

LUTHERAN SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AT CHICAGO
Course Profile

Semester: Fall, 2008

Instructor: Ralph W. Klein

Course: **B-310A Pentateuch and Wisdom Literature: Instruction for Life**

STATEMENT OF GOALS:

The purpose of this course is to survey the content and the basic hermeneutical issues of the Pentateuch and the Wisdom Literature in the Old Testament, to study selected pericopes from these books on the basis of the English Bible, to acquire a working knowledge of the political and theological history of Israel from its beginnings through the end of the United Monarchy, and to practice applying the biblical message to today's issues.

OUTLINE AND CONTENT OF THE COURSE:

*Note: This course will be enriched by PowerPoint presentation software, displaying artifacts from the Ancient Near East and highlighting the interpretation of the Pentateuch and Wisdom Literature in art. This course is also supported by the Jenzabar Learning Management System at <http://lstcnet.lstc.edu/ics> and by the instructor's personal website *The Old Testament and the Ancient Near East* <http://prophetess.lstc.edu/~rklein/>.*

Introduction: The Hebrew Bible and the Christian Canon

I. Genesis

- A. Introduction to Pentateuchal Research
- B. Primeval History
- C. Abraham and Sarah
- D. Jacob and Leah/Rachel
- E. Joseph

II. The Middle Books of the Pentateuch

- A. The Exodus from Egypt
- B. The Laws at Sinai
- C. Leviticus and Numbers
- D. Deuteronomy

III. The Wisdom Literature

- A. Proverbs
- B. Job
- C. Ecclesiastes/Qoheleth

WORK TO BE REQUIRED IN THE COURSE:

1. Completion of all readings and answering of all questions on Study Guide.
2. Active Class Participation.
3. Mid Term and Final Examinations.

4. Book Report and an exegetical paper.
5. Quizzes on Israel's history.

BIBLIOGRAPHY :

Textbooks:

Coogan, Michael D. *The Old Testament: A Historical and Literary Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.

Also recommended: Commentaries on Genesis, Exodus, Deuteronomy and the Wisdom Literature; C. Newsom and S. Ringe, [The Women's Bible Commentary](#).