

BSD04 THE PENTATEUCH

Lecturer(s)	Dr Andrew Shead andrew.shead@moore.edu.au
Qualifications to teach	AQF Level 6 or above
Status	Elective
Co/pre-requisites	None

WORKLOAD	TOTAL
Credit points	6
Duration	1 semester
Weekly Lecture Content ¹	14
Essay Development Activities	20
Essay Preparation and Writing	40
Recommended Reading	24
Biblical Exegetical Activities	30
Foundational Knowledge Quizzes	7
Further reading and reflection	15
Total commitment hours	150

GENERAL AIM:

The unit introduces the student to the Pentateuch (Genesis to Deuteronomy), as individual books and as a coherent collection. It helps the student to read the Pentateuch aware of its historical, literary and theological nature, and to understand both its meaning for original readers, and its significance as Christian Scripture. Students will develop their competence as careful readers of the text and be able to show how these ancient texts uniquely reveal and adorn the character of God.

¹ The 13 lectures take about 6 hours to read slowly. Time is allowed for two readings, including activities along the way.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this unit, students should be able to:		Graduate Attributes
1.	Describe the context, structure and message of each book of the Pentateuch	GA 1
2.	Explain the literary and theological connections between the five books	GA 1
3.	Show how literary features of biblical narrative add to the impact of the message	GA 2
4.	Evaluate sermons on the Pentateuch	GA 7
5.	Discuss a major theme in a selected book, and illustrate its distinctive features from the text	GA 1, 2, 4

CONTENT

1.	The historical and canonical context and coherence of the Pentateuch
2.	A concise exposition and theological analysis of each individual book
3.	The theology of the Pentateuch and its relationship with the rest of the Bible

TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

Weekly Lecture content

Exegetical activities

Recommended readings

Essay Development activities

Foundational knowledge quizzes

Peer assessments

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Foundational knowledge quizzes

100 Multiple Choice Questions. The quizzes help you consolidate your learning of the unit content. You must complete all quizzes and achieve an overall score above 90% to pass the unit. You are allowed unlimited attempts but must complete the quizzes satisfactorily before the end of the final assessment week. These quizzes do not contribute marks towards your final grade in the unit.

LO 1, 2

Three biblical theology exposition activities

Three biblical exposition activities, 500 words each. Tutor and peer assessment.

Weighting: 45%

LO 3, 4

Thematic assignment

Two development activities, 500 words in total (10%). Aim: the first activity helps you take what you have been reading and begin to organise it around your chosen essay question. The second activity helps you to produce an outline of your essay. Final Essay submission, 1,500 words (45%).

Weighting: 55%

LO 5

Note for students: Please refer to the [DBT Handbook](#) for College requirements on assessments, including presentation, correct referencing of sources, word limits and late submission.

PROGRESSION

Successful completion of this unit requires:

1.	An overall result of 50% or better
2.	50% or better in the final essay submission
3.	Completing the Foundational Knowledge Quizzes with an overall score above 90%

RECOMMENDED READING

Reading that will assist the student to achieve the unit learning outcomes

Suggestion: put the Pentateuch into your daily Bible reading programme while you are doing this unit.

Week	Author(s)	Title and Publisher	pages
1 <i>Introduction to the Pentateuch</i>	Walton, John H. and A. E. Hill. Hoffmeier, James K.	<i>Old Testament Today: A Journey from Original Meaning to Contemporary Significance.</i> Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2004, pages 70–86. “‘These Things Happened’: Why a Historical Exodus Is Essential for Theology.” Pages 99–134 in <i>Do Historical Matters Matter to Faith? A Critical Appraisal of Modern and Postmodern Approaches to Scripture.</i> Edited by James K. Hoffmeier and Dennis R. Magary. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012. Read pages 99–106. <i>Your major essay needs to explore a theme in one book of the Pentateuch, and this week’s first reading gives you a thumbnail sketch of some major themes. As you read it, take notes and use them towards the first development activity, due in week 10. The second reading is more technical, but very important if you ever need to defend the historicity of the Pentateuch against the secular “mainstream” of opinion. You will read the rest of it in week 6.</i>	16 8
2 <i>Context</i>	Collins, John J.	Read this for the first exegetical workshop: <i>Introduction to the Hebrew Bible.</i> Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 2004, pages 25–45.	20
3 <i>Gen 1–11 genre</i>	Collins, C. John.	Read this for the first exegetical workshop: <i>Reading Genesis Well: Navigating History, Poetry, Science, and Truth in Genesis 1–11.</i> Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018, pages 131–157.	26
4 <i>Gen 1–11 exegesis</i>	Waltke, Bruce K. with Cathi J. Fredricks.	Read this for the first exegetical workshop: <i>Genesis: A Commentary.</i> Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001, pages 121–159. SUBMIT FIRST EXEGETICAL ACTIVITY	38
5 <i>Gen 12–50</i>	Alexander, T. Desmond.	“Abraham Reassessed Theologically: The Abraham Narrative and the New Testament Understanding of Justification by Faith.” Pages 7–28 in <i>He Swore an Oath: Biblical Themes from Genesis 12–50.</i> Edited by R. S. Hess, G. J. Wenham, and P. E. Satterthwaite. 2nd edn. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 1994. <i>Here is another reading that will be useful for your major essay. It models a way to draw theological connections between Old and New Testament.</i>	21
RESEARCH WEEK 1			
6 <i>Exodus intro</i>	Hoffmeier, James K.	“‘These Things Happened’: Why a Historical Exodus Is Essential for Theology.” Pages 99–134 in <i>Do Historical Matters Matter to Faith? A Critical Appraisal of Modern and Postmodern Approaches to Scripture.</i> Edited by James K. Hoffmeier and Dennis R. Magary. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012. Read pages 106–134. <i>You read the first part of this article in week 1. Now Hoffmeier looks at the historicity of the Exodus—but his method draws out amazing connections that illustrate just how deeply this event penetrates every part of Scripture.</i>	28
7 <i>Exod 1–19</i>	Perrin, Nicholas.	<i>The Exodus Revealed: Israel’s Journey from Slavery to the Promised Land.</i> New York: Faithwords, 2014, pages 133–158. <i>Here is an easy reading to balance last week’s heavier one. It hits the sweet spot for this unit: a model of combining Near Eastern context, exegesis, and theology into a great sermon!</i>	25
MID-TERM BREAK			
8 <i>Exod 20–40</i>	Webb, Barry G.	Read this for the second exegetical workshop: “Heaven on Earth: The Significance of the Tabernacle in its Literary and Theological Context.” Pages 154–176 in <i>Exploring Exodus: Literary, Theological and Contemporary Approaches.</i> Edited by B. Rosner and P.R. Williamson. Nottingham: Inter-Varsity Press, 2008. SUBMIT SECOND EXEGETICAL ACTIVITY	22
9		Read this for the third exegetical workshop:	

<i>Leviticus</i>	Kiuchi, Nobuyoshi. Woodhouse, John W.	<i>Leviticus</i> . AOTC. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2007. Read pages 30–47. Listen to this for the third exegetical workshop: “I, the Lord your God, am Holy.” Sermon delivered at Katoomba, NSW, January 1986. Read Leviticus 1, 11, 12 and 17 before listening. SUBMIT THIRD EXEGETICAL ACTIVITY: SERMON RESPONSE	32 [15]
RESEARCH WEEK 2			
10 <i>Numbers</i>	Olson, Denis T. Ferdinando, Keith.	SUBMISSION FOR YOUR FIRST DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY IS DUE THIS WEEK <i>The Death of the Old and the Birth of the New: The Framework of the Book of Numbers and the Pentateuch</i> . Brown Judaic Studies 71. Chico, CA: Scholars, 1985, pages 179–96. <i>The Message of Spiritual Warfare: The Lord is a Warrior, the Lord is His Name</i> . Bible Speaks Today Themes. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2016, pages 60–70 <i>These readings will help you in your essay in different ways. The first article shows the importance of structure for getting the message, and the theology, right. The second models a thematic study which is unusual but important for mission.</i>	17 11
11 <i>Deut 1–11</i>	Walton, John.	“The Decalogue Structure of the Deuteronomic Law.” Pages 93–117 in <i>Interpreting Deuteronomy: Issues and Approaches</i> . Edited by David G. Firth and Philip S. Johnston. Nottingham: Apollos, 2012. <i>Another reading illustrating the importance of structure for the message. A key to thinking about how you should frame and interpret individual OT laws.</i>	24
12 <i>Deut 12–34</i>	Athas, George.	SUBMISSION FOR YOUR SECOND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY, ON ESSAY STRUCTURE, IS DUE THIS WEEK. <i>Deuteronomy: One Nation under God</i> . Reading the Bible Today Series. Sydney South: Aquila Press, 2016, pages 162–80, 301–310. <i>As your essay gets closer, here is another fine example of how to move from the literary context to the canonical context to Christian fulfilment. Try answering the questions at the end of ch. 12.</i>	27
13 <i>theology of the Pentateuch</i>	Oswalt, John N. Timmer, Daniel C.	“Theology of the Pentateuch.” Pages 845–59 in <i>Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch</i> . Edited by T. Desmond Alexander and David W. Baker. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 2003. “The Old Testament as Part of a Two-Testament Witness to Christ.” Pages 95–108 in <i>Interpreting the Old Testament Theologically</i> . Edited by Andrew T. Abernethy. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2019. <i>Here are two great readings to complete the unit and help you perfect your essay! The first explores the Pentateuch’s five most basic doctrines; the second lays out principles for finding Jesus in the Old Testament. You should try to apply its case study (Amos) to your chosen book.</i>	14 13
Total set reading			357 pages

REFERENCE BIBLIOGRAPHY

Describes the scope of the unit, not required reading

Author(s)	Title and Publisher
	Commentaries (in canonical order)
D. A. Carson et al., eds.	<i>New Bible Commentary: 21st Century Edition</i> . Leicester: Inter-Varsity Press, 1994.
Dumbrell, William J.	<i>The Faith of Israel: Its Expression in the Books of the Old Testament</i> . Leicester: Apollos, 1989.
Hamilton, Victor P.	<i>The Book of Genesis</i> . 2 vols. NICOT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990, 1995.
Moberly, R. W. L.	<i>Genesis 12–50</i> . Old Testament Guides. Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1992.
Waltke, Bruce K., with Cathi J. Fredricks	<i>Genesis: A Commentary</i> . Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001.
Wenham, Gordon J.	<i>Genesis 1–15 and Genesis 16–50</i> . WBC 1, 2. Waco: Word Books, 1987, 1994.
Bruckner, J. K.	<i>Exodus</i> . NIBC. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2008.
Childs, Brevard S.	<i>The Book of Exodus: A Critical, Theological Commentary</i> . OTL. London: SCM, 1974.
Enns, Peter.	<i>Exodus</i> . NIVAC. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2000.
Kiuchi, Nobuyoshi.	<i>Leviticus</i> . AOTC. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2007.
Wenham, Gordon J.	<i>The Book of Leviticus</i> . NICOT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1979.
Allen, Ronald B.	“Numbers”. Pages 23–455 in <i>The Expositor’s Bible Commentary: Numbers to Ruth</i> . Edited by Tremper Longman, III and David E. Garland. Revised ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.
Brown, Raymond.	<i>The Message of Numbers: Journey to the Promised Land</i> . BST. Leicester: IVP, 2002.
Olson, Dennis.	<i>Numbers</i> . Louisville: John Knox Press, 1996.
Pakula, Martin.	<i>Homeward Bound: Reading Numbers Today</i> . Sydney South, NSW: Aquila, 2006.
Wenham, Gordon J.	<i>Numbers</i> . Old Testament Guides. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic, 1997.
Athas, George.	<i>Deuteronomy: One Nation under God</i> . Reading the Bible Today Series. Sydney South: Aquila, 2016.
McConville, J. Gordon.	<i>Deuteronomy</i> . AOTC. Leicester: Apollos, 2002.
	General volumes relevant to the entire Pentateuch
Alexander, T. Desmond.	<i>From Paradise to the Promised Land: An introduction to the Pentateuch</i> . Third edition. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2012.
Alexander, T. Desmond and David W. Baker, eds.	<i>Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch</i> . Downers Grove, Ill.: Inter-Varsity Press, 2003.
Alexander, T. Desmond and Brian S. Rosner, eds.	<i>New Dictionary of Biblical Theology</i> . Leicester: Inter-Varsity Press, 2000
Carson, D. A. and G. K. Beale, eds.	<i>Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament</i> . Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007.
Clines, David J. A.	<i>The Theme of the Pentateuch</i> . JSOTSup 10. Sheffield: JSOT, 1978.
Dempster, Stephen.	<i>Dominion and Dynasty: A Theology of the Hebrew Bible</i> . SBT. Leicester: Apollos, 2003.
Hill, A. E, and J. H. Walton.	<i>A Survey of the Old Testament</i> . Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009.
Ryken, Leland.	<i>Literary Introductions to the Books of the Bible</i> . Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015.

Wenham, Gordon J.	<i>Exploring the Old Testament. Volume One: A Guide to the Pentateuch</i> (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003).
	Interpretive method; near Eastern context
Bridge, Steven L.	<i>Getting the Old Testament: What it Meant to Them, What it Means for Us</i> . Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2009.
Currid, John, and David Barrett.	<i>ESV Bible Atlas</i> . Wheaton: Crossway, 2010.
Hays, Christopher B.	<i>Hidden riches: A Sourcebook for the Comparative Study of the Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near East</i> . Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2014.
Oswalt, John N.	<i>The Bible Among the Myths</i> . Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009.
	Other works
Allert, Craig D.	<i>Early Christian Readings of Genesis One: Patristic Exegesis and Literal Interpretation</i> . Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2018.
Blackburn, W. Ross.	<i>The God who Makes himself Known: The Missionary Heart of the book of Exodus</i> . NSBT 28. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2012.
Blocher, Henri.	<i>In the Beginning: The Opening Chapters of Genesis</i> . Trans. D. G. Preston. Leicester: IVP, 1984.
Brown, Andrew J.	<i>The Days of Creation: A History of Christian Interpretation of Genesis 1:1–2:3</i> . Dorset: Deo, 2014.
Collins, C. John.	<i>Reading Genesis Well: Navigating History, Poetry, Science, and Truth in Genesis 1–11</i> . Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018.
Firth, David G. and Philip S. Johnston, eds.	<i>Interpreting Deuteronomy: Issues and Approaches</i> . Nottingham: Apollos, 2012.
Hess, R.S., G. J. Wenham, and P. E. Satterwaite, eds.	<i>He Swore an Oath: Biblical Themes from Genesis 12–50</i> . Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 1994.
Lennox, John C.	<i>Seven Days that Divide the World: The Beginning According to Genesis and Science</i> . Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011.
Moberly, R. W. L.	<i>The Theology of the Book of Genesis</i> . Cambridge: CUP, 2009.
Morales, L. Michael.	<i>Who Shall Ascend the Mountain of the Lord?</i> NSBT 37. Leicester: Apollos, 2015.
Perrin, Nicholas.	<i>The Exodus Revealed: Israel's Journey from Slavery to the Promised Land</i> . New York: Faithwords, 2014.
Poythress, Vern S.	<i>Interpreting Eden: A Guide to Faithfully Reading and Understanding Genesis 1–3</i> . Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2019.
Provan, Iain.	<i>Discovering Genesis: Content, Interpretation, Reception</i> . London: SPCK, 2015.
Rodríguez, Ángel Manuel.	"Leviticus 16: Its Literary Structure." <i>Andrews University Seminary Studies</i> 34.2 (1996): 269–86.
Rosner, B. S. and P.R. Williamson, eds.	<i>Exploring Exodus: Literary, Theological and Contemporary Approaches</i> . Nottingham: Inter-Varsity Press, 2008.
Walton, John H.	<i>The Lost World of Genesis One: Ancient Cosmology and the Origins Debate</i> . Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2009.