

## OT 806/522 Pentateuch Book: Deuteronomy

July 1, 2, 3 and 8, 9

\*Please Note: July 3 will be spent off-campus (might include a minimal additional cost)

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Summer 2019

Last revised: May 19, 2019

**Missio exists to produce missional Christian leaders-  
men and women who incarnate the story of Jesus with humility and authenticity and who  
communicate the story with fidelity to Scripture, appreciation of the Christian tradition,  
and sensitivity to the needs and aspirations of postmodern culture.**

### INSTRUCTOR

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Office Hours: by appointment via Skype, phone, or in person at a local coffee shop. Contact me by email or voice mail to schedule an appointment.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

The book of Deuteronomy is unique in the Pentateuch. Far from being a boring legal morass, Deuteronomy contains a series of sermons used to educate, encourage, and remind the Israelites of who they are as God's people. This course will examine the unique role Deuteronomy plays in the Pentateuch, and we will grapple with what to do with the Old Testament law codes. The course will then slowly move through the book and study how Deuteronomy casts a vision for how to live in an ideal place created to reflect God's vision of right-relatedness in the world. Finally, the course will examine how biblical writers (from prophets to psalmists and Gospel writers) reflect on and interpret the book of Deuteronomy.

### PERSONAL NOTE FROM THE PROFESSOR

I love the book of Deuteronomy—a statement that normally prompts people to cock their head to one side, lift up an eyebrow, and give me a worried look. But it is true; the book has a special place in my heart. Deuteronomy calls people to remember who they are and who their God is, and it urges people to use that memory as motivation for making faith decisions.

Recently, I have also developed a love for Place. I have been nomadic for most of my adult life, but after working in Israel/Palestine and teaching about the importance of geography on biblical interpretation, I have come to respect the power of place. Western individualism embedded in a global economy does not encourage much consideration of place. However, people are influenced by their physical context just as much as people change and manipulate their environment.

These two loves of mine, Deuteronomy and Place, are natural conversation partners since the whole structure of the book of Deuteronomy is designed to address how people can live in place well. It will be our task to engage this conversation and then to work together to brainstorm how this knowledge can impact our churches and our communities today.

~Dr. Parker

### SYLLABUS

This syllabus provides an overview of the course and course requirements. Students are responsible to know the content of the syllabus and follow the course schedule. Questions about the syllabus or schedule should be emailed

to the professor promptly and will generally be answered in an email or to the entire class so that everyone is informed

**PROGRAM GOALS AND COURSE OBJECTIVES**

PROGRAM GOALS	COURSE OBJECTIVES
Students will cultivate grace-based missional lives increasingly characterized by the fruit of the Spirit, and love for God and others.	<i>At the successful completion of this course, students should be able to:</i> 1. Engage new ideas with humility, and be open to opportunities to grow in wisdom and obedience to God by (re)aligning our story to HIS story. 2. Develop professional behavior towards one’s work and towards one’s student community and towards one’s professional community. 3. Wrestle collectively with challenging texts and ask of each other how to be leaders who orient people towards God.
Students will cultivate knowledge of the Bible and ability to humbly interpret and apply it in light of history, culture and genre.	4. Explain how Deuteronomy is similar and different to other Pentateuchal books. 5. Expound major themes in Deuteronomy such as Land Theology, Chosen Place, Leadership Design, and Social Justice.

**COURSE ASSESSMENTS AND HOMEWORK HOURS**

Assessments are graded assignments that measure a student’s mastery of the course content. Homework is course work in addition to the instruction listed above.

ASSESSMENTS AND HOMEWORK HOURS*	RELATED OBJECTIVES	PERCENT OF GRADE	ESTIMATED TIME
Attendance, Participation	All	20	
Reading, videos, and online forums	1, 2, 5	10	50
Response to “Place” paper	1, 2, 5	10	10
Deuteronomy Paper	1, 2, 4, 5	30	35
Final exam	4,5	30	10
<b>Total estimated time on homework</b>		100%	105 hrs.

## REQUIRED READING AND MATERIALS

**NOTE:** Hyperlinks to Amazon.com are placed here for your convenience. Please be aware that there may be other websites (by publishers or by other ebook publishers) that may sell the same item for cheaper prices. Please shop around! Check out [bookbutler.com](http://bookbutler.com) for comparative prices. In addition, some sites offer ebook rental prices for a limited number of weeks. These may also be cost effective. Just be sure to buy the right edition and recognize some of the smaller sellers may not deliver books in a timely fashion.

### **Books**

(ThM) Block, Daniel. *How I love your Torah, O Lord!: Studies in the Book of Deuteronomy*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2011.

Tigay, Jeffrey H. *The JPS Torah Commentary: Deuteronomy*. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 1996.

### **Article:**

Myrto Theocharous, "[Let Deuteronomy Awaken Your Inner Child](#)" in *Christianity Today*, 2016. Complete this reading PRIOR TO OUR FIRST CLASS

### **Video:**

Students must watch the "Place" video first and then the three TED talk videos. A response paper will be required ON OUR FIRST CLASS (July 1).

## RECOMMENDED MATERIALS

Alter, Robert. *The Five Books of Moses*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2004.

Altmann, Peter. *Festive Meals in Ancient Israel: Deuteronomy's Identity Politics in the Ancient Near Eastern Context*. Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft, Band 424. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2011.

Baker, David L. *Tight Fists or Open Hands? Wealth and Poverty in Old Testament Law*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 2009.

Berquist, Jon and Claudia Camp, eds. *Constructions of Space I: Theory, Geography and Narrative*. Library of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies 481. New York: T & T Clark, 2007.

———. *Constructions of Space II: The Biblical City and Other Imagined Spaces*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2008.

Berry, Wendell. *The Art of the Common-Place: The Agrarian Essays of Wendell Berry*. Edited by Norman Wirzba. Berkeley: Counterpoint, 2002.

Blenkinsopp, Joseph. 'Memory, Tradition, and the Construction of the Past in Ancient Israel.' Pages 1–17 in *Treasures Old and New: Essays in the Theology of the Pentateuch*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 2004.

Block, Daniel. *Deuteronomy. The NIV Application Commentary*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2012.

Bouma-Prediger, Steven and Brian J. Walsh. *Beyond Homelessness*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2008.

Brueggemann, Walter. 'The Loss and Recovery of Creation in Old Testament Theology.' *Theology Today*, 53 (1996): 177–190.

———. *Deuteronomy*. Abingdon Old Testament Commentaries. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2001.

Casey, Edward S. *Getting Back into Place: Toward a Renewed Understanding of the Place-World*. 2nd ed. Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2009.

Craigie, Peter C. *The Book of Deuteronomy*. The New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1976.

Davis, Ellen. *Scripture, Culture, and Agriculture: An Agrarian Reading of the Bible*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009.

McConville, Gordon. *Deuteronomy*. Apollos Old Testament Commentary. Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP Academic, 2002.

McConville, Gordon and Gary Millar. *Time and Place in Deuteronomy*. JSOTSup Series 179. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1994.

Richter, Sandra. 'Environmental Law in Deuteronomy: One Lens on a Biblical Theology of Creation Care.' *Bulletin for Biblical Research*, vol. 20, no. 3 (2010): 355–376.

Sheldrake, Philip. *Spaces for the Sacred: Place, Memory and Identity*. London: SCM Press, 2001.

Shils, Edward. 'Centre and Periphery.' Pages 117–130 in *The Logic of Personal Knowledge: Essays Presented to Michael Polanyi*. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1961.

Tuan, Yi-Fu. *Space and Place: The Perspective of Experience*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1977.

Weinfeld, Moshe. *Deuteronomy 1–11*. The Anchor Bible Commentary. New York: Doubleday, 1991.

Wenham, Gordon. 'Deuteronomy and the Central Sanctuary.' *Tyndale Bulletin* 22 (1971): 103–118.

Wright, Christopher J. H. *Deuteronomy*. New International Biblical Commentary. Massachusetts: Hendrickson, 1996.

———. *Old Testament Ethics for the People of God*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2004.

## COURSE PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS

### Attendance Policy and Grades

We have a limited amount of time together in class. I expect all of us to respect each other's time and effort to arrive on time despite our busy schedules. For the sake of professionalism, I will take attendance at the beginning of class.

**Participation points will be deducted for every late arrival or missed class. The student is responsible for all material covered in class (even for excused absences!).**

Students are also expected to login to the E-campus course site regularly and participate in the course activities in a timely manner. If you know you are going to be absent from the course site for more than three or four days, please notify the instructor and group members (if applicable) in advance. Nevertheless, recognize that your grade may be lowered for tardiness or absences at the discretion of the instructor.

Attendance in this course constitutes both 1) coming to class and 2) logging in to the E-campus course site and participating in the online or out-of-class activities assigned throughout the course. Students are responsible for reading and familiarizing themselves with the material posted on the E-campus course site throughout the course.

Student usage of the course site is tracked by the E-campus software and monitored by the professor of the course. Students who need to be absent from the course site for three or more days during a discussion forum activity or required web conference should email the professor in advance of the absence (see Attendance Policy and Grades in this syllabus). Students may email the instructor at any time if they have questions about the course.

### Completion of Course Work

*All assignments must be handed in to pass the class.* All course work should be completed by the last day of classes for the term or by the date posted in the course syllabus. Extensions to this time limit will be made only by the academic administration committee. The individual faculty member does not have the authority to grant any extensions of time beyond the last class of the term. Requests for extensions must be made in writing to the committee at least one week prior to the last day of classes. Variance forms for this purpose are available in the academic office or on Missio's website. All requests should specify the reasons for the extension and the length of the extension desired. Requests are not automatically granted.

*Late Work:* Assignments submitted after the time specified on the syllabus will automatically be deducted **3 points** for every late day. All assignments must be completed to pass the course.

*Online submissions:* Assignments that are requested for submission online should be formatted in the following way: Heading with Student's name, Professor's name, Assignment's Name. One inch margins. Single spaced. Use Times New Roman 12pt. font (or something similar). Present your paper in a professional way.

*Printed paper submissions:* Assignments should include a heading on the first page with the Student's name, Professor's Name, Assignment's Name. Do not use a title page. The paper should be single space with 1" margins and 12pt. Times New Roman font. Please number the pages and include a Bibliography.

*Rubrics:* All rubrics for submitted assignments will be posted online. Also note the added articles for helpful hints for writing successful essays.

*Plagiarism:* In this class we follow the seminary's policies on plagiarism as outlined in the Student Handbook. Remember, if you use someone else's words, put them in quotations and cite the source in a footnote. If you refer to someone else's idea, even if you summarize, you must cite the source. ***Do not cut and paste full paragraphs.*** Each essay is to be your own work and not a long series of quotes from others.

*Disability Accommodation:* Missio complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you believe you have a condition which will require accommodation, please refer to the Missio Student Handbook and follow the procedures outlined. Please review this syllabus carefully and make an appointment with the professor to discuss any assignments for which you believe you will need accommodation according to the arrangements made with the dean.

*Student Laptop Security Statement:* Missio recognizes the need for computer use throughout the entire educational process today. Computers equipped with Internet access and applications that help deliver information and knowledge are vital. Students are encouraged to bring their electronic computing devices to campus to facilitate their course work and supplemental activities. Given the current climate of online dangers such as viruses, malware, phishing scams, and other related risks it is critical to secure all such devices regardless if they are being used on campus or not. Please take the appropriate steps to safeguard the security of your own electronic devices to protect the integrity of the student network on campus and provide a safe computing environment for everyone to use. Contact the Academic Office if you have any questions about this statement.

## **ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS AND GRADING**

### **Reaction to Place: 1,000 words**

After watching the introduction video to concepts of "Place" and the significance of thinking about place for forming theology, please watch the TED talks. These people are not necessarily speaking from a biblical point of view, but they deal with issues of place, and each one transforms place to the benefit of the whole community. Use the following prompting questions to take notes as you watch these videos.

1. Theaster is using an artistic lens, but can the church also embrace the necessity of thinking through "our capacity to shape things." Take notes on how he shapes "place" and how the community responds to him. Theaster shows a drawing of a house and associated activities. Imagine the church is the house in the middle. What activities are offered in your church? Who are the people who are drawn to the building due to those activities? Do you have as wide of a variety of visitors as Theaster? What struck you most about how Theaster thinks through how to invest in a neighborhood while keeping the integrity of the neighborhood?
2. Amanda Burdon speaks of city planning, but can you think of ways these questions can be a benefit to the church? Write the questions that Amanda Burden asks of a successful public places. As she is talking, think about your own interactions in public places and see if you resonate with her observations. About 2/3 of the way through the video Amanda makes significant observations about Place. Take note. There is something profound about knowing how people interact with places.
3. Before you watch Soil and Sacrament, read Genesis 2 and take note about issues of eating and food. Also note what the first words are spoken to the human in Genesis 2. Think about his reactions to theology and place.

Think through what you are learning about place. This will greatly influence the way we read Deuteronomy. Organize your thoughts about everything you learned in the videos. Pay attention to how you interact with your physical environment — in your neighborhood or in your church. Write a paper that summarizes why Place is important and tangible ways people invest in Place. How do you see yourself investing in or ignoring Place. Conclude with any ideas you may have about the benefit of the Church being mindful about Place.

### **Online Forum**

Write a 500 word response to our Wednesday outing. What was challenging, what was engaging? What new insights do you have about people in the Bible or your own engagement of Place. This is not a formal writing assignment (can be more like a journal entry). The paper is your chance to pause and think about how our readings are relevant to Christian thought and formation. Papers receive a "Pass+" for thoughtfulness and for references to the biblical text *and to our reading material*, a "Pass" for a "fine" answer that is completed on time, "Pass-" for a late assignment, and a "Fail" for not turning the reflection paper in.

**Final Exam:** the final will be available online on July 10th. Students must finish before July 13 at 11:59 pm. It is a closed note, closed Bible, closed book exam. It will cover material from the lectures and readings. A review sheet will be posted online.

**Deuteronomy Paper: 4,500 words (ThM) or 3,000 words (MDiv or MA)**

Students will choose from paper topics as handed out in class. This is a formal paper and must follow proper formatting guidelines. Paper must be submitted online by 23:59 on August 2, 2019.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

DATE	ASSIGNMENTS DUE TODAY	IN CLASS	HOMEWORK FOR NEXT WEEK
WEEKS BEFORE CLASS BEGINS	Read Theodorou's article. Watch the intro video of Place Watch the three TED talks Prepare to complete the paper due by our first class.		Read through the book of Deuteronomy before class begins. Read Introduction of Tigay's Commentary pp xi-xix and the corresponding chapters for Deuteronomy 1-11 in Tigay's commentary. Read Block, pp. 1-60
July 1	Paper 1: Reaction to Place	<b>Introduction to Deuteronomy Understanding the Land of Milk and Honey</b>	
July 2		<b>Memory and Land Foundation of the Law</b>	
July 3		<b>OFF CAMPUS: Exploring the significance of land and memory</b>	Online forum: Response to experiential education event **Bring food to class to share at lunch time. Read Block
July 8	Forum 2: Experiential Education Bring food to share at lunch!	<b>Feasting Set Apart and Holy</b>	
July 9		<b>Community Responsibility Deuteronomy in the Biblical Canon</b>	Final Exam due July 13th. Final paper due August 2nd.

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY AND ACADEMIC POLICIES**

1. **Academic Policies:** Students are fully responsible to know and follow all seminary rules, regulations, and deadlines published in the Academic Catalog and all requirements concerning their degree programs. See the e-campus home page.
2. **Course Syllabus:** Students are fully responsible to know and fulfill the requirements stated in the course syllabus. Students should email the professor about issues related to course work and deadlines during the course. See above under "completion of course work" for policies on course extensions.

3. **E-campus Course Site:** Students are fully responsible for course content and materials that are posted on the course site. Students are encouraged to check the course site frequently during the course. Students who experience difficulty accessing or using the E-campus should email [helpdesk@biblical.edu](mailto:helpdesk@biblical.edu) and include their student ID# in their correspondence.
  
4. **Academic and General Integrity:** As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to integrity and Christ-likeness in all areas of life. What this means in the academic realm is that the completion of all assignments and assessments are to reflect your own work. Students found guilty of cheating or plagiarism will receive a grade of zero on the assessment and will follow the process outlined in the Academic Catalog. See the Academic Catalog for more information on plagiarism and policies related to cheating and plagiarism.
  
5. **Student PC Security Statement:** Missio recognizes the need for computer use throughout the entire educational process today. Computers equipped with Internet access and applications that help deliver information and knowledge are vital. Students are encouraged to bring their electronic computing devices to campus to facilitate their course work and supplemental activities. Given the current climate of online dangers such as viruses, malware, phishing scams, and other related risks it is critical to secure all such devices regardless if they're being used on campus or not. Please take the appropriate steps to safeguard the security of your own electronic devices to protect the integrity of the student network on campus and provide a safe computing environment for everyone to use.

## GRADING SYSTEM

To remain in good academic standing, a student must maintain the grade point average designated for his or her program.

A	4.00	93.0–100	Excellent
A-	3.67	90.00–92.9	
B+	3.33	87.0–89.9	
B	3.00	83.0–86.9	Good
B-	2.67	80.0–82.9	
C+	2.33	77.0–79.9	
C	2.00	73.0–76.9	Fair
C-	1.70	70.0–72.9	
D+	1.30	67.0–69.9	Poor
D	1.00	63.0–66.9	
D-	0.70	60.0–62.9	
F	0.00	0.0–59.9	Failing