

OT 727 CO: DEUTERONOMY

Summer 2008

Columbia Campus: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Saturday 5/24, 5/31, 6/7, 6/14

Professor: Max Rogland

Office Phone: (803) 771-6180 ext. 106	Email: roglan@erskine.edu
Office Fax: (803) 540-2846	Web: www.erskineseminary.org
	Address: Erskine Theological Seminary 1500 Lady Street, Suite 200 Columbia, SC 29201

NOTE: This is a first draft of the course syllabus and it will be revised prior to the start of the course. Continue to check the seminary website for updated versions.

OFFICE HOURS FOR SUMMER 2008:

For the weeks that the class is in session I will typically be available Monday through Friday in my office in Columbia between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., though it is always advisable to call or email for an appointment first. NOTE: I will be out of town after the end of class through the end of July; contact information for that period will be forthcoming.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course is an intensive study of the book which forms the capstone of Mosaic teaching. Attention is given to the importance of the content of the book to Israel, to Judaism, and to the Christian Church.

Prerequisite: In order to receive exegesis credit for this course, students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis (and, where applicable, Hebrew I & II) prior to taking this class. Exegesis/elective. Three hours.

COURSE PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES:

The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to “educate persons for service in the Christian Church.” To achieve this mission, the ability to understand the Bible in various contexts must be taught. This course in particular seeks to further the students’ skill in reading and interpreting the Book of Deuteronomy. By the end of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a mastery of the content, structure and theology of the Book of Deuteronomy.
2. Explain the significance of the covenant concept for the Book of Deuteronomy and to compare and contrast it with other ancient Near Eastern covenant documents.
3. Discuss the role played by the Book of Deuteronomy within the Pentateuch as a literary corpus.
4. Trace the use of the Deuteronomy and deuteronomic theology in the rest of the Bible, both Old and New Testaments.
5. Articulate Deuteronomy’s place within the larger history of redemption as it culminates in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

6. Apply the laws of Deuteronomy appropriately to the present day.
7. Explain and interact with critical issues pertaining to the Book of Deuteronomy, such as the controversies concerning its authorship and date of composition.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

NOTE: Textbooks are available from the Erskine Theological Seminary Virtual Bookstore at www.ecampus.com/erskine.

J. G. McConville, *Deuteronomy* (Apollos Old Testament Commentaries; InterVarsity Press, 2002)

J.G. McConville, *Grace in the End. A Study in Deuteronomical Theology* (Studies in Old Testament Biblical Theology; Zondervan, 1993)

John H. Sailhamer, *The Pentateuch as Narrative. A Biblical-Theological Commentary* (Library of Biblical Interpretation; Zondervan, 1995)

Recommended: I use the English Standard Version of the Bible for in-class work, and it is therefore recommended that you bring a copy of this to class (the text is available online at: www.gnpcb.org/esv/).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Your final grade will be based upon the following factors:

- A. Two exams: 40% total (20% each)
 1. On **June 7** there will be an in-class exam on the content/outline of the Book of Deuteronomy.
 2. An open book, take home final exam will be handed out at the last class session on June 14, which you will have one week to complete (i.e. it is due on or before **June 21**).
- B. Exegetical Paper(s): 30%

You have the option of choosing to write one major exegetical paper (12-15 pages in length), due on or before **July 26**, or three shorter ones (4-5 pages each), the first of which must be turned in on or before **June 14**, the second on or before **July 5**, and the third on or before **July 26**. Guidelines pertaining to the paper(s) will be provided at the first class session.
- C. Worksheets and assignments: 20%

These will be provided in class. However, there will be at least one worksheet to be completed in preparation for the first class session. This will be posted on the instructor's website or included in a future revision of this syllabus, so you are responsible to check the website regularly prior to the start of the course.
- D. Class Attendance and Participation: 10%
 1. You will be held responsible for the assigned readings and all material presented in class.

2. You are expected to attend every class meeting. Absences must be approved by the instructor. NOTE: missing a session of an all-day course will result in an automatic 10 percentage point reduction in your overall grade. If you are aware of any conflicts that will prevent you from attending one of the class sessions, you should register for a different section or take the course at another time.

OVERALL GRADING SCALE:

100-95	A	85-84	C+	71-70	D-
94-93	A-	83-80	C		
92-91	B+	79-78	C-	69-0	F
90-88	B	77-76	D+		
87-86	B-	75-72	D		

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS and SEMINARY POLICIES:

Registration: Once a student has completed, signed, and submitted his/her registration to the Registrar for this class, it is a binding contract, and billing will be based on this registration. If the student decides not to take this class, he/she must complete a “drop/add” form and secure the appropriate signatures. Failure to withdraw from the class properly will result in the student’s receiving a grade of “F” for the course, and full tuition charges will apply. No exceptions will be made to this policy.

Official Seminary Class Attendance Policy: Class participation is considered an important part of the total educational experience at Erskine Seminary. Students are expected to attend classes on a regular basis and are responsible for the mastery of all materials required in the course. In general, students are allowed up to three hours of unexcused absence without penalty. Students taking a class that meets four times over a semester/term must attend the first meeting of the class.

Late or Incomplete Work: Any work not submitted by the due date will be assessed a late penalty. Students should review the Seminary policy on “Incompletes” in the Seminary catalog. A grade of “Incomplete” is not a privilege of the student. It is the prerogative of the professor. It can be given as a final grade only when the student (1) has completed most of his/her course work and (2) has been providentially hindered from doing the rest of the course work. Note that there is a processing fee associated with “Incompletes,” and that “Incompletes” must be completed by the stated deadline or they automatically become an “F.” Only the Dean may approve extensions of deadlines for “Incompletes.”

Taping Class Lectures: To tape a lecture the student must complete an “Audio Recording Request” form, which can be downloaded from the Seminary website at:

http://www.erskineseminary.org/Academics_Files/PdfDownloads.html

COURSE SCHEDULE, READING ASSIGNMENTS, AND EXAM DATES:

Updated versions of the syllabus containing a more complete schedule of reading assignments and class topics will be posted at a later date. You should keep checking the seminary website for syllabus revisions up to the start of the course. For now, note the following important deadlines:

- The entire text of Deuteronomy must be read *prior* to the first class session on **May 24**.
- A worksheet/assignment (to be posted later) will be due at the first class session on **May 24**.
- Deuteronomy outline/content exam: **June 7**
- Open book, take home final: distributed on **June 14** and to be turned in on or before **June 21**.
- Papers:
 - Option #1 (one major paper): due on or before **July 26**.
 - Option #2 (three short papers): paper #1 due on or before **June 14**, paper #2 due on or before **July 5**, paper #3 due on or before **July 26**.