application to the current dispensation.

Course Requirements

Lectures

Lecture videos will introduce you to the material and often include additional discussion that would be difficult to include in the course notes. Each week may have multiple lectures, but the average weekly viewing time for the lectures is 30–40 minutes. Lecture completion is reported through a quiz which asks if you watched completely the lecture(s) for the week.

Discussion Forums

Most weeks, there will be a discussion question. Generally, students will post their own answer to the question and then respond to 2 other student responses to the question. Responses are graded primarily on the quality of the contribution to the discussion. Responses should add value to the overall discussion thread.

- **Initial posts are due on Thursdays at 11:55pm** while responses are due on Saturdays at 11:55pm.
- On occasion, a synchronous zoom session may be offered as an optional alternative to a week's discussion forum. Students who participate in the zoom discussion session must complete the required reading and/or study before attending.

Reading

1. Read *The Pentateuch as Narrative* according to the schedule.
2. Read through Pentateuch at least two times.

Note: failure to complete the two Bible readings will result in a letter grade deduction from the final grade.

3. Read 250 pages of outside reading (non-textbook) related to the Pentateuch.
 - Most of this reading will be accomplished during your research for sermons and projects.
 - Make sure to read high quality sources from a variety of types (expositional and exegetical commentaries, journal articles, scholarly monographs). The quality of your sources comprises 20% of your outside reading report grade.

Sermon/Lesson Projects

There are two types of sermon/lesson projects: sermon/lesson and a series plan. There will be two different three to four-page sermons/lessons written for this course.

Required Elements: each sermon/lesson must have the following: title, text, timeless proposition (full sentence), introduction paragraph, conclusion paragraph, two-level outline with timeless main points that clearly support the proposition (narrative sermon may only be one-level), paragraph of explanation/exegesis under each main point and subpoint, at least one paragraph of concrete application, and one brief illustration.

Format: 1 inch margin, single-spaced, 11-point Calibri (Body) font

Please use the sermon template and the sermon series template on the Course Handouts page for all the sermon/lesson projects.

Descriptions:

1. Sermon/lesson on narrative passage (**due 7/31**)
 - a. Choose from the following texts: Genesis 12:1–20; 21:1–21; Exodus 2:1–25; Numbers 25:1–18
 - b. This sermon/lesson should cover the entire passage.
 - c. The narrative sermon may only be one-level and can follow one of several general outlines including
 - i. proposition → story → main points → application [“narrative” sermon outline]¹
 - ii. proposition → main points w/story → application [deductive sermon outline]
 - iii. story w/main points → proposition → application [inductive sermon outline].
2. Sermon/lesson on law code (**due 8/14**)
(more information to come in final syllabus).
3. Book-theme sermon/lesson (**due 8/28**)
 - a. Choose from the following book-themes:
 - i. Genesis: Grace
 - ii. Exodus: Purpose/Result of Redemption
 - iii. Leviticus: Holiness
 - iv. Numbers: God’s Faithfulness
 - v. Deuteronomy: Fear/Fear Not
 - b. This sermon/lesson traces the theme through the book and ties it into the book’s

¹ This method walks through the entire narrative giving hints at main points, but the main points are stated at the end with accompanying comments tying them back to the text.

message.

4. Sermon/lesson Series Scope & Sequence (**due 9/25**)
 - a. Map out a six- to eight-week sermon/lesson series from the Pentateuch. This series can be topical, cover a book/section of a book, or cover themes among the books.
 - b. Fill out the sermon/lesson series scope & sequence template on the Course Handouts page (see also the example scope & sequence). Each sermon/lesson in the series must have: a theme, text, proposition, basic outline (at least two main points), and general direction for application.

Projects

This course contains one research project.

A Biblical Theology Paper (10 pages; **due 9/25**)

- 1) Biblical theology asks, “what does the Bible say” or “what does the Bible say about _____.” For this research paper, you will choose a topic, theme or book within the Pentateuch to study. Although your study will likely lead to passages outside the Pentateuch, your focus must be on what the Pentateuch says about the topic/theme.
 - a) Types of Biblical Theology Papers
 - i) Book Theology: A book theology defines the primary message and/or theme of a book, explains how key words/passages demonstrate the theme, breaks down the theme into subthemes, and demonstrates the significance of the book to the New Testament believer.
Topics: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, or Deuteronomy
 - ii) Subject Study (Theme/Topic): Subject studies trace a subject or theme through a section of the Bible (in this case the Pentateuch or a section of the Pentateuch). The subject study should answer two unstated questions. First, what does the Pentateuch teach about the subject? Second, how should a New Testament believer respond to respond to the Pentateuch’s teaching?
Topic Suggestions: faith, covenant, monotheism, sanctification, blessing, Sabbath, leadership, Tabernacle, worship, marriage, or a characteristic of God.
- 2) Requirements: bibliography should have at least 8 academically credible sources such as Old Testament theologies, commentaries, theological dictionaries, or journal articles.
- 3) Format: 10-page, Turabian paper with headings and footnotes. The title page/table of contents and bibliography do not apply toward the page count. (**use modified template on the course handouts page**)
- 4) General Outline:
 - a) Introduction (½ –1 page): It should introduce the theme, topic, or book before providing a clear proposition to the paper and foreshadowing the paper’s approach.
 - b) Main Body (8–9 pages): the structure of the main body will vary depending on the student and type of Biblical Theology paper. The main body should be organized logically with appropriate headings/sub-headings.
 - i) Conclusion (½ –1 page): The conclusion should summarize the paper, bring the reader’s focus back to the importance of the paper, and briefly discuss the value of the paper to the New Testament believer.

Quizzes

The quizzes are closed-book, closed-notes and cover the course core data (selected chapter content, book themes, and dates for the patriarchs). This content comprises the “facts” that one would expect a student in an exposition course to know after taking the course. Quick recollection of this material will aid you greatly in your future Bible reading and study.

Final Exam (due 8/28)

The final exam is an open-book, open-notes, cumulative test over course notes and textbook study guide.

Extra Credit

There are two ways that you can earn extra credit in the course:

1) **Book Review (due 9/25)**

- a) You may read [The Law and the Christian: God’s Light Within God’s Limits](#) by Ken Casillas (80 pages; also available on Logos) and submit a three-page summary and evaluation for a 12-point bonus in the Projects category.
- b) Format: 1-inch margin, 11-point Calibri font, double-spaced
- c) Content:
 - i) Introduction (½ page): introduce the broad topic that the book addresses and lead in to the contribution this particular book seeks to make to the issue.
 - ii) Summary (1 ½ pages): summarize the key points from the author.
 - iii) Evaluation (1 page): Is his approach helpful? Why is his approach helpful? Does he follow his own methodology consistently? You should give substantial reasons for your positive and negative assessments.

2) **Sermon Summaries (due 9/25)**

- a) You may listen to two, instructor-selected sermons from the Pentateuch and write a 200-word journal entry on the discussion forum page. The journal should include a specific lesson that you learned and comments on the preacher’s approach/style.
- b) Note: the comments are not designed to criticize or unduly praise. The goal is for you to take away ideas or warnings regarding how you proclaim truth from the Pentateuch.

Grading Policy

1. Grading scale:

94–100	A	90–91	B+	81–82	C+	64–72	D
92–93	A–	85–89	B	75–80	C	0–63	F
		83–84	B–	73–74	C–		

2. Grade weighting:

Reading	20%
Discussion Forums	15%
Projects/Papers.....	25%
Sermons/Lessons.....	20%
Sermon Summaries.....	10%
Quizzes & Final Exam	10%

3. Late work policy: All reading reports and projects will receive a 4% late penalty per day after the due date. Extensions will be given on a case-by-case basis. *No late penalties will be forgiven if the student does not communicate with the instructor before a due date.*
4. Program Grade Requirements: In order to graduate, a student must earn a minimum grade point average of 3.0 (including a maximum of two Cs) in any MA program, or a minimum grade point average of 2.5 in the MDiv program.

Course Schedule (to be completed later)

	Reading	Sermons/Projects	Discussion Topic (see forum for details)	Quiz/Test
Week 1	July 6		Introductory Posts	
Week 2				
Week 3				Quiz 1
Week 4		Sermon on Narrative		
Week 5			<i>No discussion forum</i>	Quiz 2
Week 6		Sermon on Law Code		
Week 7		First Reading of Pentateuch		Quiz 3
Week 8		Sermon on Book Theme		Final Exam
Final Projects		Sermon Scope & Sequence Reading Report Second Reading of Pentateuch Biblical Theology Paper Extra Credit (optional)		

Appendix A

Academic Dishonesty. Academic dishonesty is a serious offense, and it can exist in many forms. For example, the following would be considered a sample of academically dishonest activities that might occur in this class:

- ◆ Sharing advance information regarding the content or answers for a test or quiz.
- ◆ Receiving advance information regarding the content or answers for a test or quiz.
- ◆ Using a previous student's old tests or quizzes as a study guide for this semester's tests and quizzes.
- ◆ Handing in the same paper or substituting a similar paper in more than one class without permission.
- ◆ Plagiarism. Representing the words or unique thoughts of another as your own.
- ◆ Submitting as your own, materials that have been enhanced by another.

Academic penalties for academic dishonesty range from an F grade on the particular evaluation to an F grade in the course. Also, a range of serious disciplinary penalties may apply.

Academic Success Center. Once source for academic help in any course is the Academic Success Center. If you require specific targeted academic help for any reason contact the Academic Success Center

located in the Cedarholm Library. If you would like more information regarding targeted academic help, please contact the Academic Success Center director at academicsuccess@mbu.edu.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, the law requires that all students with disabilities be given a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Academic Success Program Director, in the Library, (ph. 920/206-2340) or email academicsuccess@mbu.edu.

Library Services. The Maranatha Cedarholm Library is committed to providing services to distance education students that are equivalent to residential students. Read about the library services that are available to you through Cedarholm Library. You can search the library resources by clicking on the Library link found under Quick Links on the sidebar in MyMaranatha.

Netiquette: Netiquette refers to the standards of behavior for online communication.

- All communication in discussion forums and through email should be respectful and professional.
- If someone asks you a question in a discussion forum, take the time to respond.
- If a coursemate or the instructor sends you an email, acknowledge that you received it by responding with a quick email.
- Your posts should be related to the course content. If you would like to chit-chat with someone, use email or the Virtual Café
- found on the Collaboration page.
- Don't type your posts in ALL CAPS. This makes the reader think you are yelling.

Technology Problems:

Technology problems are not an acceptable excuse for missing an assignment. Technology will break down and fail at some point. Its failure is a normal process life, not an emergency. As you plan ahead and manage your time, assume that technology will fail, especially if you wait until the last minute to do an assignment!

When you have a problem with MyMaranatha or any other MBU website, please contact support@mbu.edu. If you are having difficulties navigating this course or have questions about how to use technology required for this course, please send me a quick email (andrew.goodwill@mbu.edu).