

Course: BI343E/EN Genesis
Credit: 3 Semester Hours
Semester: Spring 2021 Cycle 5 [March 8 – April 30]
Time: Monday (6:00-9:00 pm) [meets in EED 118]
Instructor: Dr. Thomas S. Baurain
E-mail: thomas.baurain@calvary.edu
Phone: (816) 322-5152 extension 1502

I. DESCRIPTION

A systematic study of the chronological progression of events in this foundational book. Practical emphasis is placed on the content and its relation to the geography, local setting, and historical significance to the early history of Israel. (Prerequisite: BI115)

This is a blended class, meaning that both campus and online students take this class together. Campus students attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. All interaction and assignments for campus and online students are done in the online classroom.

Genesis is foundational to the Pentateuch, and to both the Old and New Testaments. An understanding of the major content of this key book is necessary if we are to properly understand ourselves and our Christian faith. We will be introduced to issues of science and the Bible; historical, cultural, and archaeological backgrounds; theological developments; and specific interpretive problems along the way. Our approach will be to view the book in terms of four key events (Genesis 1-11) and four key people (Genesis 12-50). (Professor's Summary)

II. OBJECTIVES

- A. General competencies to be achieved. The student:
1. Interacts with the basic introductory issues in the book of Genesis. (PLO:1, 2) [A: 1, 2, 4]
 2. Identifies the basic structure and content of Genesis. (PLO:1, 2) [A: 1, 2, 3]
 3. Uses a consistent normal (literal) hermeneutic in the interpretation of Genesis. (PLO: 2, 5) [A: 3, 5, 6]
 4. Identifies the basic theology of Genesis. (PLO: 3, 4) [A: 2, 3, 5, 6]
 5. Applies principles from Genesis to the modern world and church. (PLO: 2, 3, 4, 5) [A: 2, 3, 5, 6]

B. Specific competencies to be achieved. The student:

1. Gives sound and consistent solutions to exegetical, theological, and practical problems in Genesis. (PLO: 1, 2) [A: 1-6]
2. Shows how the book's theme and purpose are developed in a literary and theological unit. (PLO: 3) [A: 3, 5]
3. Constructs a clear apologetic for creationism. (PLO: 4, 5) [A: 1, 2, 5, 6]
4. Articulates the content, structure, and development of the argument of Genesis. (PLO: 1, 2, 5) [A: 3, 5]

III. REQUIREMENTS

This is an *eight-week*, blended undergraduate credit course. That means we have only 24 hours of class time (8 weeks x 3 hours per week). Much of the work of content acquisition will need to be accomplished by the student outside of class. This makes this course *reading intensive*.

A. General Requirements [See Canvas for specific details on each requirement]

1. **Read** the book of Genesis completely four (4) times, preferably in four *different translations*. Read it with reasonable care. **Report** each reading in Canvas. **Note:** the first reading should be completed before the first class.
2. **Read** the class notes on *Genesis* by Thomas Constable (about 500 pages). **Write** a brief evaluation of the notes (2-4 pages). The notes should be read according to our pace through the book of Genesis.
3. **Inductive Study of Genesis:** As you read through the book of Genesis, write titles for each of the 50 chapters. The titles should be 3-5 words, memorable (for you) recalling the content of each of the chapters. Notice how groups of chapters fit together. Observe the structure of the book and the author's flow of thought. Make a general outline of the book of Genesis. Finally, develop a theme statement and a purpose statement for the book. The theme statement should answer the question, "What is this book about?" and the purpose statement should answer the question, "Why was this book written?" The total inductive study can be done in about five (5) pages.
4. **Read 500 pages from major commentaries on Genesis**. Several have been placed on reserve in the school library. **Report** the reading in Canvas.
5. **Write** an argument paper for the book of Genesis – OR – a research paper on an interpretive issue in Genesis. The paper should be at least fifteen (15) pages, not counting the title page and bibliography.
6. **Discussion Questions** will be assigned each week for the students' interaction.

B. Housekeeping Items

1. Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.
2. *Plagiarism is defined as copying any part of a book or paper without identifying the author. This also includes taking another person's ideas and presenting them as your own.*
3. The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu) is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for Calvary University students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.
4. All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition and the Calvary Style Guide, 2019 update.

IV. METHODS

- A. Classes will consist of lectures and discussion over the text of Genesis and of issues raised in class. The intent will be to clarify material and explore the implications and applications of the material to life and ministry.
- B. The student will be involved through reading, evaluating, research, writing, discussion and interaction.
- C. **Grading:** The final grade will be assigned according to the grading scale found in the Calvary University Catalog. The grade will be calculated as a percentage of points earned of the total possible points. Grades are detailed in Canvas.

V. MATERIALS

- A. **Bible.** A good translation of the Bible will be necessary. The instructor will use the NASB/95 Update in class. The student may use his/her translation of choice.

The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages), including any of the following: New American Standard Bible (NASB), English Standard Version (ESV), New King James Version (NKJV), or King James Version (KJV). Other

translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (paraphrases and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

- B. **Class Notes.** *Class Notes on Genesis*, by Dr. Thomas Constable (latest revision). Download to your computer “Notes on Genesis” by Thomas L. Constable from the internet. Go to: www.soniclight.org/constable/notes. Save the file to your hard drive. Printing of the notes is optional (500+ pages!). The material is copyrighted by Thomas L. Constable but is free to the user for Bible study. These will constitute our basic class notes. We will refer to these notes during the course. Read the appropriate section of notes for each week of class.

- C. **Handouts.** These will be distributed in class to aid in note taking and clarification of the material. They can be added to your class notes.

VI. TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE (subject to adjustment, as necessary)

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
1	Introduction to the course Introduction to the book of Genesis Overview of Genesis Theology of Genesis Science and Genesis Primeval History (Gen 1-5)
2	Primeval History (Gen 6-11)
3	Patriarchal History (Gen 12-50) History of Abraham (12-19)
4	History of Abraham/Isaac (Gen 20-25)
5	History of Isaac/Jacob (Gen 26-31)
6	History of Jacob (Gen 31-36)
7	History of Joseph (Gen 37-43)
8	History of Joseph (Gen 44-50)

VII. BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR GENESIS

The following are considered acceptable major commentaries to consult for this course:

Morris, Henry M., *The Genesis Record*, Baker, 1976.

This is a scientific and devotional commentary on Genesis and is probably the only one written by a creationist scientist. The late Henry Morris, founder of the Institute for Creation Research, views the book as an historical account of actual events. He writes from the perspective of a young-earth and global flood and brings many biblical and scientific arguments.

Fruchtenbaum, Arnold G., *The Book of Genesis*, Ariel's Bible Commentary, San Antonio: Ariel Ministries, 2009.

This is a recent commentary, written as an exposition of Genesis from a messianic Jewish perspective. The author is a graduate of Dallas Seminary and New York University. He also founded and directs Ariel Ministries, San Antonio, Texas.

Hamilton, Victor P., *The Book of Genesis Chapters 1-17*, NICOT, Eerdmans, 1990.
The Book of Genesis Chapters 18-50, NICOT, Eerdmans, 1995.

This two-volume commentary is an in-depth examination of the meaning of the biblical text. The author was a professor of religion at Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky.

Mathews, Kenneth A., *Genesis 1 – 11:26*, New American Commentary vol. 1A, Broadman & Holman, 1996. *Genesis 12 – 50*. NAC, vol. 1B, Broadman & Holman, 2000.

Another two-volume treatment of Genesis, this is an exegetical and theological exposition using the NIV text. Mathews is professor of OT at Beeson Divinity School, Samford University, and an acknowledged expert in the Dead Sea Scrolls, Text Criticism, biblical Hebrew, and literary aspects of the OT.

Ross, Allen P., *Creation & Blessing*, Baker, 1988.

A guide to the study and exposition of Genesis. The author's purpose is to help the reader appreciate the major literary and theological motifs that form the theological ideas in the narratives. Those who set out to preach or teach Genesis will find this book very helpful. Ross has taught at Dallas Seminary and Reformed Episcopal Seminary, Philadelphia.

Waltke, Bruce K., *Genesis: A Commentary*, Zondervan, 2001.

A landmark commentary by one of today's most respected Old Testament scholars. He taught at Dallas Seminary, Regent University, Reformed Theological Seminary (Orlando), and is currently at Knox Theological Seminary in Florida.

Walton, John H., *Genesis*, The NIV Application Commentary, Zondervan, 2001.

A thorough commentary on Genesis (from biblical text . . . to contemporary life). Walton taught at Moody Bible Institute for many years and is now at Wheaton College Graduate School.

Wenham, Gordon J., *Genesis 1 – 15*, Word Biblical Commentary, vol. 1. Word, 1987. *Genesis 16 – 50*, Word Biblical Commentary, vol. 2. Word, 1994.

Yet another two-volume work from one of England's scholars who was trained at Cambridge and King's College, University of London.