

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

BOT 641 Studies in the Pentateuch: Genesis 1-11 in Relation to Science

Roger D. Cotton

Spring, 2002

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An intensive exegetical and theological study of Genesis 1-11, and discussion of readings on the relationship between those scriptures and the observations and theories of scientists today. Special attention will be given to issues of creation and evolution, chronology, the image of God in humans, the fall, and the flood.

OBJECTIVES

Upon the successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Explain one's own exegetical and theological analysis of the major issues of Genesis 1-11.
2. Summarize the important principles involved in a healthy discussion of each of the major issues in Genesis 1-11, particularly in relation to modern science, and including a survey of the major positions taken by conservatives.
3. Distinguish between tradition and Bible truth, between fact and theory, between presupposition and inductive conclusions, and between essential and nonessential differences of opinion.

TEXTBOOKS

Required:

Moreland, J. P., and John Mark Reynolds, eds. *Three Views on Creation and Evolution*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999.

Ross, Hugh. *The Genesis Question*, 2^d ed. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2001.

Re commended:

Hamilton, Victor P. *The Book of Genesis: Chapters 1-17*. NICOT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990.

BASIC OUTLINE

1. Exegesis and theology of Genesis 1-5
2. *The Genesis Question* chapters 1-15 and issues of creation and time
3. Evolution theory and *Three Views on Creation and Evolution*
4. Exegesis and theology of Genesis 6-8
5. The Flood and science
6. Exegesis and theology of Genesis 9 and 10 and relation to world history
7. Exegesis and theology of Genesis 11 and relation to the history of languages
8. Genesis 1-11 in relation to 12, the rest of Genesis, and the message of the Bible.

METHODOLOGY

Discussion of readings, and class presentations of research projects on the issues.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Class attendance is expected; maximum allowable absences is four (4) class periods. Please talk to the professor about your absences.

1. Be prepared for each class to discuss the readings assigned. The Bible passages being covered for the particular class should be read along with some of the best commentaries like Hamilton. Some special readings may be added.
2. Read *The Genesis Question* as the course proceeds.
3. Turn in, on Tuesday, February 12, a typed, 4-6 page review and response essay on *Three Views on Creation and Evolution* and be prepared to discuss it.
4. Read, along with Ross, some further material, to be assigned, on the Flood for discussion on Friday, February 14.
5. Present a 20-25 minute summary, with an outline handout, to the class of the arguments involved in and your conclusions on any issue of your choice from Genesis 1-11, approved by the professor by January 24, on the appropriate date on the course calendar worked out with the professor. This should involve thorough research in the best exegetical and scientific sources and the answers for the positions contrary to the student's conclusions. [If the student is absolutely unable to do a class presentation, another method of delivery must be negotiated with the professor.]
6. Present in class a studied response to the presentation by another student immediately following that presentation.
7. Write an essay final exam over the course, Thursday, April 25, at 10:15 a.m.

Late work will be penalized 1 point per day late using a 12 point scale (12=A, 1=F).

GRADING PROCEDURE

Reading assignments and class participation	13%	
<i>Three Views</i> review and response	20%	
Class presentation	33%	
Response to a class presentation		12%
Essay Final Exam	22%	

SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by Roger D. Cotton, Th.D., December, 2001.

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