

Faith Program

COURSE SYLLABUS

OT 101 – INTRODUCTION TO THE PENTATEUCH
FALL 2009 FRIDAY, 6 – 7:15 PM
INSTRUCTOR: FR. ANGELOS SAAD

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

OT101 – Introduction to the Pentateuch is one of four courses offered as part of the Old Testament Bible requirement of the faith program. This 5-week course will give you an overview of the first 5 books in the Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy). A snapshot of every book will be presented along with key concepts, charts, summaries, comparison tables and main themes. It is the intent of this course that you –as a student- develop a strong knowledge of the content, background, biblical characters and key theological concepts within each of the five books as well as become aware of how to relate the books together.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, you should be able to:

- Appreciate the spiritual, theological, historical and dogmatic richness of the Torah.
- Identify key characters and know the historical background of events in these books.
- Develop an understanding of God's plan of salvation and be able to reflect on historical incidents that point to salvation.
- Understand the significance of each of the 5 books and be aware of the general outline of each.
- Demonstrate competence in knowing key facts, tables, maps and charts pertaining to each book.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Introduction to the Pentateuch Booklet – Servants' Preparation Program. Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States (provided with this syllabus)

B. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. **Reflection Paper:** Due on October 16, 2009; 30% of final grade.
2. **Test:** October 30, 2009; 50% of final grade. A comprehensive final will be given covering materials from the lectures primarily.

3. **Reading report:** Due on October 30, 2009; 10% of final grade. Indicating how much of the reading you were able to accomplish. Indicate this reading report on the last page of your final test.
4. **Class Participation:** 10% based on you attendance, punctuality and discussion in class.

C. GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

Title Page and Documentation: The title page should include the name of the course, name of the instructor, title of the paper/assignment, student's name, and the date due. Students are expected to honestly reflect use of materials other than their own. The Church does not tolerate plagiarism in any form. Any sources used in the paper should be properly documented as a reference or bibliography at the end of the paper.

Papers must be typed and double-spaced. Students are required to retain a copy of all assignments in hard copy or electronic form. Proper spelling, grammar and style are expected.

Class policy on late assignment: For each day late, the grade will be reduced by 1/3 of a letter grade. Extensions will be considered if the circumstances are extreme. No final assignments or examinations will be accepted later than Friday December 25th, 2009. Requests for an extension of the due date must be submitted to the course instructor prior to the due date for the assignment.

Assignments may be handed in at the course session. Only hardcopies are accepted, no email copies will be graded.

D. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

1. **Reflection Paper (30%) – 3-4 pages double spaced:**
 - a. In this paper you are expected to reflect on the life of one of the characters presented in any of the 5 books of Moses and relate their experiences to your life.
 - b. In this paper, use specific examples from the life of the character you chose to show how it relates to your life, your learning and your growth as a disciple of God.
 - c. Use proper referencing of Bible verses and stories and be specific to how you see yourself different (if you do) because of the life of this character you picked
2. **Reading Report (10%):**
 - a. You are asked to read some material in preparation for the lectures. On the last page of your reflection paper (due Oct. 30, 2009) indicate whether you have 0%, 25%, 50%, 75% or 100% read the material.
3. **Final Test (50%):**
 - a. This will be a mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions. The test will cover all material from the lectures primarily but may also test a general understanding of the concepts in the readings.

4. Class Participation (10%):

- a. You encouraged asking questions and participating with comments during class.
 - b. You are also graded based on your attendance and the time you come to class (i.e. punctuality).
- 5. In order to pass this course, you need to earn an overall grade of not less than 75%.**

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT, AND REQUIRED READINGS

SESSION 1 September 25

- Overview of course and assignments
- Explanation of assignment & final test.
- The Book of Genesis

SESSION 2 October 2

(Reading prior to class: Article # 1 – Between Child and Parent–Honoring Father and Mother (Exodus 20:12))

- The Book of Exodus

SESSION 3 October 9

(Reading prior to class: Article # 2 – How to Spell ‘Holy’ (Leviticus 19:1-37))

- The Book of Leviticus

SESSION 4 October 16

- The Book of Numbers

SESSION 5 October 23

- **(Reading prior to class: Article # 3 – Introduction to the Book of Deuteronomy)**
- The Book of Deuteronomy