

I. Catalog Description

A study of the book of Exodus, with special attention to literary analysis, ancient Egyptian background, the Decalogue and the Covenant Code, other major theological concepts, and the person of Moses.

II. Course Rationale

The faculty of NTS view the Bible as foundational, informing all the life of the church. We believe this view accords with historic Christianity, as well as with the direction of God found in the Bible itself.

In addition, the Exodus was the foundational event in the formation of the nation of Israel. The Exodus continues to shape Jewish and Christian thought and action to the present day.

The first half of the book of Exodus is a narrative of depth and emotional intensity. Its second half comprises profound concepts in the form of legal code for ancient Israel in the land, and for the continued instruction of those who would live with integrity before God and with their brothers and sisters. Exodus richly rewards those willing to expend time and effort to understand its patterns and its message. The book is a mine of hidden treasure; wealthy, indeed, is the one who explores its depths.

III. Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

- A. Express, orally and/or in writing, the structure of the book of Exodus;
- B. Identify the major characters, places, and events of the book of Exodus;
- C. Discuss the importance of the Exodus narrative to Jewish and Christian theologies;
- D. Differentiate the various forms of legal material in the book of Exodus;
- E. Bring the book of Exodus into your own ministry theology and praxis.

IV. Required Texts

- A. English (or other vernacular) Bible.
- B. Cole, R. Alan. *Exodus: An Introduction and Commentary*. Downers Grove: Inter-Varsity Press, 1973.
- C. Hoffmeier, James K. *Israel in Egypt*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

V. Student Evaluation

Your course grade will be determined by the following:

- A. Class attendance will affect your grade. Two or three absences will lower the grade otherwise earned; four absences will result in failing the course.
- B. Complete reading of the course texts--(almost completely) in sync with the course schedule--and a limited amount of other assigned reading, will be necessary to earn an "A" for the course.
- C. Ten six-hundred-word exegetical essays will be assigned. On issues of mechanics, etc., the Seminary follows Turabian's guide.
- D. For students desiring to work for a course grade of "A," an end-of-semester exegetical paper or other project will be assigned.

VI. Course Schedule

- Sept. 11 – Syllabus; Course Introduction; Exodus 1-2
Note: throughout the course, reading in Cole is to be done according to the weekly class schedule.
- 18 – “The Backstory”; Exodus 3-4
Reading in Hoffmeier: pp. vii-106, 135-144
Essay Title: The Meaning of the Divine Name, YHWH
- 25 – Exodus 5-11
Reading in Hoffmeier: pp. 107-134, 144-163
Essay Title: The “Hardening” of Pharaoh’s Heart
- Oct. 2 – Exodus 12: The Passover
Essay Title: God’s Instructions for Israel’s First Passover
- 9 – Exodus 13-15; Psalms 78, 105, 136; Habakkuk 3
Reading in Hoffmeier: pp. 164-227
Essay Title: The Divine Warrior in a Postmodern Age
- 16 – *The Ten Commandments* and *The Prince of Egypt*
Essay Title: Review of *The Ten Commandments* or
Review of *The Prince of Egypt*
- 23 – Reading and Research Week
- 30 – Exodus 16-19
Remaining essays will be assigned as the course develops
- Nov. 6 – Exodus 20:1-17: The Ten Words
13 – Exodus 20:18--23:33: The Book of the Covenant
20 – Exodus 24-31
27 – Exodus 32-34; Acts 7
- Dec. 4 – Exodus 35-40
11 – Final class session; final projects due