

I. 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.

II. COURSE 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.

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

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 the important 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.

IV. COURSE TEXTS

1. Coleson, Joseph E. *'Ezer Cenegdo: A Power Like Him, Facing Him as Equal*. Grantham, PA: Wesleyan/Holiness Women Clergy, 1996.
2. Hamilton, Victor P. *The Book of Genesis, Chapters 1-17*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1990.
3. Hamilton, Victor P. *The Book of Genesis, Chapters 18-50*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1995.

V. STUDENT EVALUATION

To be eligible for a grade of "A," you must read the course texts on the course schedule. In other words, the reading for each week's class meeting must be done within the previous week, so it is relatively fresh in your mind. The instructor will record reading progress, weekly, in the Bb Gradebook. When the first week's reading is reported, he will record a "1," the second, a "2," etc. A total of eleven reading reports is possible. You must have at least nine, and have read all the course texts completely, to be eligible to earn a course grade of "A."

To be eligible for a course grade of "A," you must be present for a total of at least eleven class sessions. The instructor will record attendance weekly in the Bb Gradebook. Each week's attendance will be recorded as an increase of one (or as a decimal fraction of one) in the total number of sessions recorded.

Written exercises will be assigned, based on the weekly readings from Genesis.

V. COURSE SCHEDULE

Schedule of class session readings and discussions:

Sept. 13 - Syllabus; Course intro.; Genesis 1	Nov. 1 - Genesis 16-21
Sept. 20 - Genesis 2	Nov. 8 - Genesis 22-27
Sept. 27 - Genesis 3	Nov. 15 - Genesis 28-33
Oct. 4 - Genesis 4-7	Nov. 22 - Genesis 34-38
Oct. 11 - Genesis 8-11	Nov. 29 - Genesis 39-44
Oct. 18 - Reading and Research Week	Dec. 6 - Genesis 45-50
Oct. 25 - Genesis 12-15	Dec. 13 - Course wrap-up