

MTG202.9 Pentateuch Exegesis and Theology for Proclamation

Name of Unit 1 (Unit Code 1)
Pentateuch Exegesis and Theology for Proclamation (MTG202.9)

SECTION 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION

Administrative details

Associated higher education awards	Duration	Level	Unit Coordinator
Graduate Diploma Masters	One semester	Advanced	Dr Chris Johnstone

Core or elective unit

Indicate if the unit is a

- core unit
 elective unit
 other (please specify below):

Unit weighting

Using the table below, indicate the credit point weighting of this unit and the credit point total for the course of study (for example, 10 credit points for the unit and 320 credit points for the course of study).

Unit credit points	Total course credit points
6 credit points	48 / 144 credit points

Student workload

Using the table below, indicate the expected student workload per week for this unit.

No. timetabled hours per week	No. personal study hours per week	Total workload hours per week
3	6	9

For those students requiring additional English language support, how many additional hours per week is it expected that they will undertake?

Additional English language support: 0 hours per week

Pre-requisites and co-requisites

Are students required have undertaken a prerequisite or co-requisite unit for this unit?

Yes No

If **YES**, provide details of the prerequisite or co-requisite requirements below.

Prerequisite: MTG200.9 Interpreting the Old Testament

SECTION 2 – ACADEMIC DETAILS

Brief description of the content of the unit
This advanced exegetical unit facilitates in-depth exegetical and theological analysis of the Pentateuch and its proclamation in diverse contemporary contexts. It connects strongly with the MTC formation domain, <i>Engaging God’s Story</i> . Students analyse current issues and critical exegetical approaches in Pentateuchal studies, with specific focus on the interpretation of narrative and legal texts and their proclamation in contemporary Christian communities. On completion of this unit, students will confidently and faithfully proclaim the Pentateuch to various audiences today.

Learning outcomes for the unit
1) Analyse contemporary issues in Pentateuchal studies, evaluating the significance for interpreting the Pentateuch
2) Analyse critical exegetical approaches to the Pentateuch, evaluating the significance for interpreting narrative and legal texts
3) Critically apply hermeneutical theory, exegetical methods and skills to the interpretation of narrative and legal texts in their own theological, rhetorical and socio-historical contexts, justifying the hermeneutical approach adopted and the selection of exegetical methods and skills utilised
4) Creatively communicate clear, coherent and appropriately targeted expositions of the Pentateuch to diverse audiences, justifying the strategies employed

Assessment tasks			
Type	Learning Outcome/s assessed	When assessed – year, session and week	Weighting
1. Critical Issue Paper The prescribed textbooks include chapters dedicated to contemporary issues and critical exegetical approaches in Pentateuchal studies. Students select, research, and write a paper, in which they analyse one contemporary issue and one critical exegetical approach in Pentateuchal studies and evaluate the significance for interpreting the Pentateuch today. A minimum of 10 resources is required, including the prescribed textbooks. (1500 words)	1 & 2	Wk 5	25%

Assessment tasks			
Type	Learning Outcome/s assessed	When assessed – year, session and week	Weighting
<p>2. Perspectives on Pentateuch interpretation Students create a multimedia presentation (e.g., <i>Pecha Kucha</i>), in which they analyse and illustrate one of the contemporary perspectives on Pentateuch interpretation and evaluate the significance for interpreting and proclaiming narrative and legal texts. Students may choose to work collaboratively in pairs or groups of three on this assessment task, in which case the assessment grade will be allocated to each member. (1000 words equiv)</p>	2	Wk 7	15%
<p>3. Reading & Proclaiming the Pentateuch Today – Exegetical & Homiletical Project Students select a biblical, theological, social, ethical and or pastoral theme or issue that the Pentateuch addresses as the focus for their exegetical research, in which students will:</p> <p>a. Analyse the theological, rhetorical and socio-historical contexts for the Pentateuch, including an examination of relevant ANE literature, and evaluate the significance for understanding the issue or development of the theme in Pentateuch's narrative and legal texts</p> <p>b. Identify and exegete at least two substantial passages from the Pentateuch that speak to the issue or theme, at least one is to be an extended narrative and one a legal text, and justify both the selection of passages and the exegetical methods employed</p> <p>c. Synthesise the results of their exegetical work, clearly and concisely, articulating the Pentateuch's theology on the topic and the literary and socio-historical context of the primary audience (Continued over page)</p>	3 & 4	<p>Written presentation: Wk 9</p> <p>Narrative-Style Sermon/Teaching Wk 11</p> <p>Topical-Style Sermon/Teaching: Wk 13</p>	<p>60% (Written: 40% Narrative: 10% Topical: 10%)</p>

Assessment tasks			
Type	Learning Outcome/s assessed	When assessed – year, session and week	Weighting
<p>d. Critically apply the Pentateuch’s teaching both to the student’s own life and the student’s local Christian community</p> <p>e. Provide a rationale for narrative-style and topical-style teaching and preaching</p> <p>f. Communicate points a-d in a formal academic paper (2500 words) and create and deliver (1000 words equiv):</p> <p>(i) a 12-minute narrative-style sermon or teaching, with an accompanying multimedia presentation, centred on the narrative passage selected above and designed to target a Christian community of their choosing, and</p> <p>(ii) a 12-minute topical-style sermon or teaching, with an accompanying multimedia presentation, centred on the legal passage, designed to a target audience of a different demographic to that in (i).</p> <p>A minimum of 15 resources is required, including at least 3 intermediate and or advanced level commentaries. (3500 words equiv)</p>			

2.1 Prescribed and recommended readings

Provide below, in formal reference format, a list of the prescribed and recommended readings for the unit.

Prescribed reading:

Houston, Walter. *The Pentateuch*. London: SCM, 2013.

Wright, Christopher J. H. *Old Testament Ethics for the People of God*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2011.

Recommended reading:

Alexander, T. & D. Baker, eds. *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch*. IVP: Downers Grove, 2003.

Alter, Robert. *The Art of Biblical Narrative*. Revised and Updated ed. New York, NY: Basic Books, 2011.

Anderson, Bradford A. *An Introduction to the Study of the Pentateuch*. 2nd ed. T & T Clark Approaches to Biblical Studies. London: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2017.

Baden, Joel S. *The composition of the Pentateuch: renewing the documentary hypothesis*. New Haven, CN: YUP, 2012.

Baden, Joel S. and Jeffery Stackert. *The Oxford Handbook of the Pentateuch*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2021.

Briggs, R. and J. Lohr, eds. *A Theological Introduction to the Pentateuch: Interpreting the Torah as Christian Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2012.

Chen, Kevin. *The Messianic Vision of the Pentateuch*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2019.

Danna Nolan, ed. *The Oxford Handbook of Biblical Narrative*. New York, NY: OUP, 2019.

Desmond Alexander, T. *From Paradise to the Promised Land: An Introduction to the Main Themes of the Pentateuch*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2012.

Dozeman, Thomas B. *The Pentateuch: Introducing the Torah*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 2017.

Fewell, Earl, Douglas S. *Reading Old Testament Narrative as Christian Scripture*. JTI 17. Winona Lake, ID: Eisenbrauns, 2017.

Gane, Roy. *Old Testament Law for Christians: Original Context and Enduring Application*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2017.

Leder, A. *Waiting for the Land: The Storyline of the Pentateuch*. Phillipsburg: P&R Publishing, 2010.

Mangum, Douglas, and Douglas Estes, eds. *Literary Approaches to the Bible*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham, 2018.

Sailhamer, J. *The Meaning of the Pentateuch*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2009.

Schmiedicke, Nathan. *The Bible's Foundation: A Catholic Introduction to the Pentateuch*. Chicago, IL: St Augustine Academy, 2021.

Sweeney, Marvin A. *The Pentateuch*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 2017.

Vogt, P. *Interpreting the Pentateuch*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2009.

Walsh, J. *Old Testament Narrative: A Guide to Interpretation*. Louisville: WJKP, 2009.

Watts, James W. *Understanding the Pentateuch as a Scripture*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, 2017.