



# Nazarene Theological Seminary

1700 E Meyer Blvd • Kansas City, MO 64131 • 816/333-6254

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## OTL611—Genesis Online Fall, 2007

### ***Essential Information***

Please refer to the following resources for information essential for the successful completion of courses and degree programs at Nazarene Theological Seminary. Links to these resources are available under the Syllabus link in the Blackboard course. Additional information can be found at <http://bbwiki.nts.edu>.

- NTS Mission Statement & Purpose and Master of Divinity Objectives
- Tips for online learning success
- NTS library services
- NTS bookstore procedures
- Online technical requirements and Blackboard support information
- NTS Student Handbook including statements on quality of work, plagiarism, and academic probation
- *A Handbook for Inclusive Language*

### ***Instructor Information***

Professor: Joseph Coleson, Ph.D.  
Office: (816) 333-6254, x210  
Office Hours: MTTh 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Email: [jcoleson@nts.edu](mailto:jcoleson@nts.edu)  
Home: (816) 353-2301. Please do not call  
between 9:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.

### ***Catalog Description***

A study of the book of Genesis, giving attention to literary analysis, Ancient Near Eastern historical backgrounds, and major theological concepts, noting especially the significance of the narrative forms of their presentation.

### ***Course Narrative & Rationale***

The Church of the Nazarene, together with the larger Wesleyan/Holiness movement and most Christian denominations, views the Bible as foundational, informing all the life of the church. By virtue of its position as the first book of the canon of both the Jewish and the Christian faiths, Genesis holds a place of special importance.

A Bible without Genesis would be like any other lengthy book without its first chapter. All the great themes of the Bible may be said to have their first expressions in Genesis, explicitly or implicitly. Genesis offers a theological explanation of the beginnings of the created order on this earth, including God's creation intention for intimate fellowship with human beings, the root cause of all relational disruptions, and the beginnings of God's redemptive action to restore creation to its intended integrity of relationships. Genesis also traces the beginnings of the family/nation through whom God worked to accomplish God's redemptive purposes.

Jews and Christians, and the clergy of both faith traditions, always have found a rich source of reading, devotional, story-telling, and preaching/teaching material in Genesis. The stories of Genesis are riveting in their human interest and (at least as important) they reveal God, who purposed beforehand to rescue and restore the creation carefully and lovingly formed, as the God who loves us. The God of Genesis is the God we need to know, the God we want to know.

## **Course Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, you will:

1. Be familiar with the people, places, and events of the book of Genesis;
2. Be able to summarize important scholarly positions regarding authorship, provenance, dating, occasion, and audience of the book;
3. Be able to identify the book's major theological themes, and discuss their contributions to the life and thought of God's people;
4. Have some experience with the exegesis of Genesis;
5. Use your knowledge of and "feel" for Genesis in your ministry assignments.

## **Church of the Nazarene COSAC Competencies**

While none of these will be realized completely, the following competencies will be enhanced, directly or indirectly, through your participation in this course:

- CN 2, 4, 6, 7, 15, 16, 17, 19, 21, 22, 23
- CP 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 21, 22, 25, 28
- CH 1, 2, 3, 6, 13, 14
- CX 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11

## **Required Texts & Course Materials**

- Coleson, Joseph E. *'Ezer Cenegdo: A Power Like Him, Facing Him as Equal*. Grantham, PA: Wesleyan/Holiness Women Clergy, 1996. Available for free download at: [http://www.whwomenclergy.org/booklets/power\\_like\\_him.php](http://www.whwomenclergy.org/booklets/power_like_him.php)
- Hamilton, Victor P. *The Book of Genesis, Chapters 1-17*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1990.
- Hamilton, Victor P. *The Book of Genesis, Chapters 18-50*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1995.

## **Course Outline**

### **Unit 1: Introductions - Week 1**

- Course Introduction
- Syllabus
- Personal introductions

### **Unit 2: The Genesis creation texts - Weeks 2-4**

- Creation: Genesis 1 - "The Big Picture"
- Creation: Genesis 2 - The creation of 'adam
- Creation/Fall: Genesis 3 - The 'adam turns from God

### **Unit 3: Cain/Seth/Noah/The Deluge - Weeks 5-6**

- Cain; Seth; Noah introduced
- Deluge; Table of Nations; Tower of Babel

**Unit 4: The Abraham Cycle - Weeks 7-10 (including R & R week)**

- Abram's call and response; Abram and Lot
- God's covenant with Abram/Abraham; Exigencies
- Abraham, Sarah, and the Son of Laughter

**Unit 5: The Jacob Cycle - Weeks 11-12**

- The House of Jacob built
- The House of Jacob threatened

**Unit 6: The Joseph Cycle - Weeks 13-14**

- Joseph sent ahead
- Jacob's family preserved

## **Course Assignments & Requirements**

### **1. Complete reading of course texts**

Course texts (Coleson and Hamilton) are to be read as part of our ongoing work in Genesis, guided by the Course Calendar at the end of this syllabus. Weekly reporting of this reading is to be done via the Assignments/Learning Units section of Blackboard. In addition, some Discussion Fora will feature issues raised in the texts. This reading will not count as a percentage of the course grade, but no student can earn a grade of "A" for the course without completing it in a timely manner. (Course Outcomes: Numbers 1, 2, 3)

### **2. Online interaction (30% of course grade)**

Posting to Discussion Fora and reading the posts of other class members is the online equivalent of attending and participating in class in an on-campus course. In the online environment, precisely because face-to-face contact is not possible, professor-with-student(s) and student(s)-with-student(s) interaction is indispensable for a positive learning experience. With this in mind, the following practices are the minimal expectation for the course:

- Each student is to write at least three (3) original posts, and at least three (3) responses to others' posts--for a total of six (6)--spread over at least three (3) days each week (except R & R Week). The weekly six-hundred-word essays will count as one (usually the first) weekly post. The other two (2) weekly original posts nearly always should be posted by Tuesday and Wednesday, to allow for development-in-depth of discussion threads.
- Students are strongly encouraged to read all new posts at least five (5) days per week.
- A "quality" post begins a new topic, brings to bear critical reflection on another's post, or moves discussion in a new direction. Both number and quality of posts will influence this section of the course grade.
- Unless other lengths are assigned, all posts should be at least one hundred (100) words for new topics, and at least seventy-five (75) words for responses to another's post.
- Spelling, punctuation, grammar, syntax, usage, and other "best practices" of academic writing are expected for all posts, essays, and other written work.

Assessment of online participation will be posted at the end of Week 4, of Week 9, and of Week 14. (Course Outcomes: Numbers 2, 3; beginning also on 4, 5)

### **3. Ten (10) written six-hundred-word (600-word) essays (50% of course grade)**

Ten written six-hundred-word (600-word) essays are due each Monday between Week 2 and Week 14 of the course. Essay topics will be posted no later than one week early for each essay, to keep them timely with course developments. Keeping in mind that Week 7 is R & R Week, twelve (12)

weeks are available for writing ten (10) essays. Each essay is to be posted in two places: 1.) First, into the Learning Unit for the week; 2.) Second, into the appropriate Discussion Board Forum. If a student chooses to submit eleven (11) or twelve (12) essays, the top ten (10) essay grades will be considered when calculating the course grade. (Course Outcomes: Numbers 2, 3, 4)

#### 4. Final paper or other project (20% of course grade)

A thirty-five-hundred (3,500)- to four-thousand (4,000)-word exegetical paper, or other project cleared with the professor beforehand, is the culminating course assignment; it is due Saturday, December 15. The exegetical paper is to be written on a passage chosen from the list of passages the professor will post no later than Monday of Week 6. (Course Outcomes: Numbers 4, 5)

### Method for Submitting Assignments

Each assignment is to be submitted through its corresponding link in the Learning Unit. Assignments are not to be submitted as hard copy, via fax, via e-mail, or via the Blackboard Digital Dropbox.

### Policy Regarding Late Work

It is not possible to “make up” Discussion Forum postings in a later week. E.g., six (6) postings during Week 3 will not compensate for zero (0) postings during Week 2. Weekly essays are due each Monday, no later than 11:59 p.m. Central Time. A separate Discussion Forum will be created each week for posting these essays. Since response to weekly essays may become a significant portion of Discussion Forum interaction, weekly essays will be accepted no more than twenty-four (24) hours late, i.e., only until 11:59 p.m. Central Time, on Tuesdays. Essays received on a Tuesday will be marked down one full letter grade. The final paper or project will be accepted only until 11:59 p.m. Central Time, Monday, December 17. Papers or projects received on Sunday or Monday will be marked down one full letter grade.

### Course Grading

1. Complete reading of course texts will not be graded, but is required to earn a grade of “A.”
  2. Online interaction will constitute thirty (30) percent of the course grade.
  3. Ten (10) six-hundred (600)-word essays will constitute fifty (50) percent of the course grade.
  4. A final exegetical paper or project will constitute twenty (20) percent of the course grade.
- All grades will be posted as letter grades; descriptions of letter grades used at NTS (A, B, C, D, F) are included in the *NTS Student Handbook*.

### Course Calendar

Date	Week	Assignment
Sep. 10 Unit 1	1	<b>Forum:</b> Each student is to post a personal introduction by Tuesday, and is to respond to at least three other introductory posts by Friday. In your intro., please include: 1.) Pertinent (and appropriate) information about yourself; 2.) A short description of your current ministry assignment(s) and/or volunteer position(s); 3.) Your reason(s) for taking this course; and 4.) One “Item” in Genesis of which you hope to gain a better understanding through the course. <b>The professor will provide</b> a basic overview of the course and will post at least one orienting lecture.
Sep. 17 Unit 2	2	<b>Texts:</b> Read Coleson, ‘ <i>Ezer Cenegdo</i> . Read at least one-half of Hamilton’s “Introduction.” Read Hamilton on Genesis 1:1--2:3. <b>Essay:</b> By Monday, post a 600-word exegetical essay on Genesis 1:27. <b>Forum:</b> Original posts by Tuesday/Wednesday. Responses to other students’ posts by Saturday.

Sep. 24 Unit 2	3	<p><b>Texts:</b> Read Coleson, <i>'Ezer Cenegdo</i>. Finish reading Hamilton's "Introduction." Read Hamilton on Genesis 2:4-25.</p> <p><b>Essay:</b> By Monday post a 600-word essay entitled, "A Power Like (Him), Facing (Him) as Equal."</p> <p><b>Forum:</b> Original posts by Tuesday/Wednesday. Responses to other students' posts by Saturday.</p>
Oct. 1 Unit 2	4	<p><b>Texts:</b> Read Coleson, <i>'Ezer Cenegdo</i>. Read Hamilton on Genesis 3.</p> <p><b>Essay:</b> By Monday post a 600-word essay on the assigned topic.</p> <p><b>Forum:</b> Original posts by Tuesday/Wednesday. Responses to other students' posts by Saturday.</p>
Oct. 8 Unit 3	5	<p><b>Texts:</b> Read Hamilton on Genesis 4-6.</p> <p><b>Essay:</b> By Monday post a 600-word essay on the assigned topic.</p> <p><b>Forum:</b> Original posts by Tuesday/Wednesday. Responses to other students' posts by Saturday.</p>
Oct. 15 Unit 3	6	<p><b>Texts:</b> Read Hamilton on Genesis 7-11.</p> <p><b>Essay:</b> By Monday post a 600-word essay on the assigned topic.</p> <p><b>Forum:</b> Original posts by Tuesday/Wednesday. Responses to other students' posts by Saturday.</p> <p><b>The professor will provide</b> a list of Genesis texts from which to choose for the final exegetical paper/project.</p>
Oct. 22	7	Reading and Research Week
Oct. 29 Unit 4	8	<p><b>Texts:</b> Read Hamilton on Genesis 12-14.</p> <p><b>Essay:</b> By Monday post a 600-word essay on the assigned topic.</p> <p><b>Forum:</b> Original posts by Tuesday/Wednesday. Responses to other students' posts by Saturday.</p>
Nov. 5 Unit 4	9	<p><b>Texts:</b> Read Hamilton on Genesis 15-20.</p> <p><b>Essay:</b> By Monday post a 600-word essay on the assigned topic.</p> <p><b>Forum:</b> Original posts by Tuesday/Wednesday. Responses to other students' posts by Saturday.</p>
Nov. 12 Unit 4	10	<p><b>Texts:</b> Read Hamilton on Genesis 21:1--25:18.</p> <p><b>Essay:</b> By Monday post a 600-word essay on the assigned topic.</p> <p><b>Forum:</b> Original posts by Tuesday/Wednesday. Responses to other students' posts by Saturday.</p>
Nov. 19 Unit 5	11	<p><b>Texts:</b> Read Hamilton on Genesis 25:19--31:54.</p> <p><b>Essay:</b> By Monday post a 600-word essay on the assigned topic.</p> <p><b>Forum:</b> Original posts by Tuesday/Wednesday. Responses to other students' posts by Saturday.</p>
Nov. 26 Unit 5	12	<p><b>Texts:</b> Read Hamilton on Genesis 32-36.</p> <p><b>Essay:</b> By Monday post a 600-word essay on the assigned topic.</p> <p><b>Forum:</b> Original posts by Tuesday/Wednesday. Responses to other students' posts by Saturday.</p>
Dec. 3 Unit 6	13	<p><b>Texts:</b> Read Hamilton on Genesis 37-45.</p> <p><b>Essay:</b> By Monday post a 600-word essay on the assigned topic.</p> <p><b>Forum:</b> Original posts by Tuesday/Wednesday. Responses to other students' posts by Saturday.</p>
Dec. 10 Unit 6	14	<p><b>Texts:</b> Read Hamilton on Genesis 45-50.</p> <p><b>Essay:</b> If needed, by Monday post a 600-word essay on the assigned topic.</p> <p><b>Forum:</b> Original posts by Tuesday/Wednesday. Responses to other students' posts by Saturday.</p> <p><b>Final Paper/Project:</b> Submit by Saturday. Accepted late only by Monday, December 17, with one full letter grade reduction.</p>