

# BBL220 Pentateuch



**Pathways**

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For the Acadeum Course Sharing Consortium



*We're delighted to have you study at RMC! Please note the following policies:*

We try our best to ensure you get the most from the courses in which you are enrolled and welcome your feedback!

**Online Courtesy**

As beings created in the image of God, we all deserve to be treated with the utmost respect whether we are a facilitator or a student. Online courses give us the opportunity to encourage social interaction, relationship building and trust between participants which befits our status as image-bearers. Failure to show respect in course interchange, through emails, announcements, discussion forums or instant chat, whether in the form of racism, chauvinism or simple unkindness is ungracious and inappropriate for the health of Christian community. Where mutual respect exists, the possibility of learning is enhanced for all.

Therefore, please remember that there is a person behind every comment on the course website – when you respond, be gracious, give the benefit of the doubt and ask for clarification. Review your comments in the discussion forums for tone before submitting them – sarcasm and jokes often do not translate well in the online environment. Be sure your messages are clear – it is tempting to quickly write a response and submit it but this can lead to confusion if your thoughts are a bit jumbled – take time to polish your remarks. Remember that your comments, whether in emails or discussion forums can become public so act accordingly.

**RMC Grading Policy**

**Grade GradePoint**

A+	4.0	
A	4.0	A = Excellent - superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
A-	3.7	
B+	3.3	
B	3.0	B = Good - clearly above average performance with knowledge of the subject matter generally complete.
B-	2.7	
C+	2.3	
C	2.0	C = Satisfactory — basic understanding of subject matter.
C-	1.7	
D+	1.3	
D	1.0	D = Inferior work which falls below the expectations of the course but which is of passing quality.
D-	0.7	
F	0.0	F = Failure to meet the minimum standards required for a passing grade.
P	Pass	P = Represents satisfactory work. Given only in courses specially designated for Pass /Fail grading.
IN		Incomplete
VW		Voluntary Withdrawal from a course before the course withdrawal deadline.

**Grading Scale**

A+ 97-100	A 93-96	A- 89-92
B+ 85-88	B 80-84	B- 76-79
C+ 72-75	C 67-71	C- 60-66
D 55-59	F 0-54	

## Plagiarism & Academic Misconduct at Rocky Mountain College

### A. Plagiarism Defined

**Plagiarism** - involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Plagiarism exists when:

1. the work submitted was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting the work,
2. parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
3. the whole work is copied from another source, and/or
4. a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence.

### B. Penalties

1. **Failing Grade** - a student may be given a failing grade in either the assignment or course in which that student is found guilty of plagiarism. Except in circumstances in which leniency is warranted, this penalty will be applied in conjunction with one or other of the other penalties mentioned below.
2. **Disciplinary Probation** - when a student is placed on disciplinary probation, he or she is entitled to proceed with their academic program. If the student is found guilty of a further academic offence the student will be suspended or expelled.
3. **Suspension** - suspension takes place when a student is denied continuance at the college for a specified period of time. A student who has been placed under suspension is eligible to reapply for admission after the end of that specified period of time. Suspension does not imply automatic readmission; a student must satisfy the dean of his/her eligibility for readmission.
4. **Expulsion** - a student who is expelled is dismissed permanently from the college with no right to apply for readmission.

### C. Penalties and Their Application

1. In cases in which the dean is satisfied that a student is guilty of a clear intention to deceive, the normal penalty will be either suspension or expulsion from the college.
2. In cases in which the dean is satisfied that an offence has been committed, but doubt is left as to the existence of a clear intention to deceive, the normal penalty will be disciplinary probation.
3. In cases where a student is found guilty of more than a single offence, the normal penalty will be expulsion from the college.

*Copies of the official policy regarding Plagiarism and other academic offenses can be found on the RMC website. If charged with plagiarism, it would be wise for a student to familiarize themselves with the RMC policy, "Plagiarism, Cheating & Academic Misconduct."*

This policy is based on the University of Calgary policy "Plagiarism, Cheating & Academic Misconduct - 1996-97" Copyright © 1998 University of Calgary

**BBL220 PENTATEUCH**  
**Rocky Mountain College**  
**Credits: 3**

**I COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A foundational study of the first five books of the Bible with emphasis on its various developing themes, such as creation, sin, redemption, law, land, blessing and curses, and covenant. Included are character studies of representative persons such as Abraham, Moses, Hagar and Jacob. The Sinai event and tabernacle worship are studied in relation to Christian faith today, while implications for Christian discipleship are drawn from Israel's wilderness experience and sanctification of time. Themes will be analyzed and discussed with a view to appropriate application to New Testament theology and group and personal spiritual formation.

**II GENERAL OBJECTIVES**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Place Genesis through Deuteronomy in their ancient Near Eastern historical, geographical and cultural settings.
- B. Articulate the general structure and themes of the first five books of the Old Testament, along with theories of authorship and dating.
- C. Recognize how knowledge of the Pentateuch and its themes is essential to understanding the New Testament and to contemporary faith and life.
- D. Reflect upon the character traits/choices of key representative persons in the Pentateuch and apply those insights to current community and personal discipleship.
- E. Possess a basic understanding of the developing role of law (both universal and particular to the Hebrew people) and make appropriate application to contemporary faith expression.
- F. Discern methods used by God (through God's people) to shape persons and communities of faith throughout the Pentateuch and contextualize these means to specific 21<sup>st</sup> century contexts.
- G. Draw closer to God by reflective journeying through the Pentateuch in community with other travellers.

**III COURSE ORGANIZATION**

**A. Required Texts**

1. The Bible (preferably NASB, NRSV or NLT versions).
2. Hamilton, Victor P. *Handbook to the Pentateuch, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker House, 2005. (Abbreviated in modules as **HP**); and
3. Assigned readings (as set forth in the course modules).

## B. Recommended Texts

The following books will greatly enhance your study for this course and will be beneficial throughout your Christian ministry:

1. A detailed Bible atlas (e.g., *The NIV Atlas of the Bible* or *The Macmillan Bible Atlas*).
2. Alexander, T. Desmond and Baker David W., eds. *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003.
3. Alexander, T. Desmond. *From Paradise to the Promised Land: An Introduction to the Main Themes of the Pentateuch, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2002.
4. Sailhamer, John H. *The Pentateuch as Narrative*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1992.

## C. Class Atmosphere/Attendance

Learning is predicated upon mutual respect and humility evidenced in professor/student and student/student relationships that convey genuine welcome. Such a “safe” climate facilitates discovery and growth for all class members.

Regular presence and prepared participation enriches everyone’s learning experience, especially in discussion-based, online education. Lack of engagement impedes everyone’s learning and silence is never “golden.” Grade reductions will occur for failure to participate or not completing the reading prior to posting/discussing.

In the event of an emergency (i.e., health issues or family crises), students must inform the facilitator immediately so that necessary adjustments can be made and so that we can engage in prayerful intercession for the circumstances.

## D. Assignments

1. **Readings** must be completed prior to each module’s required postings/conferences so that students are able to participate in meaningful ways.

The following signed statement must be submitted for each module. “I completed this module’s assigned reading on (insert date and signature).”

2. **Postings and Discussion Groups**
3. **WIKI – “Covenant” Retreat**

Plan and outline a weekend retreat for a group of your choice in which you will enact a “symbolic” blood covenant ritual to bond the group to the meaning of being a disciple of Jesus Christ. Ensure you use all steps of the ritual.

Describe your intended group, context and the desired goal(s) of each step of the ritual.

This requirement is described in Module 3.

#### **4. Sermon or Bible Study Outline**

Outline (as follows) a sermon or Bible study drawn from the life of Hagar, Dinah or Tamar.

- Goal/Purpose of This Message/Lesson: up to 3
- Context: where and to whom would this message be preached or study taught?
- Outline: include chapter & verse references
- Application(s): be specific; a practice or action in response to the preached/taught word

This assignment is described in Module 5.

#### **5. PowerPoint Presentation – Sanctification of Time**

Each class member will research assigned festivals described in the Pentateuch and then compile a PowerPoint presentation. The required format is set forth in Module 9. For cohort sessions of this course, individual presentations will then be assembled into one composite resource that each of us can use throughout our ministries.

#### **6. Final Project/Journal – Testament of My Journey**

This assignment is to be worked on progressively throughout the course. In Module 11, you will conduct a close editing of your journal to fulfill the requirements set forth in Module 1 of this course. This project takes the place of a final exam or research paper so keen attention to quality of presentation and content is necessary.

### **E. Evaluation**

Course will be graded in accordance with page 1 of this syllabus.

Allocation of overall grade is as follows:

Reading & Related Quizzes	25%
Postings & Discussion Groups	20%
WIKI "Covenant" Retreat	10%
Sermon or Bible Study Outline	10%
PowerPoint "Sanctification of Time"	10%
Final Project – Testament of My Journey	<u>25%</u>
	<b>100%</b>

### **The Shema**

*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.  
Love the LORD your God with all your heart  
and with all your soul and with all your strength.  
These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.  
Impress them on your children.  
Talk about them with you walk along the road,  
when you lie down and when you get up.  
Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.  
Write them down on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.*

**Deuteronomy 6:4-9**

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