

Course Outline for Pentateuchal Studies

Course Code: THEO2211 (For CUHK Undergraduates)

Title in English: Pentateuchal Studies

Title in Chinese: 五經研究

Course overview:

The Pentateuch, the first five books of the Hebrew Scripture/Old Testament, is the core of the tradition of Judaism and as such becomes the basics of the teaching of Jesus, the value system of New Testament writers and the theological backdrop for the Christian Church. This course assumes the students have acquired basic knowledge on the content and historical background of the Pentateuch. Build on this assumption, this course aim at exploring the various themes and theological meaning of the formation, the final text, and the form (narrative and law) of the five books of the Pentateuch, as individual books and as one Torah. Exegesis of selected passages from Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy will be carried out during the course. This course is associated with course THEO5317.

Learning outcomes

After this course, students should be able to

- Describe and compare various theories on Pentateuch Formation
- Appreciate the complexity and critical issues of the formation, final text, and form of the Pentateuch
- Deepen their awareness of how ancient social, cultural, and political contexts may have contributed to the literary production of the Pentateuch
- Develop a contextual awareness in their own reading of the Pentateuchal texts

Learning activities

This course mainly consists of lectures, student participations through class discussion and research activities. All activities are mandatory.

Lecture (hr) in class	Class Discussion (hr) /week in class	Web-based teaching (hr)	Course Reading and research (hr)	Written Assignments (hr) / course
2 per week	0.5 hr	0.5 per week	3 per week	15 hr

Assessment scheme

Task nature	Description	Weight
1. Reading Assignment	Read the textbook: Bradford A. Anderson, <i>An Introduction to the Study of the Pentateuch (T&T Clark Approaches to Biblical Studies)</i> and other destined readings. You must track ALL your reading by filling in the Reading Log and submit them by 24th April 2022 via Blackboard. Failure to submit the Reading Log on time means no marks for this requirement.	10%
2. Reading Report	Write a reading report not less than 1500 (E)/2000 (C) words on one of the following books: 1. Ska, Jean-Louis, and Pascale Dominique. 2006. <i>Introduction to reading the Pentateuch</i> . Winona Lake, Ind: Eisenbrauns =Ska, Jean Louis, and Lanyou Song. 2011. 閱讀五書導論. 香港: 公教真理學會	20%

	<p>2. Briggs, Richard S., and Joel N. Lohr. <i>A Theological Introduction to the Pentateuch: Interpreting the Torah as Christian Scripture</i>. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Academic, 2012.</p> <p>3. Watts, James W. <i>Reading Law: The Rhetorical Shaping of the Pentateuch</i>. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic, 1999.</p> <p>4. Other related Title (Must be approved by lecturer).</p> <p>The Format and Requirement of the Report will be discussed during class. Submit by 24th April 2022.</p>	
3. Class presentation and participation	<p>Students can work in group or as individual. They will have 10 mins in class to present one of the three topics:</p> <p>1) What is The Pentateuch: History or Law; 2) Pentateuch or Torah: Pentateuch as one book; and 3) The Persian Authorization of Torah: the politic behind the books.</p> <p><i>Or Using class learning to response to present, real-life situation (approved by lecturer).</i></p> <p>The students also need to lead a 10mins class discussion. Class Participation will be counted on the final marks.</p>	20%
<p>4. Term Paper Proposal of the paper: Due 5 April (during reading week)</p> <p>The proposal should include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> proposed title and the thesis of the paper preliminary: Why you want to explore in this topic or passage? Any research questions you want to ask? an outline (with appropriate explanatory notes); the expected result of the paper; and a preliminary book list (three or more books that you intended to read/consult). 	<p>Write a term paper not less than 4500 words in one of the following topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A critique of the Documentary Hypothesis or an alternative approach to the formation of the Pentateuch A comparison of two alternative approaches to the formation of the Pentateuch A diachronic analysis of a passage or a literary theme of the Pentateuch An analysis of the literary structure or genre of a particular book of the Pentateuch A critical exegesis of a passage from the Pentateuch with a contextual or theological perspective <p>The scope and format of the paper will be announced during class.</p> <p>Paper MUST be submitted via the Webpage of the Chinese University Plagiarism Identification Engine VeriGuide: https://academic.veriguide.org/academic/login_CUHK on 8 May 2022. A soft copy should be post onto the BLACKBOARD <u>and</u> give a hardcopy together with a print out of receipt and signed Academic Honesty Declaration Statement from VeriGuide (received via e-mail after you have submitted your assignment) to their tutors.</p>	50%

NOTE: Attendance in lectures is expected. Less than 70% attendance is not accepted and will affect overall grade. Note that the requirement for the undergraduate student will be weight heavier on an understanding of the content (here: the Pentateuch and its scholarship) and descriptive accuracy. Examples to clarify the requirements will be demonstrated during the first few classes. Also, refer to the Paper-grading Rubric on the next page.

A Paper-grading Rubric

<i>CATEGORY</i>	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor/ Inadequate</i>
Introduction/ Thesis _____	*exceptional introduction that grabs interest of reader and states topic. **thesis is exceptionally clear, arguable, well-developed, and a definitive statement.	*proficient introduction that is interesting and states topic. **thesis is clear and arguable statement of position.	*basic introduction that states topic but lacks interest. **thesis is somewhat clear and arguable.	*weak or no introduction of topic. **paper's purpose is unclear/thesis is weak or missing.
Quality of Information/ Evidence _____	*paper is exceptionally researched, extremely detailed, and historically accurate. **information clearly relates to the thesis.	*information relates to the main topic. **paper is well-researched in detail and from a variety of sources.	*information relates to the main topic, few details and/or examples are given. **shows a limited variety of sources.	*information has little or nothing to do with the thesis. **information has weak or no connection to the thesis.
Support of Thesis/Analysis _____	*exceptionally critical, relevant and consistent connections made between evidence and thesis. **excellent analysis.	*consistent connections made between evidence and thesis **good analysis.	*some connections made between evidence and thesis. **some analysis.	*limited or no connections made between evidence and thesis. **lack of analysis.
Conclusion _____	*excellent summary of topic with concluding ideas that impact reader. **introduces no new information.	*good summary of topic with clear concluding ideas. **introduces no new information.	*basic summary of topic with some final concluding ideas. **introduces no new information.	*lack of summary of topic.
Organization/ Development of Thesis _____	*exceptionally clear, logical, mature, and thorough development of thesis with excellent transitions between and within paragraphs.	*clear and logical order that supports thesis with good transitions between and within paragraphs.	*somewhat clear and logical development with basic transitions between and within paragraphs.	*lacks development of ideas with weak or no transitions between and within paragraphs.
Citation/ Bibliography Format _____	*conforms to academic rules for formatting and citation of sources are perfect.	*conforms to academic rules for formatting and citation of sources with minor exceptions.	*frequent errors in academic format.	*lack of academic format/numerous errors.

Recommended learning resources

Textbook:

Anderson, Bradford A. *An Introduction to the Study of the Pentateuch*. 2nd Edition. T&T Clark Approaches to Biblical Studies. London: Bloomsbury, 2017. [Anderson]

Book list:

Pentateuch

Alexander, T. D. (2014). *From Paradise to the Promised Land: An Introduction to the Pentateuch*. Carlisle, Cumbria, U.K: Paternoster Press. =Alexander, T. D. (2008). *Moxi wu jing dao lun: Cong yi dian yuan dao ying xu zhi di*. Shanghai: Shanghai ren min chu ban she. 上海人民出版社

Blenkinsopp, Joseph. 1992. *The Pentateuch. An Introduction to the First Five Books of the Bible*. Anchor Bible Reference Library; New York: Doubleday.

Briggs, Richard, Joel N. Lohr, and R. W. L. Moberly. 2012. *A theological introduction to the Pentateuch: interpreting the Torah as Christian Scripture*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Baker Academic.

Fretheim, Terence E., Gene M. Tucker, and Charles B. Cousar. 1996. *The Pentateuch*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press.

Hamilton, Victor P. 1982. *Handbook on the Pentateuch: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Baker Book House. = Hamilton, V. P., & Hu, J. (2003). *摩西五經導論*. 台北：中華福音神學院出版社.

Houston, Walter. *The Pentateuch*. SCM Core Text. London: SCM Press, 2013. [Houston]

Nicholson, Ernest W. 1998. *The Pentateuch in the Twentieth Century: The Legacy of Julius Wellhausen*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

R. G. Kratz, 2005. *The Composition of the Narrative Books of the Old Testament*. London: T&T Clark.

Rofé, A. 1999. *Introduction to the composition of the Pentateuch*. Sheffield, Eng: Sheffield Academic Press.

Sailhamer, J. 1992. *The Pentateuch as narrative: A biblical-theological commentary*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Zondervan.

Sailhamer, John. 2009. *The meaning of the Pentateuch: revelation, composition, and interpretation*. Downers Grove, Ill: IVP Academic.

Ska, Jean Louis. 2009. *The exegesis of the Pentateuch: exegetical studies and basic questions*. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck.

Ska, Jean-Louis, and Pascale Dominique. 2006. *Introduction to reading the Pentateuch*. Winona Lake, Ind: Eisenbrauns =Ska, Jean Louis, and Lanyou Song. 2011. *閱讀五書導論*. 香港: 公教真理學會

Van Seter, J. 2004. *The Pentateuch: A social-science commentary*. Sheffield, England: Sheffield Academic Press.

Wenham, G. J. 2003. *Exploring the Old Testament, Volume 1: A Guide to the Pentateuch*. Downers Grove, Ill: InterVarsity Press. = Wenham, G. J., & Yin, M. 2008. *五經*. 香港: 天道.

Whybray, R. N. 1987. *The Making of the Pentateuch: A Methodological Study*. *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament* 53. Sheffield: JSOT Press.

Torah

Dubovský, P., Markl, D., & Sonnet, J. 2016. *The fall of Jerusalem and the rise of the Torah* (*Forschungen zum Alten Testament* ; 107). Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck.

Magonet, Jonathan. 2013. *A rabbi reads the Torah*. London: SCM Press.

Kaminsky, Joel, and Joel Lohr. 2011. *The Torah. A Beginner's Guide*. One World Publications.

Genesis

Wenham, Gordon J. 1987. *Genesis. 1-15*. Waco, Tex: Word Books.

Exodus

Johnstone, W. (2014). *Exodus*. Macon, GA : Smyth & Helwys Publishing.

Dozeman, T.B., 2009. *Exodus*, Eerdmans Critical Commentary. Eerdmans, Grand Rapids.

Sarna, N.M., 1986. *Exploring Exodus: The Origins of Biblical Israel*. Schocken Books, New York.

Leviticus

Watts, J. W. (2013). *Leviticus 1-10*. Leuven ; Paris ; Walpole, MA : Peeters, 2013.

Douglas, Mary. 2001. *Leviticus as literature*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Milgrom, Jacob. 2004. *Leviticus: a book of ritual and ethics : a continental commentary*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press.

Numbers

Frevel, C. 2020. *Desert Transformation : Studies in the Book of Numbers* (*Forschungen zum Alten Testament* ; 137). Tübingen, Germany: Mohr Siebeck.

Frevel, C., Pola, T., & Schart, A. 2013. *Torah and the book of Numbers* (*Forschungen zum Alten Testament*. 2. Reihe ; 62). Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck.

Olson, Dennis T. 1996. *Numbers*. Louisville: John Knox Press.

Olson, Dennis T. 1985. *The Death of the Old and the Birth of the New: The Framework of the Book of Numbers and the Pentateuch*. Chico, Calif: Scholars Press.

Deuteronomy

McConville, J. G. 2002. *Deuteronomy*. Leicester, England: Apollos.

Levinson, B.M., 1997. *Deuteronomy and the Hermeneutics of Legal Innovation*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Commentary Series: WBC; AB; JPS

Course schedule

Week/Class	Date	Topic	Requirements [Italics are optional]
Week One/ Class 1	11 Jan	Introduction: Torah or Pentateuch	Read [Anderson] ch1, 7; [Houston] ch 1, 5 text: Exo 15, 19, 20, 24; Deut 5-6
Week Two/ Class 2	18 Jan	The Approaches to the Reading of Pentateuch	Read [Houston] ch 6, 8; [Anderson] ch 8 text: Exo 21; Lev 25; Deut 15
Week Three/ Class 3	25 Jan	Genesis and Creation	Read [Anderson] ch 2, ch 9 text: Gen 1-11
Week Four/	1 Feb	Lunar New Year break	
Week Five/ Class 4	8 Feb	Genesis and the Patriarch Narrative	Read [Anderson] ch 10 text: Gen 15-24; 25-35
Week Six/ Class 5	15 Feb	Exodus: the Narrative	Read [Anderson] ch 3, 11; [Houston] ch 7 text: Exo 1-18, 32-34
Week Seven/ Class 6	22 Feb	Exodus: Law, Instruction, Torah	Read [Anderson] ch12 text: Exo 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 40
Week Eight/ Class 7	1 March	Leviticus: A Narrative Approach	Read [Anderson] ch 4; [Houston] ch 2 text: Lev 1-10
Week Nine/ Class 8	8 March	Leviticus: The Concept of Holiness	Read [Houston] ch 3; text: Lev 16, 19, 23-25
Week Ten/ Class 9	15 March	Numbers: Moses vs. Israelites	Read [Anderson] ch 5 text: Num 10-15
Week Eleven/ Class 10	22 March	Numbers: In the Wilderness	Read [Anderson] ch 13 text: Num 16-25, 27, 30
Week Twelve/ Class 11	29 March	Deuteronomy: In Moses' Voice	Read [Anderson] ch 6 text: Deut 1-8
Week Thirteen/	5 April	Reading Week break	
Week Fourteen/ Class 12	12 April	Deuteronomy: The First Constitution?	Read [Houston] ch 4 text: Deut 12, 13, 16, 28, 29-30, 31-34
Week Fifteen/ Class 13	19 April	Conclusive Discussion: Theology of the Pentateuch	Read [Houston] ch 9, 10; [Anderson] ch14

Other supplement readings will be delivered during class.

Contact details for teacher

Professor/Lecturer/Instructor:	Lecturer
Name:	Dr. Li Kwan Hung Leo
Office Location:	YCT LG106
Telephone:	39435720
Email:	khlileo@cuhk.edu.hk
Teaching Time:	Every Tuesday, 9:30am-12:15pm
Teaching Venue:	Theology Building 神學樓 CCT T31

Academic honesty and plagiarism

Academic honesty and plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>.

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed [declaration](#) that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.

***The Course Outline will be subject to change due to class size and other circumstances; Please see the updated version via the course webpage in <http://elearn.cuhk.edu.hk>**