

Logos Evangelical Seminary

OTS 541 Genesis 1-11
 Syllabus
 Fall, 2014
 Mondays 9:00-11:40AM

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Course Description

This course is designed to have an in-depth study of the Book of Genesis, particularly Genesis 1-11. Attention will be given to its form, content, theology and inter-textual connections to the rest of the Bible and implications for Christian life.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. **Knowledge:** Students will develop the ability to think and study Gen 1-11 critically and theologically.
2. **Integration:** Students will integrate and present lessons learned from Gen 1-11 creatively.
3. **Ministry:** Students will apply the lessons learned from Gen 1-11 into ministry.

Course Outcomes and Assessment

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment
1. Knowledge: Students will develop the ability to think and study Gen 1-11 critically and theologically.	1. Book Review 2. Weekly Q & A 3. Genesis Project
2. Integration: Students will integrate and present lessons learned from Gen 1-11 creatively.	1. Weekly Q & A 2. Video on Gen 1-11
3. Ministry: Students will apply the lessons learned from Gen 1-11 into ministry.	1. Genesis project: Sunday School material or sermons

Course Rubrics

Assessment	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Good	Excellent
Book Review (20%)	Students are unable or cite only 1-2 strengths and	Students are able to cite strengths and weaknesses	Students are able to critique the strengths and	Students are able to critique the strengths and weaknesses

	weaknesses with no supportive evidence	but lack supportive evidence	weaknesses with supportive evidence	and reflect critical evaluation and convincing arguments
Weekly Q & A (20%)	Students are unable or respond minimal questions with no or minimal textual evidence	Students are able to respond to the questions with some textual evidence	Students are able to respond to the questions with supportive textual evidence	Students are able to respond to the text and content with convincing textual evidence
Genesis Project: Paper, Sunday School Material, Sermons (30%)	Students are unable to demonstrate theological knowledge, lacking supportive argument	Students are able to demonstrate theological knowledge with some argument	Students are able to demonstrate theological knowledge with supportive argument	Students are able to demonstrate theological knowledge with accuracy and convincing argument
Video (10%)	Students are unable to demonstrate integration of text and culture and lack creativity	Students are able to demonstrate integration of text and culture but lack creativity	Students are able to demonstrate integration of text and culture with some creativity	Students are able to demonstrate integration of text and culture creatively

Textbooks:

鄭炳釗，「創世記（上）」。香港：明道社，2004。

John Walton. *The Lost World of Genesis One: Ancient Cosmology and the Origins Debate*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 2009.

Recommended Books

Collins, C. John. *Genesis 1-4: A Linguistic, Literary, and Theological Commentary*.

New Jersey: P & R Publishing, 2006.

Hamilton, Victor P. *The Book of Genesis: Chapters 1-17*. NIC; Grand Rapids, Mich.:

Eerdmans, 1990.

Longman, Tremper III. *How to Read Genesis*. IVP: 2005.

Ross, Allen P. *Creation and Blessing: A Guide to the Study and Exposition of Genesis*.

Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 1998.

Sailhamer, John. *Genesis, The Expositor's Bible Commentary*. vol. 2; Edited by Frank E. Gaebelain; Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 1990.

_____. *The Pentateuch as Narrative: A Biblical-Theological Commentary*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 1992.

Sarna, Nahum. M. *Genesis*. JPS Torah Commentary. Jewish Publication Society, 1989.

Waltke, Bruce K. and Cathi J. Fredricks. *Genesis: A Commentary*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2001.

Walton, John H. *Genesis, The New Application Commentary*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2001.

Wenham, Gordon J. *Genesis 1-15*. WBC. Nelson, 1987.

_____. *Genesis 16-50*. WBC. Nelson, 1994.

鄭炳釗，「創世記（卷1～卷五）」，香港：天道書樓，1997～1999。

謝挺，「始於神」，香港：天道書樓，2007。

_____. 「創世記（上）：從創造到揀選」，香港：明道社，2008。

_____. 「創世記（下）：從揀選到保守」，香港：明道社，2011。

Course Requirements:

MA/MDiv		ThM	
Book Review	20%	Reading 1000 pages	30%
Weekly Q and A	20%		
Genesis Project	40%	Research Paper	50%
Assessment Paper	10%	Assessment Paper	10%
Attendance	10%	Attendance	10%
Total	100%		100%

Grading Scale:

A	93.5-100
A-	90.0-93.4
B+	86.5-89.9
B	83.5-86.4
B-	80.0-83.4
C+	76.5-79.9
C	73.5-76.4
C-	70.0-73.4

MA/MDiv

I. Book Review (20%)

Each student will read two books on Genesis and write two book reviews in one report. Total: 2000 words. Each student will share their book reviews in class. The review must include the following three components in outline format:

- a. Summary of the book
- b. Critique of the book: Strengths and weaknesses of the book
- c. Suggestions for improvement

II. Weekly Q and A (20%)

This assignment includes two aspects:

- (1) The instructor will give questions on Genesis 1-11 before class for students to think and respond. The instructor and students will then discuss these questions in class.
- (2) Each student will read the assigned chapter on Genesis 1-11 and write down your questions regarding each chapter. The purpose of this assignment is to prepare students for a close reading of the text and to think and reflect upon what you read. The instructor will interact with these questions in class.

III. The Genesis Project (40%):

Students are to choose one project from the following **three options** (30%). Both projects include **a video component (10%)**. The video is about 5-7 minutes long. Its content must reflect the nature of the topic and must demonstrate integration of text and culture.

(1) Paper:

MA/MDiv: 5000-5500 words, consult 5-8 books

Suggested topics:

1. Compare and contrast the creation account of Genesis one and Psalm 104.
2. Compare and contrast the creation account of Genesis one and Job 38-41.
3. Compare and contrast the flood narratives in Genesis 6-9 and other ancient flood narratives.
4. Interpreting Genesis 1 and 2 in the context of the Ancient Near Eastern creation accounts.
5. How does Genesis 1-2 set forth moral boundaries for the rest of the Book of Genesis?
6. How does the pattern of “sin and grace” displaying in Genesis 3-4 play out in the rest of the Book of Genesis?
7. The place of the sea monsters in God’s creation.
8. The form and function of genealogies in Genesis 1-11.
9. The place of sea, water, rain and flood in Genesis 1-11 and its implications.
10. The portrayal of God in Genesis 1-11.
11. The theology of Genesis 1-11.
12. The relationship between Genesis 1-11 and Genesis 12-50.

13. The Reception History of Adam and Eve in art.
14. The place of Sabbath in God's creation
15. The relationship between land and people in Genesis 1-11.
16. The theme of blessing and cursing in Genesis 1-11.
17. How does Genesis 1-11 contribute to spiritual formation?
18. Others (please discuss with the instructor if you wish to write a topic of your choice)

(2) Adult Sunday School Teaching Material

Students will design a 12 week Adult Sunday School Teaching Material on Genesis 1-11. 500-600 words for each lesson. Consult 5-8 resources. Each lesson must include the following elements:

- a. Hook: Raise students' interest in the subject (Why?)
- b. Look: A detailed outline of the lesson (What?)
- c. Took: Application, an action plan or reflection questions (How? So What?)

(3) Two Sermons on Genesis 1-11

Students will write two sermons based on Genesis 1-11. Each sermon will consist of 5000 words with illustrations. Consult 5-8 resources.

IV. Assessment Paper (10%)

The purpose of this paper is to assess student learning outcome. The questions include the weekly discussion questions and the weekly questions raised by the students.

V. Attendance (10%)

Each student is expected to show up in class every week. Each absence, whether excused or unexcused will receive 1 point deduction. Three absences will result in a failing grade.

ThM

I. Reading (30%)

Each student will read 1000 or more pages regarding Genesis 1-11. At the end of the course, the student will submit a reading log indicating the titles read and the number of pages read.

II. Paper (50%)

Each student will write a research paper focusing on Genesis 1-11 or its related subject. The content must reflect research nature with scholarly discussions and evaluations of resources used. Word count: 9000-10000 words. Consult at least 10 resources.

III. Assessment Paper (10%)

The purpose of this paper is to assess student learning outcome. Each student will be given a take-home exam to respond. The questions will include theological and critical issues involved in studying Genesis 1-11.

IV. Attendance (10%)

Each student is expected to show up in class every week. Each absence, whether excused or unexcused will receive 1 point deduction. Three absences will result in a failing grade.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Content	Assignments & Due Dates	
			MA & MDiv	ThM
1	8/25	Introduction to the Book of Genesis		
2	9/1	Labor Day, No Class		
3	9/8	Genesis 1:1 – 2:3	Questions on Gen 1:1- 2:3	
4	9/15	Genesis 2:4 – 2:25	Questions on Gen 2	
5	9/22	Genesis 1-2 and other creation texts in the OT	Gen 1-2 and other OT creation accounts	
6	9/29	Genesis 3, Gen 1-3 and the rest of the Bible	Questions on Gen 3	
7	10/6	Genesis 3-4	Questions on Gen 4	
8	10/13	Genesis 5-6	Questions on Gen 5	
9	10/20	Genesis 6-9	Questions on Gen 6-9	
10	10/27	Genesis 6-9 and other flood accounts in the Ancient Near East		
11	11/3	Genesis 10-11	Questions on Gen 10-11	
12	11/10	Genesis 10-11 Genesis 1-11: Theology		
13	11/17	Genesis: Methods	Book Review	Reading

		Book Review Presentation	Due (20%)	Report Due (30%)
14	11/24	SBL, No Class		
15	12/1	Genesis Project (paper + video) Presentation	Genesis Project Due (40%)	Paper Due (50%)
16	12/12		Assessment Paper Due (10%)	Assessment Paper Due (10%)

Bibliography

Abraham

Beach, Bradley and Matthew Powell, eds. *Interpreting Abraham: Journeys to Moriah*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2014.

Fretheim, Terence E. *Abraham: Trials of Family and Faith*. South Carolina: University of South Carolina Press, 2007.

Hendel, Ronald S. *Remembering Abraham: Culture, Memory, and History in the Hebrew Bible*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Janzen, J. G. *Abraham and All the Families of the Earth*. 1993.

Levenson, Jon D. *Inheriting Abraham*. Princeton: Princeton University Press,

Williamson, Paul R. *Abraham, Israel and the Nations: The Patriarchal Promise and its Covenantal Development in Genesis*. JSOPSup 315. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 2000.

Historicity of Adam

Barrett, Matthew and Ardel B. Caneday, eds. *Four Views on the Historical Adam*. Zondervan, 2013.

Collins, C John. *Did Adam and Eve Really Exist? Who They Were and Why You Should Care?* Wheaton: IL: Crossway, 2011.

Madueme, Hans and Michael Reeves. *Adam, the Fall, and Original Sin: Theological, Biblical, and Scientific Perspectives*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Academic,

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Enns, Peter. *The Evolution of Adam: What the Bible Does and Doesn't Say About Human Origins*. Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2012.

Ancient Near Eastern Context

Batto, Bernard F. *In the Beginning: Essays on Creation Motifs in the Ancient Near East and the Bible*. Siphrut 9. Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbrauns, 2013.

Dalley, Stephanie, trans. *Myths From Mesopotamia: Creation, The Flood, Gilgamesh, and Others*. Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press, 1989.

Foster, Benjamin R. "Epic of Creation," in *The Context of Scripture*, vol. 1. Leiden, Boston, Brill: 2003 (COS).

Heidel, Alexander. *The Babylonian Genesis: The Story of Creation*. 2nd ed. Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 1951.

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Creation

Barr, James. "Was Everything That God Created Really Good?" in *God in the Fray: A Tribute to Walter Brueggemann*. Edited by Tod Linafelt and Timonthy K. Beal; Minneapolis: Fortress, 1998.

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- Clifford, Richard J. *Creation Accounts in the Ancient Near East and in the Bible*. CBQMS26. Washington, DC: Catholic Biblical Association of America, 1994.
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- Timmer, Daniel C. Creation, Tabernacle, and Sabbath: The Sabbath Frame of Exodus 31:12-17; 35:1-3 in *Exegetical and Theological Perspective* (FRLANT 227; Gottingen: Vandenhoeck and Ruprecht, 2009.
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Election

Heard, R. Christopher. *Dynamics of Diselection: Ambiguity in Genesis 12-36 and Ethnic Boundaries in Post-Exilic Judah*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2001.

Kaminsky, Joel S. *Yet I Loved Jacob: Reclaiming the Biblical Concept of Election*. Nashville: Abingdon Press: 2007.

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Reception

Beach, Bradley and Matthew Powell, eds. *Interpreting Abraham: Journeys to Moriah*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2014.

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Others

Brenner Athalya, Archie Chi Chung Lee and Gale A. Yee. Eds. *Genesis. Texts @ Contexts*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010.

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