

Genesis - Deuteronomy
OT5200/Summer 2026
Houston

Instructor: Richard (Dick) Belcher, Jr.
TA: Micha Mueller

rbelcher@rts.edu
michamueller98@gmail.com

Course Schedule

Monday June 15	1 PM to 9 PM
Tuesday June 16	1 PM to 9 PM
Wednesday June 17	1 PM to 9 PM
Thursday June 18	1 PM to 9 PM
Friday June 19	1 PM to 9 PM

Course Description

This course covers the first five books of the Bible through literary, historical, and theological analysis. Major themes are traced through the Pentateuch as each biblical book is examined. Important theological issues, such as creation, fall, covenant, and law, are examined in the context of the ANE and Israel's own historical setting. Such analysis is foundational for understanding the rest of Scripture and for how this section of Scripture has meaning for God's people today.

Course Objectives

- a) To acquire a general knowledge of the content of the first five books of the Bible.
- b) To look at the big picture and to see how the different parts of this section of the canon relate to each other.
- c) To understand the foundational importance of the Pentateuch for the rest of Scripture by looking at key theological issues.
- d) To examine this section of Scripture considering the culture and history of the ANE.

Required Reading: only a few of the following works are read in their entirety

Textbooks

- 1) Miles Van Pelt, ed. *A Biblio-Theological Introduction to the Old Testament* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2016), hereinafter *BTIOT* (Introduction; Chaps. 1-5)
- 2) Richard P. Belcher, Jr., *Prophet, Priest, and King: The Roles of Christ in the Bible and Our Roles Today* (P&R, 2016), **read all**; hereinafter *PPK*

- 3) R. Belcher, *The Fulfillment of God's Promises: Understanding Covenant Theology* (Christian Focus, 2020), chapters 1-8, 14 and 2 Appendices
- 4) John D. Currid, *Against the Gods* (Crossway, 2013), Prologue, Chaps 1-4, 9
- 5) Mary Ellen Buck, *The Canaanites* (Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2019); Chaps. 1-3, 5.
- 6) V. Poythress, *The Shadow of Christ in the Law of Moses* (P & R Publishing, 1991), chapters 1-11, 15-17, Appendices A, B, C.
- 7) Wayne Grudem, ed., *A Biblical Case Against Theistic Evolution* (Crossway, 2022); Chaps. 1-4, 6; hereinafter *BCATE*
- 8) John N. Oswalt, "Continuity: the Basis of Mythical Thinking," in *The Bible Among the Myths* (Zondervan, 2009), 47-62. Made available to students on Canvas
- 9) Richard Belcher, *Why Does the God of the Old Testament seem so Violent and Hateful?* (Christian Focus, 2023); hereinafter GOT

Recommended Books

- 1) *Theistic Evolution: A Scientific, Philosophical, and Theological Critique*, eds. J. P. Moreland, Stephen C. Meyer, et al (Crossway, 2017)
- 2) *ESV Bible Atlas*, eds. John D. Currid and David P. Barrett (Crossway, 2010)
- 3) John D. Currid, *The Case for Biblical Archaeology* (P&R, 2020)
- 4) Richard P. Belcher, Jr., *Genesis: The Beginning of God's Plan of Salvation* (Christian Focus, 2012)

Assignments

- 1) The books from Genesis to Deuteronomy must each be read as part of the required reading.
- 2) The Required Reading (see the list above and the schedule below): report percentage out of 100% on Canvas, due Saturday August 1, 11:59 PM
- 3) There will be 6 quizzes of basic outlines (see the outlines at the end of this document)
- 4) There will be one exam based on 8 essay questions given to the students at the beginning of the class which will be based solely on the lecture material (taken with the Lock Down Browser). The exam will list 4 of the 8 questions and ask the student to answer 3 of the 4 questions. The exam must be taken on or before Saturday, July 11, 11:59 PM.

5) There will be a research paper based on a law passage (Exodus 21 through Deuteronomy). The purpose of this paper will be discussed in relationship to the lectures on the law. There is also a handout on the guidelines for the paper in the mega-syllabus. It is due Saturday August 1, 11:59 PM

Grades

1) Exam	30%	3) Quizzes	15%
2) Research Paper	25%	4) Class “participation”	05%
3) Reading	25%		

Lecture Schedule

It is hard to gage how far we will get each day, but the following shows the layout of the lectures. You do not have to have the reading finished before the class meets (you have until Saturday August 1 to complete the reading and other assignments)

<u>Topics</u>	<u>Assigned Reading</u>
Monday	
Introduction to the Course	BCATE Chap. 1
Historical, Theological, and Literary: Critical Theories at a Crossroads	Currid Chaps. 1-2 Cov. Bk, App. 1
Authorship of the Pentateuch	GOT Intro, Chap. 1 Cov Bk, Chap 1
Genesis: Structure and Views of Genesis One	<u>Genesis 1:1-2:3</u> Currid Chap. 3
Genesis 1	Oswalt chapter GOT Chaps. 2-3
Genesis 2-3: The Origin of Our Problems	<u>Genesis 2:4-3:24</u> Cov Bk Chaps. 2-3
Tuesday	
Genesis 1-3: An Ancient Text with Modern Implications	BCATE Chaps. 2-4
Genesis 4-11: The Outworking of Sin	<u>Genesis 4-11</u> Currid Chap. 4

	Cov. Bk Chap. 4
The Patriarchs: God Will Fulfill His Promises	<u>Genesis 12-36</u> <i>BTIOT</i> Intro/Chap 1 Cov. Bk Chap. 5

Wednesday

Joseph: God Rewards Faithfulness	<u>Genesis 37-50</u> Canaanites, Chaps 1-2 BCATE Chap. 6
Historical Review: God at Work for the Sake of His People	Canaanites, Chaps 3, 5 GOT Chaps. 4-7
Different Approaches to the Role of the Law	Poythress Chaps. 1-2 Poythress App B-C
Modern Application of the Law	Poythress 9-11, App. A Cov. Bk Chaps. 6-7
Israel in Egypt: We Cannot Save Ourselves	<u>Exodus 1-4</u> <i>BTIOT</i> 2

Thursday

The Plagues: God Fights for His People	<u>Exodus 5-11</u> Currid Chap. 9
Redemption: God Provides For His People	<u>Exodus 12-19</u> Cov. Bk Chaps. 8, 14
The Mosaic Covenant: Law and Tabernacle	<u>Exodus 20-40</u> PPK Chaps. 1
Sacrifices and Priesthood: Approaching a Holy God	<u>Leviticus 1-16</u> <i>BTIOT</i> 3 PPK Chap. 2
Leviticus 11-16: Cultic Purity 21	Poythress 3-5
Leviticus 17-27: The Holiness Code	<u>Leviticus 17-27</u> PPK Chaps. 3-5

Friday

Numbers: Israel the Army of God	Poythress 6-8, 17 <u>Numbers</u> <i>BTIOT</i> 4
---------------------------------	---

Deuteronomy: Covenant Renewal

Deuteronomy
BTIOT 5
PPK Chaps. 6-8

Quiz Schedule

Monday June 15	Genesis Outline
Tuesday June 16	Historical Survey Outline
Wednesday June 17	Exodus Outline
Thursday June 18	Leviticus Outline
Friday June 19	Numbers Outline
Proctored at home	Deuteronomy Outline – due July 11, 11:59 PM

Outlines for Genesis to Deuteronomy Quizzes

Genesis

- I. Primeval History 1:1-11:9
 - A. Creation 1:1-2:4
 - B. The Fall and its Results 2:5-11:9
- II. Patriarchal History 11:10-37:1
 - A. Abraham 11:10-23:20
 - B. Isaac 24:1-26:35
 - C. Jacob 27:1-37:1
- III. Joseph's History 37:2-50:26

Historical Survey Outline

- I. Primeval History
- II. Patriarchal Period (2166-1876)
 - Abrahams birth 2166
 - Jacob's descent to Egypt 1876
- III. Egypt (1876-1446)
- IV. Wilderness Wanderings (1446-1406)
- V. Conquest (1406-1350)
- VI. Judges (1350-1051)
- VII. United Kingdom (1051-931)
- VIII. Divided Kingdom (931-586)
- IX. Exile (586-536)
- X. Restoration (536-430)

Exodus

- I. Deliverance under Moses (Exod 1-18)
- II. Covenant under Moses (Exod 19-24)
- III. Worship under Moses (Exod 25-40)

Leviticus

- I. Holiness Requires Mediation (1-10)
 - A) The mediation of sacrifice (1-7)
 - B) The mediation of priesthood (8-10)
- II. Holiness lived in daily life (11-27)
 - A) Cultic Purity (11-16)
 - B) Holiness Code (17-27)

Numbers

- I. Preparations for Battle in the Wilderness (1:1-10:10)
- II. Defeat in the Wilderness (10:11-25:18)
- III. The New Generation in the Wilderness (26:1-36:13)

Deuteronomy

	<u>ANE Covenant</u>	<u>Deuteronomy</u>	
I.	Preamble	Covenant Mediator	1:1-4
II.	Historical Prologue	Covenant History	1:5-3:29
III.	Stipulations	Covenant Life	4:1-26:19
IV.	Sanctions	Covenant Ratification	27:1-30:20
V.	Dynastic Disposition	Covenant Continuity	31:1-34:12

Meredith Kline, Treaty of the Great King (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1963), 49-50.

Student Instructions for Exams with LockDown Browser

1. Install the LockDown Browser application on the computer you intend to use for exams, prior to sitting for the exam, using this link:
<https://download.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=998253613>
 1. This link is ONLY for RTS students and covers Mac and Windows applications.
 2. Be sure that you are able to log in to your Canvas account from the LockDown Browser before the day of the exam.
 3. If you use internet filtering software (for example, Covenant Eyes) you may need to disable it before beginning an exam with LockDown Browser. Some types of filtering software can block your computer's connection to Canvas. Also, please be sure to add an exception for our Canvas URL: <https://rts.instructure.com>
2. The exam proctor should not be a current RTS student (current = taken a class within the past year but not yet graduated) or a member of the library staff.
3. The proctor must observe the student taking the exam and ensure that there are no devices or resources available other than the computer being used for the exam.
4. Access the exam during the date window specified for that exam.
 - a. Sign in with the proctor.
 - b. Start the LockDown Browser application using a wired or known reliable Wi-Fi connection. We do not recommend using restaurant or coffee shop Wi-Fi to take exams.
 - c. Have your student ID number and proctor details available to input into the exam.
 - d. Log in to your Canvas account.
 - e. Navigate to the exam. You will not be able to access the exam with a standard web browser. For additional details on using LockDown Browser, review this [Student Quick Start Guide \(PDF\)](#).
 - f. The time clock will begin once you open the exam.
 - g. The exam must be completed in one sitting. You may not exit and return to the exam later.
 - h. The exam will contain questions regarding an honor pledge, and certification that your proctor was present during the entire exam period.
 - i. Sign out with the proctor.
5. Proctors may be contacted to verify information regarding exam administration.
6. In the rare case of a technical issue (for example, if power goes out during exam) the proctor will document the date and time when the issue was reported. Once you open the exam using the LockDown Browser, you will not be able to access other programs on your computer.



Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Genesis through Deuteronomy

Professor: Richard P. Belcher, Jr.

Campus: RTS Charlotte

Date: March 14, 2026

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
<p><i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i></p> <p><i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong • Moderate • Minimal • None 	
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	understanding through lectures and reading, articulation through essay exams and a research paper
Scripture	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Strong	focus in the class is on understanding the original meaning, with some emphasis on language and more on hermeneutics, with the goal of understanding modern meaning
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	the class has a good dose of Reformed distinctives, such as the emphasis on creation, fall, redemption, covenants, the role of the law
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.	Minimal	although everything in the class is geared toward better understanding who God is and a proper response to God
Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. Includes ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	several issues in class deal directly with worldview, especially the material in Genesis 1-3
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	Minimal	differing views of issues are set forth in an objective, fair, and winsome way
Pastoral Ministry	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both church and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians.	Very Minimal	this class will help a student understand the word so the student can minister the word of God