

## BT706 Advanced OT Synthesis I

**Course:** BT706 Advanced OT Synthesis I: Torah  
**Credits:** Three Credits  
**Semester:** 2023 Fall Semester Cycle 3  
**Dates:** October 23 – December 15, 2023  
**Time:** Tuesdays 6:00 – 9:00 pm  
**Place:** Microsoft Teams  
**Professor:** Dr. Jeremy D. Lyon, Ph.D.

### DESCRIPTION

This course examines the historical backgrounds, arguments, biblical theology and interpretive issues in the five books of the Torah (Genesis-Deuteronomy). Students will analyze the significance of the unconditional Abrahamic Covenant and the conditional Mosaic Covenant. Students will do exegetical studies in the Hebrew text of these OT books.

*This course is offered in two formats: in-person and online. Students registered for in-person attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. For both in-person and online students, assignments and interaction outside of the class period are done in the learning management system.*

### OBJECTIVES

The student who successfully completes this course should . . .

- a) *strengthen* proficiency in biblical Hebrew and *develop* exegetical skills in the Hebrew text  
PLOs 1, 3, 5; Assignments 6, 7
- b) *understand* the literary structure, major themes, and theology of the Torah, including the inter-textual relationship of the Book with other books in the canon.  
PLOs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; Assignments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- c) *develop* an understanding of the nature and development of the Abrahamic Covenant and Mosaic Covenant in the Torah, and the Torah's teaching concerning the New Covenant  
PLOs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; Assignments 2, 3, 4, 5
- d) *understand* the purpose of the Mosaic Law in the Torah  
PLOs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; Assignments 2, 4, 5
- e) *articulate* the basic literary structure and message of the Torah  
PLOs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; Assignments 2, 5

- f) *learn* from and interact with past and contemporary scholarship in the field  
PLOs 3, 4, 5; Assignments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
- g) *apply* teachings from the Torah to their life and ministry  
PLOs 5; Assignments 6, 7

## TEXTBOOKS

*The Holy Bible*. KJV, NKJV, NASB, ESV. 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 (NASB, English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (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.

Alexander, T. Desmond. *From Paradise to the Promised Land: An Introduction to the Main Themes of the Pentateuch*. Third edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2012. (ISBN: 978-0-8010-3998-0; Amazon \$17 or less)

Alexander, T. Desmond, and David Baker, eds. *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2003. (ISBN: 978-0-8308-1781-8; Amazon \$45 or less)

Chen, Kevin S. *The Messianic Vision of the Pentateuch*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2019. (ISBN: 978-0-8308-5264-2; Amazon \$40 or less)

Clines, David J. A. *The Theme of the Pentateuch*. Second edition. JSOT Supplement Series 10. Edited by D. J. A. Clines and P. R. Davies. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1997. (ISBN: 1-85075-792-5; Amazon \$54 or less)

Elliger, K. and W. Rudolph, eds. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1997. (ISBN: 978-1-6830-7352-9; Amazon \$60 or less)

Gentry, Peter J., and Stephen J. Wellum. *Kingdom Through Covenant: A Biblical-Theological Understanding of the Covenants*. Second edition. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2018. (ISBN: 978-1-4335-5307-3; Amazon \$34 or less)

Postell, Seth D. *Adam as Israel: Genesis 1–3 as the Introduction to the Torah and the Tanakh*. Eugene, OR: Pickwick, 2011. (ISBN: 978-1-61097-176-8; Amazon \$24 or less)

Rydellnik, Michael and Edwin Blum, eds. *The Moody Handbook of Messianic Prophecy: Studies and Expositions of the Messiah in the Old Testament*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2019. (ISBN: 978-0-8024-0963-8; Amazon \$33 or less)

Sailhamer, John H. *The Meaning of the Pentateuch: Revelation, Composition, and Interpretation*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2009. (ISBN: 978-0-8308-3867-7; Amazon \$45 or less)

## ASSIGNMENTS

**Assignment 1 – Quiz/Discussion 1 (50 pts):** Read the assigned weekly material carefully and critically. Report the percentage of reading completed for each week as part of the weekly quiz. On the other part of each quiz/discussion, the student will be responsible for the material covered in both the reading assignments due each current session and class lectures from the previous sessions. The discussion questions for this assignment: 1) What are the two primary views on authorship of the Torah and how should we understand authorship of the Torah? 2) Should the Torah be read as a single book? Why or why not? What are some implications? Instructions are posted in the Canvas online classroom.

**Assignment 2 – Sailhamer Summary and Response (150):** Read Sailhamer (*The Meaning of the Pentateuch*) and write a brief chapter-by-chapter summary (covering the major issues) with a brief critical evaluation of each chapter. The response should demonstrate comprehension of the material and should include some type of critique and/or agreement with aspects in that chapter. For each chapter, write a substantial paragraph summary and a paragraph response (please cite all sources in footnotes). Include headings for each chapter. Turabian format required.

**Assignment 3 – Quiz/Discussion 2 (50 pts):** Read the assigned weekly material carefully and critically. Report the percentage of reading completed for each week as part of the weekly quiz. On the other part of each quiz/discussion, the student will be responsible for the material covered in both the reading assignments due each current session and class lectures from the previous sessions. The discussion question for this assignment: How is the Torah an eschatological and Messianic composition? (If you believe it is not, then provide reasons why based on the text itself.) Instructions are posted in the Canvas online classroom.

**Assignment 4 – Quiz/Discussion 3 (50 pts):** Read the assigned weekly material carefully and critically. Report the percentage of reading completed for each week as part of the weekly quiz. On the other part of each quiz/discussion, the student will be responsible for the material covered in both the reading assignments due each current session and class lectures from the previous sessions. The discussion question for this assignment: What does the Torah teach concerning the purpose of the Mosaic Law? Instructions are posted in the Canvas online classroom.

**Assignment 5 – Quiz/Discussion 4 (50 pts):** Read the assigned weekly material carefully and critically. Report the percentage of reading completed for each week as part of the weekly quiz. On the other part of each quiz/discussion, the student will be responsible for the material covered in both the reading assignments due each current session and class lectures from the previous sessions. The discussion question for this assignment: Based on your reading of the biblical text of the Torah and the Sailhamer & Chen textbooks, what are some broader theological implications? For example, in what ways has your understanding of dispensational or covenant theology been affected, challenged, or enhanced? Instructions are posted in the Canvas online classroom.

**Assignment 6 – Hebrew Exegesis Paper (350 pts):** Write an 8,000-to-10,000-word exegesis paper of a selected text from the Torah. The research will include detailed exegetical discussion of the verses from the Hebrew text, including grammar/syntax issues and theological/interpretive issues. More details provided in class. The paper must follow Turabian format.

**Assignment 7 – Translation & Exegetical Commentary Project (300 pts):** Students will have weekly translation and exegesis assignments (details provided in class). The student will do translation of the select passages from the Torah along with critical commentary on each verse involving grammar, syntax, exegetical/theological issues.

## POINTS AND FINAL GRADE

960-1000 points	A
940-959 points	A-
920-939 points	B+
880-919 points	B
860-879 points	B-
0-859 points	F

## HELP FOR STUDENTS

Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator ([aso@calvary.edu](mailto:aso@calvary.edu)) of any disabling condition that may require support.

The Clark Academic Center ([learning@calvary.edu](mailto: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.

## EXPECTATIONS

Attend class in Microsoft Teams. Each PhD student is expected to be at every class on time. Make class attendance a priority.

Do not plagiarize. Plagiarism is defined as copying any content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person's or AI entity's ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. The use of AI generated content in student work is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated.

Use Turabian style for all research papers. All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, 8<sup>th</sup> edition and the Calvary Style Guide, 2019 edition.