

**THE TORAH STORY BI-112-M**  
Bible and Theology [3 credits]  
Spring 2018, Christian Life College-Madison

**I. INSTRUCTORS AND ADMINISTRATION**

Although this course will utilize many capable and qualified instructors, the lead instructor for the course will be Kevin Phillips (kevin4918n@yahoo.com).

Further information about this course is available through email at [CLCM@citychurchonline.org](mailto:CLCM@citychurchonline.org) or by phone at 608-221-1528, ext. 302. Complete information about CLCM is available at: <http://www.citychurchonline.org/christian-life-college> or by contacting the Academic Dean, Greg Pechacek ([gpechacek@citychurchonline.org](mailto:gpechacek@citychurchonline.org)) or the Registrar, Nancy Van Maren ([nvanmaren@citychurchonline.org](mailto:nvanmaren@citychurchonline.org)).

**II. SCHEDULE**

Thursday evenings, January 25, 2018 to May 10, 2018, with class times from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. There is no class on March 15, Spring Break. CLCM meets at Abundant Life Christian School, 4901 E. Buckeye Rd., Madison, Room #202.

**III. DESCRIPTION**

The Old Testament serves as the beginning of the revelation of God's heart for humanity, leading to the New Testament faith we embrace. The Apostle Paul emphasized study of the Old Testament with two reminders: "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope" (Romans 15:4, NIV). The Torah Story will address introductory and background material from the first five books (also known as the Pentateuch) of the Christian Bible as well as themes and passages of greater theological importance. The relationship of the Torah to its historical, cultural, religious and literary context will also be explored.

**IV. OBJECTIVES**

1. To know the basic content of the Pentateuch, and its people, events, and major theological themes.
2. To understand the nature of Creation, and the "image of God" that describes humanity.
3. To understand the beginning of the line of redemption that is fulfilled in Christ, and necessitated by The Fall.
4. To gain an appreciation of God's leading His people and the formation of a nation.
5. To gain an understanding of the Law and the building of the nation of Israel upon it.
6. To become comfortable reading and interpreting Old Testament literature.
7. To discover both personal application of the message of the Pentateuch and themes that relate to today's church.
8. To gain a greater understanding of the Character and ways of God.

**V. TEXTBOOKS**

1. Required: (Students are responsible for obtaining their own books)
  - a. *The Torah Story* by Gary Edward Schnittjer (Zondervan, 2006)
  - b. *How to Read Genesis* by Tremper Longman III (IVP, 2005)

2. Recommended:
  - a. *Handbook on the Pentateuch* by Victor Hamilton (Baker, 1982)
  - b. *Genesis: A Commentary* by Bruce Waltke (Zondervan, 2001)
  - c. *Genesis* by James McKeown (Eerdmans, 2008)
  - d. *The Pentateuch as Narrative* by John Sailhamer (Zondervan, 1992)
  - e. *The Meaning of the Pentateuch* by John Sailhamer (IVP, 2009)

## VI. REQUIREMENTS

1. Interactive Paper – Students will write a 750 - 1000 word interactive paper on the required textbook, *How to Read Genesis*. As the title suggests, an interaction paper is not a summary of the reading but a way for you to engage with what you are learning. As you write your paper, use the reading as a springboard for discussing your own questions, insights, experiences, struggles, observations, or conclusions. The best interaction papers focus on one or two thoughts that arise from your reading. If you are having trouble getting started, consider questions such as these:
  - a. Where do you find the material helpful, confusing, or frustrating?
  - b. What light does the material shed on your own experience, and vice versa?
  - c. Where do you feel yourself being challenged?
  - d. How does reading material relate to what is being learned in class?
2. Term Paper – Students will write a 2500 - 3000 word paper which answers the question, “Why was the Pentateuch composed?” This paper should seek to integrate the themes of the Pentateuch presented in class and in the reading. It should incorporate such concepts as the purpose of the Pentateuch—not only for its original audience, but also for later generations. The student should ultimately explain the meaning and significance of the Pentateuch for the 21<sup>st</sup> century believer. Be sure to use citations when referring to the textbook, other resources and scripture. Students will find the books in the recommended reading list above helpful for this assignment. All papers should be written in APA style, double spaced, in 12 point, Times New Roman font. For writing and citing help see the APA cheat sheet at: [www.citychurchonline.org/christian-life-college](http://www.citychurchonline.org/christian-life-college).
3. Mid-term and Final Exams – Students will write two examinations based on the lecture material and the main textbook by Schnittjer.
4. Quizzes and Reading Assignments – The Pentateuch will be read carefully and thoroughly in conjunction with the course lectures. Weekly quizzes will be given on this material. See the course syllabus for the dates of these quizzes and the biblical material to be covered each week. If a quiz is missed with a legitimate excuse, the student should see the lead instructor about making it up. However, only three quizzes may be made up during the course of the class.
5. Attendance is mandatory - Failure to attend class will result in a reduced grade after 3 excused absences. Excused absences must be arranged with the lead instructor in advance of any absence. A short email describing the nature and extent of the absence will be sufficient to meet this requirement. Unexcused absences will receive a reduction in grade after the first and subsequent unexcused absences.

**VII. GRADING**

	<b>Percentage</b>
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
Quizzes	15%
Term Paper	20%
Interactive Paper	15%

<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Scores</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>GPA</i>
A	93-100	Excellent	4.00
A-	90-92		3.67
B+	88-89	Very Good	3.33
B	83-87	Good	3.00
B-	80-82	Above Average	2.67
C+	78-79		2.33
C	73-77	Average	2.00
C-	70-72		1.67
D+	68-69	Below Average	1.33
D	63-67	Passing	1.00
D-	60-62		.67
F	0-59	Failure	.00
I		Incomplete	

**VIII. EXTENSIONS:** There will be no extensions in this class except for extenuating family emergencies or medical reasons. Incompletes occur when class work is not completed during the semester. Incompletes automatically become “F” thirty days after the semester ends.

**IX. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** Academic dishonesty constitutes a serious violation of scholarship standards at CLCM and can result in denial of credit and possible dismissal from school. Academic dishonesty includes cheating on assignments or exams, plagiarism, fabrication of research, the facilitation of academic dishonesty, and depriving others of research materials.

**X. CREDIT AND AUDIT**

- A. The current cost of 3 credits is \$375. Fees are due on a schedule of ½ before the first class, and the final ½ before the fourth class. Other arrangements may be made if done with prior approval. Students who pay in full at or before the first class will receive a \$25 discount. Students who register and pay in full at least 2 weeks before the first class will receive an additional \$25 discount. Successful completion of this course will result in 3 credits towards an Associate of Arts degree in Biblical Studies from Christian Life College, Mt. Prospect, Illinois.
- B. This course may be audited for a lecture fee of \$150. Students who pay in full at or before the first class will receive a \$25 discount. Students who register and pay in full at least 2 weeks before the first class will receive an additional \$25 discount. There are no reading, paper, or exam requirements, but auditing students are urged to do all they can to keep in step with the reading and lecture schedule in order to gain the maximum benefit from the course. Graduates of CLCM may audit any course at the greatly reduced price of \$50 per course.
- C. Application Fee – There is a one-time Registration and Application fee of \$25. This one-time fee must accompany every first-time application for enrollment or audit.

## IX. COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Lecture Topic	Assignment	Lecturer
<i>January 25 Week 1</i>	Introduction of The Torah, Macro-view of Genesis, The Beginning	Textbook: Chapters 1 - 4 Bible: Genesis 1 – 2:4	Kevin Phillips
<i>February 1 Week 2</i>	The Garden & the Fall, the Exile The Flood and the Nations	Textbook: Chapters 5-6 Bible: Genesis 2:4 – 11 Bible Reading Quiz 1	Isaac Fleming
<i>February 8 Week 3</i>	Abraham & Jacob Narratives	Textbook: Chapters 7-8 Bible: Genesis 12 – 36 Bible Reading Quiz 2	Jason Wood
<i>February 15 Week 4</i>	The Sons of Jacob and Joseph Narratives	Textbook: Chapters 9-10 Bible: Genesis 37 – 50 Bible Reading Quiz 3	Greg Pechacek
<i>February 22 Week 5</i>	Macro-view of Exodus, The River and Bush, the Plagues	Textbook: Chapter 11-12 Bible: Exodus 1-10 Bible Reading Quiz 4	Kevin Phillips
<i>March 1 Week 6</i>	The Exodus and Passover	Textbook: Chapter 13 Bible: Exodus 11-15 Interactive Paper Due	Elliott Pollasch
<i>March 8 Week 7</i>	Testing	Mid-term Examination	Kevin Phillips
<i>March 15 Week 8</i>	Spring Break	Spring Break	N/A
<i>March 22 Week 9</i>	The Wilderness, Sinai, Rebellions, Nation Building	Textbook: Chapters 14-15 Bible: Exodus 16-40 Bible Reading Quiz 5	Elliott Pollasch

<i>March 29 Week 10</i>	Macro-view of Leviticus, Sacrifices Laws of Purity, Worship	Textbook: Chapters 16, 17, 18 Bible: Leviticus 1 – 16 Bible Reading Quiz 6	Nic Gibson
<i>April 5 Week 11</i>	Holiness for the Nation	Textbook: Chapters 18 & 19 Bible: Leviticus 17-27 Bible Reading Quiz 7	Nic Gibson
<i>April 12 Week 12</i>	Macro-view of Numbers The First Generation at Sinai	Textbook: Chapters 20 & 21 Bible: Numbers 1 – 10 Bible Reading Quiz 8	Gill Robertson
<i>April 19 Week 13</i>	Wilderness Wanderings, the Second Generation to Moab	Textbook: Chapters 22 & 23 Bible: Numbers 11 – 36 Bible Reading Quiz 9	Dave Carlson
<i>April 26 Week 14</i>	Macro-view of Deuteronomy, The Words of Moses	Textbook: Chapters 24 & 25 Bible: Deuteronomy 1 – 16 Bible Reading Quiz 10	Tom Flaherty
<i>May 3 Week 15</i>	The Commandments Revisited: The Rules and Regulations of the Nation, A View of the Other Side	Textbook: Chapters 26 - 28 Bible: Deuteronomy 17 – 34 Term Paper Due	Isaac Fleming
<i>May 10 Week 16</i>	Testing	Final Examination	Kevin Phillips

\*All dates and assignments are tentative and may be changed at the discretion of the lead instructor according to the development of the course material. Be alert in class for any announcements of changes.