

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice.
The information below is provided as a guide for course selection
and is not binding in any form.

Course Number, Name, and Credit Hours

BI-6630 Studies in the Pentateuch, 3 credit hours

Course Description

This course is an examination of the Pentateuch. It includes a review of the content and structure of the Pentateuch; an analysis of its meaning and function with respect to both its ancient Near Eastern and canonical context; careful examination of particular texts from various genres embedded within the Pentateuch; exploration of various themes; interaction with various methods of interpretation; and a consideration of how the Pentateuch relates to the New Testament and the contemporary church.

Prerequisites: BI-5500 Hermeneutics and BI-5533 Old Testament History, Literature, and Theology.

Course Objectives

1. **Describe** and locate the basic content, key themes and the flow of the Pentateuch (Knowledge and Understanding)
2. **Express** how key historical, archaeological, geographical, structural, and cultural background issues affect the Pentateuch and defend their view of authorship (Reflection and Critique)
3. **Exegete** a passage in the Pentateuch by utilizing a variety of methods and appropriately using digital resources in the process (Performance and Action)
4. **Articulate** a theological framework which clarifies and defines how the Pentateuch applies and functions authoritatively in the church (Commitment and Identity)
5. **Integrate** biblical knowledge into a ministry setting (Performance and Action)

Course Textbook(s) and/or Supporting Information

Required textbooks for all Moody Online classes can be found on the [Required Textbooks](#) section of the Moody website.

NOTE: Additional content or links to Internet content may be required and will be provided in the course.

Recommended Bible Versions

For the Old Testament, the **New Revised Standard Bible (NRSB)** translation is often closest to the Hebrew. Also use the **NIV**. For comparisons, the course creator recommends the New King James

Version, JPS Torah, the New Living Translation, and the Septuagint (LXX) English Translation by Brenton. (Reading multiple translations is a great way to better understand the Bible!)

Assignments (*what student does for a grade*)

Guideline for the Discussion Board: Post your initial response to the discussion question by mid-week (Friday, 11:59pm CT). Then read and respond to at least **TWO** of your classmates' initial posts by the end of the week (Monday, 11:59pm CT).

Standard for Written Papers: All papers must be in **Turabian** style. Each page should be approximately 300 words, 12-pt. Times New Roman font on double-spaced lines with 1" margins. (Therefore, a 2-page paper is approximately 600 words; a 3-page paper is approximately 900 words, etc.) Here is a guide to Turabian style: http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html

1-1 God's Temple-City: In four pages (4-page paper): Compare and contrast what Alexander and Wenham mean by "God's Temple-City." How does this theme impact humanity before and after the initial sin of Adam and Eve? Where is the final hope for restoration of the Temple-City? Be sure to support your argument with academic references from **TWO** commentaries and **TWO** peer-reviewed journal articles (Logos is an excellent source for this outside research.) In your conclusion, be sure to include a discussion about how this theme might be applied to a ministry setting.

2-1 Features of Lineage in Genesis (2-page chart): In Part 1, Complete the attached chart as follows: (column A) list **SIX** important features of lineage in Genesis; (column B) include **TWO** biblical examples of each feature; and (column C) discuss how these features are fulfilled or present in the New Testament. In Part 2, Add a final paragraph reflecting on the relevance of lineage to Christian theology. [Once complete, this assignment should total roughly two pages.]

2-2 "I will Bless those who Bless You" (3-page paper): After reading Genesis 11:25-25:11 and the assigned chapters, describe in **three pages** (approx. 900 words), **TWO** biblical examples for the fulfillment of God's statement in Gen 12:3 ("I will bless those who bless you and the one who curses you I will curse..."). Analyze the significance of the passages you chose in light of the New Testament.

3-1 Theology of the Holy Land (4-page paper): In four pages, compare and contrast the thesis presented by Alexander, Kaiser and Millar concerning the theme of the land. Which view do you agree with and why?

4-1 Attributes of God (3-page chart): Based upon the readings in Alexander and Exodus, fill out the **attached chart** in the following way: (column A) identify **SIX** significant attributes of God; (column B) include an examination of why these are significant attributes, and add the biblical reference to support your findings; (column C) discuss how each attribute is continued into the NT (e.g. compassion, sovereign majesty, etc.). [Once complete, this assignment should total roughly **three pages**.]

5-1 The Ten Commandments (2-page paper): In two pages (approx. 600 words), based upon the readings, compare the content, organization, and purpose of the Ten Commandments (Decalogue) with the Book of the Covenant. How is the purpose of this material interpreted in the New Testament? In your conclusion, explain how your findings could be applied in a ministry setting. For instance, one might use examples of the complexity in the legal code to support a Bible study on legalism and liberty. Then tie this concept to Paul's discussion of the Law in Romans and Christian liberty.

5-2 Ancient Law Codes (2-page chart): In the attached chart, analyze the similarities and differences between the Law Code of Hammurabi and the laws in Exodus 21-23. Do they share a common purpose? (Use sources, such as commentaries in Logos, to support your ideas.) In Part 2, include a paragraph explaining why the two codes may share similar laws and language.

6-1 Levitical Offerings (4-page chart): Based upon your reading in Leviticus 1-7 and Alexander, complete the provided **chart** detailing the FIVE major types of offerings. For each type of offering specify the ritual components (in detail) and purpose. Then discuss why these offerings are no longer required for Christians. After the chart, provide a conclusion summarizing your findings. [Once complete, this assignment should total roughly four pages.]

7-1 Ancient Near Eastern Treaties (2-page paper): Write a two-page (approx. 900 word) paper analyzing the relationship between Deuteronomy and a Suzerain-Vassal Treaty. An effective paper will include a detailed analysis of the sections of a traditional ancient Near Eastern suzerain-vassal treaty, and then explore if the structure of Deuteronomy fits this organization.

After your analysis, argue whether Deuteronomy is a Suzerain-Vassal treaty or does it better fit another genre? Be sure to support your answer with academic and biblical evidence.

7-2 Main Point of Balaam Narrative (300-word blog): After reading the account of Balaam in Numbers, and after reviewing Numbers 22-24 in TWO commentaries, write a **one-page (300 word) blog** identifying and discussing the main idea/theological point of the narrative. A thorough paper will include quotes from TWO commentaries and TWO peer reviewed journal articles. (Logos is an excellent source for this outside research.)

Note: Be sure to add a substantive comment to at least one other blog post. [Read attached instructions regarding blogs.]

8-1 Central Theme of the Pentateuch (500-600-word blog): Based upon all the readings in the course, write a **blog entry (500-600 words)** to summarize what you believe is the central theme in the Pentateuch. How is this theme continued into the balance of the Old Testament and into the New Testament? The conclusion should also apply this theme to the modern church in a ministry setting. Be sure to support your discussion with academic references from TWO commentaries and two peer reviewed journal articles. (Logos is an excellent source for this outside research.)

Note: Be sure to add a substantive comment to at least one other blog post. [Read attached instructions regarding blogs.]

8-2 Authorship of Pentateuch (2-page chart): In Part 1, fill in the chart attached, listing five arguments against Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch in the left column, and **five** for Mosaic authorship in the right column. In Part 2, summarize these arguments and your view of the authorship of the Pentateuch. **Note:** Be sure to include biblical support in the chart and in your summary.

Assessments

The following are the graded assessments for this course:

Assessments	% of Total
Discussions (7)	20
(1) 1-1 Paper - God’s Temple-City (4pp)	10
(2) 2-1 Chart - Features of Lineage in Genesis	4
(3) 2-2 Paper - “I will Bless those who Bless You” (3pp)	7.5
(4) 3-1 Paper - Theology of the Holy Land (4pp)	10
(5) 4-1 Chart - Attributes of God	8
(6) 5-1 Paper - The Ten Commandments (2pp)	5
(7) 5-2 Chart - Ancient Law Codes	5
(8) 6-1 Chart - Levitical Offerings (4pp):	10
(9) 7-1 Paper - Ancient Near Eastern Treaties (2pp)	5
(10) 7-2 Blog - Main Point of Balaam Narrative	4
(11) 8-1 Blog - Central Theme of the Pentateuch	7.5
(12) 8-2 Chart - Authorship of Pentateuch	4
TOTAL:	100%

Letter grades are determined by the following scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent	Description
A	96 – 100	Exceptional work
A-	94 – 95	Excellent work
B+	92 – 93	Very good work
B	89 – 91	Good work
B-	87 – 88	Above average work
C+	83 – 86	Average work
C	79 – 82	Work needs improvement
C-	75 – 78	Minimally acceptable work
F	< 75	Unacceptable work