



Deuteronomy

McMaster Divinity College
Fall 2016

Course Designation

OT 3XD3

Specializations

Biblical Studies
Pastoral Studies

Doctor of Practical Theology students who wish to apply for this course as an Advanced Elective for their degree program must consult with the Program Director of the DPT and the course instructor in order to develop an Advanced Elective approach to the course that fulfills the specific elements required by the DPT program. Once the elements of the Advanced Elective have been agreed upon by the student, the Program Director, and the instructor, a formal application can be made for an Advanced Elective in connection with this course. Once the application is accepted, DPT students can proceed with the course as part of their degree program.

August H. Konkel (Ph.D.), Professor of Old Testament
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Course Schedule

Time: Tuesdays, 7:00 – 9:00PM

Course begins Tuesday Sept. 13

Reading Week October 11

Final Week Tuesday December 13

Course Description

The book of Deuteronomy is a covenant renewal for the nation about to enter the Promised Land. It shares the form of ancient covenants, particularly Hittite treaties of the second millennium. Its emphasis is to love and fear God, the qualities required of covenant loyalty. Loyalty to the covenant is manifest in both human and divine relationships specified in the covenant stipulations. The requirements of Deuteronomy become the measure by which the kings of Israel are evaluated. This course will examine all these aspects of the conclusion of the Torah.

Course Objectives

Knowing

- The content of the book of Deuteronomy
- Form critical analysis of Deuteronomy
- Function of Deuteronomy in the Old Testament
- Theology of Deuteronomy

Being

- Come to love and fear Yahweh as instructed by Deuteronomy
- Honoring God as one that belongs to a kingdom of priests
- Valuing home and personal relations according to Deuteronomistic standards

Doing

- Practicing the worship of God taught in Deuteronomy
- Living the covenant commitment to God, family, and community as taught in Deuteronomy
- Living the values expressed in the ten words and their exposition in Deuteronomy

Course Texts

Daniel I. Block, *The Gospel According to Moses: Theological and Ethical Reflections on the Book of Deuteronomy*, Cascade, 2012.

Biblical Studies

Richard D. Nelson, *Deuteronomy*. OTL. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2002.

Pastoral Studies

Daniel I Block, *Deuteronomy*, NIV Application Commentary, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.

Textbook Purchase

All required textbooks for this class are available from the College's book service, READ On Bookstore, Room 145, McMaster Divinity College. Texts may be purchased on the first day of class. For advance purchase, you may contact READ On Bookstore, 5 International Blvd, Etobicoke, Ontario M9W 6H3 : phone 416.620.2934; fax 416.622.2308; email books@readon.ca. Other book services may also carry the texts.

Course Lectures

One of the two commentaries should be read in preparation for the assigned passages of each lecture.

- 1 Deuteronomistic History
- 2 Journey to the Land of Moab (1:1–4:43)
- 3 The Words of Mount Sinai (4:44–6:25)
- 4 Learning to Love and Fear the Lord (7:1–10:22)
- 5 Covenant Oath and Fidelity (11:1–31; 26:1–28:69)
- 6 Worship in the Promised Land (12:1–16:17)
- 7 Civil Life in the Promised Land (16:18–21:9)
- 8 Domestic Life in the Promised Land (21:10–25:19)
- 9 Covenant Loyalty and Renewal (29:1–31:30)
- 10 Poem of Moses (32:1–52)
- 11 Farewell Blessing and Death of Moses (33:1–34:12)
- 12 Deuteronomy and Canon

Course Requirements

- 1 Composition and Function of Deuteronomy (20%; due Oct. 4th)

1.1 Required Reading

Daniel I. Block, "Recovering the Voice of Moses: The Genesis of Deuteronomy," *JETS* 44 (2001) 385–408.

Martin Noth. *The Deuteronomistic History*. JSOTSup 15, Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1981, pp. 1–35.

1.2 Written Requirement

Using the above readings and others of your choice, discuss the relationship of Deuteronomy to what is called the Deuteronomistic History. Provide your own view of the composition of the book of Deuteronomy. This is not a research paper, but should cover the basic issues in about 1500 words.

- 2 Form and Structure of Deuteronomy (20%; due Oct. 25th)

2.1 Required Reading

Moshe Weinfeld, "Treaty Form and Phraseology—Affinities with the Ancient Near-Eastern Treaty Formulae," pages 59–116 in *Deuteronomy and the Deuteronomistic School*.

Daniel I. Block, chapters 1–3 in *The Gospel According to Moses*.

2.2 Written Requirement

Since the time of Mendenhall it has been recognized that the composition of Deuteronomy is a cultural product of its time in the use of form and phraseology of ancient near eastern treaties. Using the above readings and others of your choice, describe the similarities of Deuteronomy to ancient treaties. Provide your own view of the structure of Deuteronomy and how it develops the theology of the book. This is not a research paper, but should show how Deuteronomy communicates its message in about 1500 words.

3 Theology of Deuteronomy (30%; due Nov. 22nd)

Choose a topic from chapters 4–9 of the *Gospel According to Moses*. Research the topic of your choice with particular attention to how the text of Deuteronomy supports your conclusions. This paper should be about 2500 words and must include a minimum of 15 bibliographic items.

4 Reflections on Deuteronomy (30%; due Dec. 13th)

Biblical Studies

Provide a review of approximately 5 pages evaluating the commentary by Nelson. Explain how this commentary helps you understand the text of Deuteronomy, and discuss the limits of what it does not cover in issues of Deuteronomy.

In approximately five pages discuss the outcomes you are seeking from a Bible course in a Biblical Studies major. Explain how your work in this course contributed to those outcomes. Indicate what you further hope to do in your own studies in Deuteronomy and its role in the canon.

Pastoral Studies

In about five pages review the commentary by Block as a tool for pastoral work. Explain in what ways it could be used by a pastor for theology, sermons, and understanding of the Scriptures. Defend its strengths and discuss some of its limitations.

Develop in outline a series of studies or sermons from the book of Deuteronomy. This should be a minimum of five in number, but is not expected to cover the whole book of Deuteronomy. The series should have cohesion, provide a good grasp of the message of Deuteronomy for a congregation or study group, and indicate the outcomes intended for faith and life.

Course Policies

Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that may take any number of forms, including plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one's own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result in severe consequences, e.g., failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on one's academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College.

Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty: <http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/programs/rules-regulations>.

Gender Inclusive Language

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all of its publications. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected. The NRSV and TNIV are examples of the use of inclusive language for human beings. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments.

Style

All stylistic considerations (including but not limited to questions of formatting, footnotes, and bibliographic references) must conform to the McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses: <http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/sites/default/files/documents/mdcstyleguide.pdf>. Failure to observe appropriate form will result in grade reductions.

The secret things
belong to the Lord
our God, but the things
revealed belong to us
and to our children
forever, that we may
follow all the words
of this law.

Deuteronomy 29:29

Bibliography

Text

McCarthy, Carmel, ed. *Deuteronomy*. Biblical Hebraica Quinta 5. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 2007.

Wevers, John W. *Notes on the Greek Text of Deuteronomy*. Septuagint and Cognate Studies 39. Atlanta: Scholars, 1995.

Commentaries

Biddle, Mark E. *Deuteronomy*. Smyth & Helwys Bible Commentary. Macon, GA: Smyth & Helwys, 2003.

Block, Daniel I. *Deuteronomy*. NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.

Brueggemann, Walter. *Deuteronomy*. Abingdon Old Testament Commentaries. Nashville: Abingdon, 2001.

Christensen, Duane L. *Deuteronomy 1:1–21:9*. Rev. ed. WBC 6A. Nashville, TN: Nelson, 2001.

_____. *Deuteronomy 21:10–34:12*. WBC 6B. Nashville, TN: Nelson, 2003.

Craigie, Peter. C. *The Book of Deuteronomy*. NICOT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1976.

Driver, S. R. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on Deuteronomy*. 3d ed. ICC. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1895.

Mays, A. D. H. *Deuteronomy*. NCB. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1981.

Miller, P. D. *Deuteronomy*. Interpretation. Louisville, KY: John Knox, 1990.

Nelson, Richard D. *Deuteronomy*. OTL. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2002.

Rad, Gerhard von. *Deuteronomy: A Commentary*. OTL. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1966.

Tigay, Jeffrey H. *Deuteronomy: The JPS Torah Commentary*. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 1996.

Thompson, J. A. *Deuteronomy: An Introduction and Commentary*. TOTC. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1974.

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Wright, Christopher J. H. *Deuteronomy*. New International Biblical Commentary. Peabody, MA: Hendrikson, 1996.

Ancient Near Eastern Background

Greenberg, Moshe. "Some Postulates of Biblical Criminal Law." Pages 18–37 in *The Jewish Expression*. Edited by Judah Goldin. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1976.

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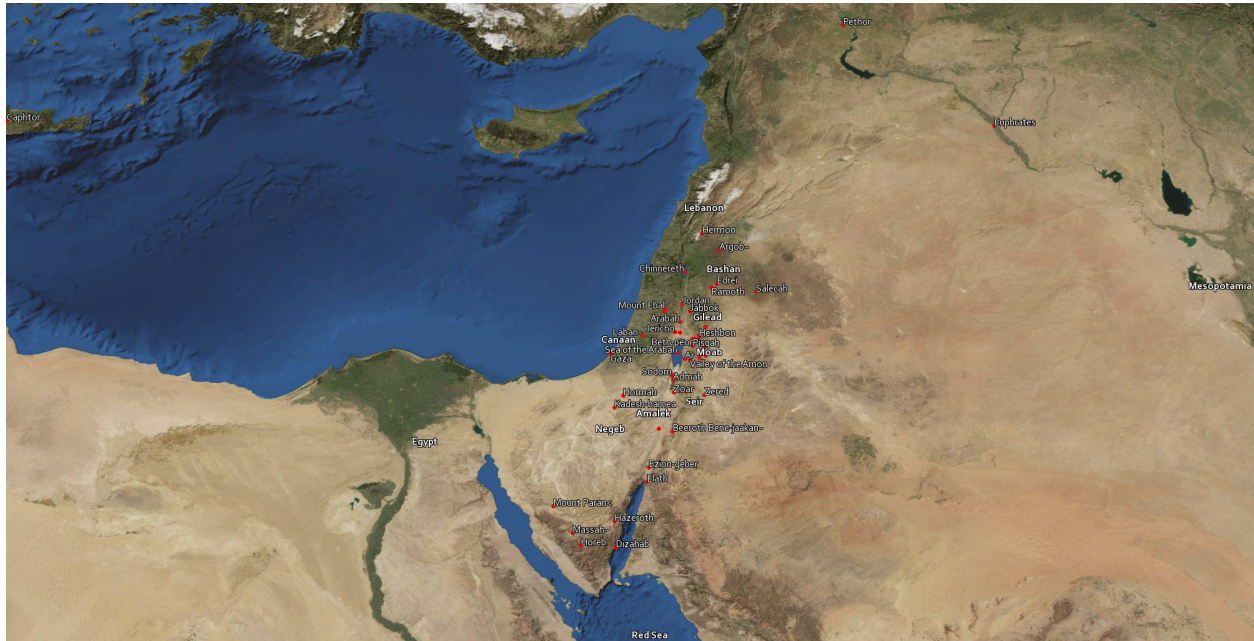
Millar, J. G. *Now Choose Life*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.

Rad, Gerhard von. *Studies in Deuteronomy*. Studies in Biblical Theology 9. London: SCM Press Ltd. 1953.

Wright, Christopher J. H. *Old Testament Ethics for the People of God*. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 2004.

Disclaimer

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3 Theology of Deuteronomy (30%; due Nov. 22nd)

Choose a topic from chapters 4–9 of the *Gospel According to Moses*. Research the topic of your choice with particular attention to how the text of Deuteronomy supports your conclusions. This paper should be about 2500 words and should demonstrate thorough research.

4 Research on Deuteronomy (40%; due Dec. 13th)

Studies in Deuteronomy have been among the most influential in understanding Old Testament history, canon, and theology of the Hebrew people. The student will compile about 5000–6000 pages of reading on a topic of choice related to the book of Deuteronomy. The topic should be discussed with the professor and the reading list approved. The student will then complete a research assignment of about 5000 words on the chosen topic. Possible topics include the concept of a Deuteronomistic History, the form of Deuteronomy in its ancient near eastern context, the ethics of Deuteronomy, the theology of God in Deuteronomy, or any more specific topic or passage of the student's choice.

Course Policies

Academic Honesty

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revealed belong to us
and to our children
forever, that we may
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Deuteronomy 29:29

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