

REGENT COLLEGE
Distance Education

BIBL 610: BOOK STUDY: GENESIS

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3 Graduate Credit Hours
Main source for guidelines, resources, extra handouts;
www.regent-college.edu/classesonline

*NOTE: Biblical exegesis is desirable (but not a pre-requisite) for this class.

Your due date: _____

(See the last page of your Student Handbook for setting your due date)

600 level courses are usually more advanced and focused than 500 level courses and generally assume the completion of some theological studies.

A course may be dropped within two weeks of the course start date for a 100% refund (less a \$25 drop fee). A course may be dropped between two and four weeks of the course start date for a 75% refund (less a \$25 drop fee). A course may be dropped between four and eight weeks of the course start date for no refund; after this time the student is committed to receiving a grade for the course. All course materials must be returned in original condition before a drop or refund will be approved.

Course Description

This course aims to explain the contribution of Genesis to Christian theology by exegeting the book in its historical contexts. More specifically it aims to facilitate the encounter between God and the students; to develop a biblical world and life view; to become skillful in narrative theology; and to interpret the book of Genesis within the canon of Scripture.

Course Outline

1. Introduction to the Course: Book
2. Introduction to the Course: Method
3. Gift of Creation: Genesis 1-4
4. Gift of Recreation: Genesis 5-8
5. Noahic Covenant & Noah's Prophecies: Genesis 9-11
6. Abraham and the Promised Land: Genesis 12-15
7. Abraham and his Seed: Genesis 16-17
8. Abraham's Covenant and the Nations: Genesis 18-20
9. Birth and Binding of Isaac: Genesis 21-22
10. Transition to Isaac: Genesis 23-26
11. Jacob Steals the Blessings from Esau: Genesis 27-28
12. Jacob's Sojourn in Padan-Aram: Genesis 29-31
13. From Jacob to Israel: Genesis 32-33
14. Transition to Jacob's Twelve Sons: Genesis 34-36
15. Joseph: From Canaan to Exaltation in Egypt: Genesis 37-41

16. Brothers Reconciled/Israel's Blessings and Death

Academic Requirements and Time Investment

	<u>3 cr hrs</u>
Lectures	36 hrs
Reading	40 hrs (approx. 800 pp - Genesis and 2 commentaries)
Book Report	10 hrs (approx. 1250 wds / 5 pp)
Term Papers x 2	40 hrs (2500 wds / 10 pp each)
Exam (preparation)	<u>9 hrs</u>
TOTAL	135 hrs

Assignments

1. Readings and Reports.

All students should read the "accounts" of Genesis listed above in conjunction with a commentary, prior to each class. Read two commentaries by different authors from the commentary bibliography provided in this course outline. (approximately 800 pages)

Write a brief report comparing and contrasting the two commentaries (approximately 1250 words / 5 pages).

2. Term Papers. (2500 wds / 10 pp each)

Write two papers, one on the "Historicity of Abraham" **AND** one on the "Historicity of Noah".

Make sure to discuss the major issues and concerns involved in the debates over historicity, weighing fairly the pros and cons of the major views. Also, consult the sources mentioned in the reading list, especially those articles and books that are marked with a *.

3. Final Exam

Questions for the exam will be drawn from the questions found in your audio materials package. The examination is to be taken in a two-hour time period. No notes or books are permitted. Exam can be hand written or type written.

Please refer to your student handbook for specific information on ordering your exam.

<http://www.regent-college.edu/academics/cstudies/documents/StudentHandbook.pdf>

<u>Evaluation</u>	<u>3 cr hrs</u>
Term Papers	45%
Reading Report	25%
Final Examination	<u>30%</u>
TOTAL	100%

NB: The Course Evaluation Form needs to be returned by your due date

Late Policy and Extensions (please read carefully!)

For every week that your course requirements are submitted late, there will be a deduction of a third of a letter grade per assignment accordingly. Only under circumstances that are both *unavoidable and unforeseeable* are extensions considered (please refer to your student handbook for specific details <http://www.regent-college.edu/academics/cstudies/documents/StudentHandbook.pdf>). Weddings and births do not count as *unavoidable and unforeseeable*. If you need to go beyond the six-month time limit, you must contact the Coordinator *first* for an extension. Contact information is provided in your **Student Handbook**. Please note that extensions are not automatically granted, and must be applied for before your original due date.

ACADEMIC HONOUR Regent College upholds the highest standards of academic responsibility as part of our commitment to Christ in all of life. Students are required to familiarize themselves especially with the discussion of “Academic Integrity” in the College Catalogue.

Please note, sample course evaluation forms are available online on the course Moodle site.

Bibliography

Recommended Reading:

Waltke, B.K. and Fredricks, C.J. *Genesis – A Commentary*. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001).

Narrative Theology and Genesis:

Ackerman, J.S. “Joseph, Judah, and Jacob.” Pages 85-113 in *Literary Interpretations of Biblical Narratives*. Vol. 2. Edited by K.R.R. Gros Louis. Nashville: Abingdon, 1982.

Alter, Robert. *The Art of Biblical Narrative*. New York: (Basic Books, Inc., Publishers, 1981).

Bar-Efrat, Shimon. “Narrative Art in the Bible.” *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament*, Suppl. Series 70. Bible and Literature Series, 17. (Sheffield England: The Almond Press, 1989).

Berlin, Adele. *Poetics and Interpretation of Biblical Narrative*. Bible and Literature Series, No. 9. (Sheffield, England: The Almond Press, 1983).

Fokkelman, J. P. *Analysis of Literary Structure of Genesis*. (Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns).

Longman, Tremper, III. *Literary Approaches to Biblical Interpretation*. Foundations of Contemporary Interpretation, Vol.3. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1987).

Powell, Mark Allan. *What is Narrative Criticism?* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1990).

Ska, Jean Louis. *Our Fathers Have Told Us: Introduction to the Analysis of Hebrew Narratives*. (Roma: Editrice Pontificio Istituto Biblico, 1990).

Sternberg, Meir. *The Poetics of Biblical Narrative: Ideological Literature and the Drama of Reading*. The Indiana Literary Biblical Series. (Blomington, IN: Indiana University, 1985).

***Suggested Introductory Texts:**

General introduction and overview: Longman

Narrative concept and the basic elements: Powell

Introduction to technical vocabulary and basic elements: Ska

Commentaries:

NOTE: Each volume is considered one commentary in the reading assignments.

Aalders, G. Ch. “Genesis”. 2 vols. In Tr. J. Vriend *Bible Student’s Commentary* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1981) [*Out of Print*]

- Brueggemann, W. *Genesis*. Interpretation (Atlanta: John Knox, 1982).
- *Calvin, J. *Commentaries on the First Book of Moses Called Genesis*. 2 vols. Tr. John King (Repr. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1948).
- Cassuto, U. *A Commentary on the Book of Genesis*. Vol. I: *From Adam to Noah*. Vol. II: *From Noah to Abraham*. Tr. I. Abrahams (Jerusalem: Magnes, 1961-1964).
- Fokkelman, J. P. *Analysis of Literary Structure of Genesis*. (Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns).
- Hamilton, V.P. *The Book of Genesis: Chapters 1-17*. NICOT (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1990).
- Jacob, B. *The First Book of the Bible: Genesis* (Repr. New York: Ktav, 1974). [Out of Print]
- Gage, W. A. *The Gospel of Genesis: Studies in Protology and Eschatology* (Winona Lake, IN: Carpenter Books, 1984.) [Out of Print]
- *Kidner, D. *Genesis*. TOTC (Downers Grove, IVP, 1967). [Out of Print]
- *Leupold, H.C. *Exposition of Genesis*. 2 vols. (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1950). [Out of Print]
- Mann, T. W. *The Book of the Torah: The Narrative Integrity of the Pentateuch* (Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1988).
- Rad, G. von *Genesis*. Tr. J. H. Marks. OTL. (Rev. ed., Philadelphia: Westminster, 1972). [Out of Print]
- Roop, Eugene F. "Genesis", in *Believer's Church Biblical Commentaries*. (Scottsdale, PA/Kitchner, ON: Herald Press, 1987).
- *Ross, A. P. *Creation and Blessing* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1988).
- *Sarna, N. *Understanding Genesis* (Repr. New York: Schocken, 1978).
- Speiser, E.A. *Genesis*. AB (2nd ed. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1978).
- *Wenham, G. *Genesis 1-15*. Vol. 1 and *Genesis 16-50*. Vol 2 in WBT (Waco, TX: Word Books, 1987).
- *Westermann, C. *Genesis*. 3 Vols. Tr. John J. Scullion (Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1984-1986).

Archaeology and Historicity of Abraham:

NOTE: ♦Hard copy of article available on request.

- ♦Archer, G. "Old Testament History and Recent Archaeology—From Abraham to Moses," *Bsac* 127 (1970) 3-25.
- ♦Kitchen, K A. "The Old Testament in its Context: 1: From the Origins to the Eve of the Exodus," *TSF Bulletin* 59 (1971) 2-10.
- ♦*Millard, A.R, and D. J. Wiseman, eds. *Essays on the Patriarchal Narratives* (Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1983).
- Thompson, T.L, *The Historicity of the Patriarchal Narratives: The Quest for the Historical Abraham*. BZAW 133 (Berlin/New York: de Gruyter, 1974).
- Van Seters, J. *Abraham in History and Tradition* (New Haven: Yale University, 1975).
- ♦Wiseman, D. J. "Abraham in History and Tradition," *Bsac* 134 (1977) 123-30, 228-37.

Archeology and the Historicity of Noah:

NOTE: ♦Hard copy of article available on request.

- Clough, C.A. *A Calm Appraisal of the Genesis Flood* (Th.M. thesis, Dallas Theological Seminary, 1968).
- Dundes, A. (ed.) *The Flood Myth* (Berkeley/Los Angeles/London: University of California Press, 1988).
- *Filby, F. A. *The Flood Reconsidered: A review of the evidences of geology, archaeology, and ancient literature and the Bible* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1970).
- Frymer-Kensky, T. "What the Babylonian Flood Stories Can and Cannot Teach Us About the Genesis Flood," *BAR* 4/4 (1974) 32-41.
- ♦Hallo, W. W. "Antediluvian Cities," *JCS* 23 (1970-71) 57-67.

- “Genesis and Ancient Near Eastern Literature,” in *The Torah A Modern Commentary*. Vol. I: *Genesis*. Ed. W. Plaut (New York: Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 1974) XXIV-XXXIV.
- ◆ Kikawada, I. and A. Quinn. *Before Abraham Was: The Unity of Genesis 1-11* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1985).
- Morris, H. M. and J. C. Whitcomb. *The Genesis Flood* (Philadelphia, 1962).
- ◆ *Young, D.A. “The Discovery of Terrestrial History,” in *Portraits of Creation: Biblical and Scientific Perspectives on the World’s Formation*, H. J. Van Till, et al (eds.). (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1990).