

**Course Number** ... Bi115 – Spring, 2015

**Course Name** ..... The Pentateuch

**Credit Hours** ..... 3

**Instructor** ..... Carl J. Simonsen M.Div

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**Bible Institute  
at  
New Life Christian Center**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Bi115 is a survey of the Pentateuch which is also known as the Torah. The Torah includes the first five books of the Old Testament. Some of the key course content will include:

A study of the History of Mankind, beginning at Creation, and continuing through the people of Israel as they prepare to enter the promised land.

A Study of God, His Creation, His response to Adam's sin, and his ultimate plan for man's redemption.

A study of God and His selection of and care for the people of Israel through whom He had chosen to send His redeemer

### **PREREQUISITE:**

- none

### **STATEMENT OF MISSION:**

The Mission of the Bible Institute at New Life Christian Center is to be a center for ministry education and training for the Mother Lode Region we serve and the Central Pacific District. We strive to instruct and equip the saints who desire to enhance and increase their ability for service in the Kingdom of God through a Bible College setting in the local church.

This preparation is accomplished in the students' lives through:

- 1) The acquisition of biblical and theological knowledge,
- 2) The pursuit of general studies from a Christian perspective,
- 3) The development of their character and
- 4) The formation of ministry and leadership skills.

The Bible Institute helps to fulfill this mission in Bi 115 by giving students a thorough grasp of God's word as it is contained in the books of the Torah, and by challenging the student to respond in the context of his or her life and ministry to the truth that will be discovered in the course of study.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- Understand the overall structure of the Pentateuch and be able to discuss:
  - the issues relating to Mosaic authorship
  - the historicity of the Pentateuch's narratives.

the continuity and relevance of the Pentateuch to overall Biblical History and as a basis for the New Testament.

Understand the major theological themes presented in the Pentateuch

Discuss the emergence of and development of Israel as a nation

Understand the main characters beginning at Creation and continuing through Israel camped at Mt Nebo.

Understand Covenants and how they are a key to understanding much of the Pentateuch and the rest of the God's Biblical revelation to us.

Know the Decalogue, and be able to discuss its contemporary relevance.

Understand the Jewish sacrificial system, the various festivals & Holy Days with their significance, and understand the structure and theology of the Tabernacle.

### **COURSE TEXTBOOKS:**

Required: Hamilton, Victor P. *Handbook on the Pentateuch 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.* Grand Rapids: Baker Publishing Group:2005

Required: Vogt, Peter T. *Interpreting the Pentateuch, An Exegetical Handbook* Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications: 2009

Required: Any Bible translation (must be a translation – not a paraphrase)

Suggested: *The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®)* copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. ESV® Text Edition: 2011.

If Interested: Schnitzer, Gary Edward *The TORAH Story: An apprenticeship on the Pentateuch* Grand Rapids: Zondervan: 2006

Other readings as supplied in the course notebook.

### **ONLINE CLASS RESOURCE**

Materials provided by the instructor including this syllabus, various charts and forms will be available as ACROBAT pdf files through an online access. To obtain these documents , set your web browser to: [csimonsen.org/bi\\_documents.php](http://csimonsen.org/bi_documents.php). From there, they may be individually selected and downloaded.

## **Course information to guide your reading and preparation for the course assignments**

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

1	Attendance - This class is a three-unit class and scheduled for thirteen three hour class periods during the semester. A student may miss 1 session without penalty. However, for each class session missed after that there will be a reduction of one full grade. One point is given for	50 Pts
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	each 10 minutes tardy. After 30 minutes, the student will be charged with a full absence. The tardy points accrue and one absence will be given for every four tardy points. Please note that it is a general policy that when a student leaves class after roll is taken, he/she will be counted absent for the entire class period. If some sudden emergency occurs that would prompt his/her exit, the student should give a note to the professor when he/she returns stating why and for how long he/she was gone from the classroom. The student should always make arrangements with another student to obtain classroom notes as exams and quizzes include classroom lecture material.	
2	Course Reading – There are both Biblical Text readings, and Text book reading due each week at the beginning of class. As readings are completed they are to be signed off and dated on the weekly Reading Assignment & Log Sheet. Completing a reading late, or not completing a reading will lose points as indicated on the reading assignment & log sheet. The Reading Assignment and Log sheet will be distributed Week 1	50 Pts
3	Memory Work – There are 5 memorization assignments distributed throughout the semester. Upon memorization of the verse, the student is responsible to have an alternate student "listen" to confirm memorization and sign the "memorization log sheet." (To Be handed out week 1) Points for each memorization will be halved if it is not signed off on time.	50 Pts
4	Ad Hoc Exegetical Assignments – will be assigned throughout the semester. Each Ad Hoc assignment will be turned in the week following its assignment. The Ad Hoc Exegetical work may be a short study, a prayer, an exhortation, a letter or even your artistic talent may be employed. This is an excellent chance to apply the language and hermeneutical skills you have learned or to express in some other creative form the inner meaning of the passage.	4@50 Pts (200 total)
5	Pop Quiz - There will be 2 twenty minute quizzes administered at the beginning of class. The quiz will be incremental typically over the prior 2 weeks readings and lecture material  Each quiz will include multiple choice, fill in the blank, matching and short answer questions.	2@50 Pts (100 total)
6	Exam(1,2) There will be 2 one hour exams as indicated on the schedule. These exams will be incremental in nature.  The first exam will cover class room lectures, notes, and course assignments from the beginning of class through session 5  The second exam will cover class room lectures, notes and course assignments from class session 5 through session 7 through 9.	2@100 Pts (200 total)

	The Incremental Exams will include multiple choice, fill in the blank, matching, and short answer questions.	
7	<p>Final</p> <p>There will be a two hour comprehensive exam at the conclusion of the course. It will be based on lectures, assigned course reading, memory work and related study material including any study sheets or instructor prepared notes.</p> <p>The Final Exam will include multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer, and essay questions.</p>	200 Pts
8	Exegesis Project – Each student will select a topic / passage and prepare an exegetical study based on it. Studies may be expressed as an exegetical paper, a drama, or an artistic presentation. Details for topics and detailed requirements will be given the beginning of March.	150 Pts
Total Grade Points		1000 Pts

#### **COURSE GRADING SCALE:**

F	D	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A
<= 59	60-69	70-72	73-78	79-80	81-83	84-88	89-91	92-94	95-100

#### **NOTES REGARDING GRADING:**

- 1) Final Scores will not be rounded off, 90.99 will be a "B", etc.
- 2) Exams may be retaken if a failing grade is received. The two scores would then be averaged out and this could bring the students score up to a C. The student will need to take the initiative contacting the course instructor in order to retake a failed exam. Please note that other than the retaking of a failing exam there are no other make-ups or bonus options that will impact grading. Please do the assignments as noted in the Course Syllabus, and the various reading and memorization logs. In all cases it is the student's responsibility to arrange for an exam retake within a week of the return of a graded exam.

#### **ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES:**

1. **ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE** at the beginning of class on the assigned day. Assignments may either be submitted in paper form, or be eMailed to the instructor's eMail of record but it is the student's responsibility that the eMail arrives prior to the start of class and in a format readable by the instructor<sup>1</sup>. Unexcused late work will receive the reduction of one grade (or 10%) for each day late, including Saturdays. Late work will only be accepted in the case of illness or emergency.  
It is the student's responsibility to take the initiative to call and inform the professor **BEFORE** such a case exists. Arrangements will be made by the course instructor at that time as to when the work will be due because of the mitigating circumstances.
2. If necessary, the course instructor will dismiss any student from class for rude, interruptive or other inappropriate behavior (or dress). This includes sleeping in class or doing homework

<sup>1</sup> Preferred format is \*.doc; Also acceptable are \*.rtf, and \*.pdf



in class. If noted, the professor will ask the student to leave and the student will receive an absence for that class.

3. **ALL CELL PHONES**, pagers, or any other type of "attention getting devices" are to be turned off before the beginning of class to avoid interfering with class time. If it is critical that you be reached then make sure that your device(s) is(are) on a QUIET setting so that the rest of class is not disturbed.
4. **COMPUTER USAGE** during class to aid in note taking and interacting with the course material is encouraged. However this time is NOT to be used for email, chatting, blogging, surfing, gaming or any other activities which might interfere with others participating in class.
5. **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** Any student in this course who has a disability that might prevent him/her from fully demonstrating his/her abilities should meet with the Registrar as soon as possible to initiate disability verification and discuss accommodations that may be necessary to ensure your full participation in the successful completion of the course requirements
7. **WRITTEN DOCUMENT FORMATTING:** All written assignments are expected to conform to basic MLA standards. These can be summarized as:
  - a) Use one inch margins on all page borders.
  - b) Use 12pt Times New Roman for the page body font.
  - c) Use standard double spaced lines for all paragraphs.
  - d) Place the page number on every page in the header prefixed by the student's last name.
  - e) The first page of any written assignment should contain:  
Student Name and Student Email,  
The Instructors Name; The course ID and Course name,  
The Due Date for the assignment.
  - f) A basic MLA reference document is available on the course material website. The course website is: [http://csimonsen.org/bi\\_documents.php](http://csimonsen.org/bi_documents.php)
  - f) A Word format<sup>2</sup> and Acrobat Format "template" file will be available for anyone that would like to use it.

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<sup>2</sup> uSoft 2003 \*.doc

**Revised CLASS SCHEDULE Spring 2015 Thursday, 6:15pm to ~9:15pm**

Date	Lecture	In-Class Activity	Reading Assignment	Assignment(s) Due
W1 Jan 29	1 Introduction Class & Pentateuch			
W2 Feb 05	2 Creation, Fall, Flood		See Reading Log Sheet	M Verse #1
W3 Feb 12	3 Abraham and the Patriarchs	Quiz #1	See Reading Log Sheet	AdHoc #1
W4 Feb 19	4 The Exodus out of Egypt		See Reading Log Sheet	M Verse #2
W5 Feb 26	5 THE Covenant	Exam #1	See Reading Log Sheet	AdHoc #2
W6 Mar 05	6 The Tabernacle		See Reading Log Sheet	M Verse #3
W7 Mar 12	7 Sacrifice	Quiz #2	See Reading Log Sheet	AdHoc #3
W8 Mar 19	8 Holiness		See Reading Log Sheet	M Verse #4
Mar 26	Spring Break			
Apr 02	Easter Break			
W9 Apr 09	9 The Census	Exam #2	See Reading Log Sheet	 AdHoc #4
W10 Apr 16	10 The Wilderness		See Reading Log Sheet	M Verse #5
W11 Apr 23	11 Moses' Farewell Address		See Reading Log Sheet	AdHoc #4
W12 Apr 30	12 The Blessings and the Curses		See Reading Log Sheet	Exegesis Project Due
W13 May 7	Open,	Final Exam		

Revision History:

Rev 1.0	Jan 01, 2015	Initial Release
Rev 1.1	Jan 23, 2015	Delayed Start to Jan 29, 2015 extent to May 7th
Rev 1.2	Apr 16, 2015	Deleted Quiz #3, Adhoc #5