

OTST 566

Studies in the Pentateuch

Fall 2026

Paul Z. Gregor, PhD

SYNOPSIS OF THE COURSE

CLASS & CONTACT INFORMATION

Class location:	Oklahoma Conference, Oklahoma City, OK
Class meeting times:	Sep 14-17, 2026 Mon – Thurs: 8 am – 12 pm
Course Website:	learninghub.andrews.edu
Instructor Telephone:	269-471-6344
Instructor Email:	pgregor@andrews.edu
Office location:	Seminary Building N 114
Office hours:	TBA

BULLETIN DESCRIPTION OF COURSE

Interpretation of the Torah (Pentateuch) and exegetical study in selected portions of its books (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy).

PROGRAM & COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Your degree program seeks to help you achieve the **Program Learning Outcomes** basic to your chosen profession. Your Program Learning Outcome primarily addressed in this course is:

- 1) Deliver effective biblically-based sermons
- 2) Demonstrate proper biblical interpretation skills
- 3) Understand the historical-theological development of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
- 4) Exhibit capability for training church members for evangelism

- 5) Demonstrate an understanding of how to empower church members for leadership
- 6) Exhibit capability for reaching specific social groups

(The full set of program learning outcomes for your degree program is listed in Appendix 3.)

The following **Course Learning Outcomes** contribute to the overall Program Learning Outcomes by identifying the key learnings to be achieved by diligent work in this course:

1. Understand the world of critical scholarship.
2. Highlight the importance of the Pentateuch in relation to other Scriptures
3. Gain sufficient information dealing with liberal criticism and how to defend biblical historicity and credibility.
4. Achieve knowledge concerning the background in which the books of Pentateuch came into existence.
5. Grasp major themes of the Pentateuch with their importance to the rest of the Holy Scripture.
6. Develop exegetical skills in dealing with certain portions of the Pentateuch.
7. Make critical use of other related literature (commentaries etc).
8. Apply this material to his personal life and to use it in his ministry.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Course topics and assignments have been selected to contribute to learning and evaluating these Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) as follows:

Meeting	Date	Class Topic	Assignments Due
Day 1		Literary Criticism	(SLO 1,3,4,7 MA PO 1)
Day 2		Creation Week	(SLO 2,5,6,8, MA PO 1-4)
Day 3		Creation Week	(SLO 2,4,5,6,8 MA PO 1-4)
Day 4		Covenant	(SLO 2,4,5,6,8 MA PO 1-4)

PRE-INTENSIVE REQUIREMENTS

1. Doukhan, Jacques B. *Genesis*. Seventh-day Adventist International Bible Commentary Series 1. Nampa, ID, Pacific Press, 2016. ISBN: 9780816362486 www.andrews.edu/bookstore.
2. Watching online Pentateuch lectures. Link to access to these lectures will be provided to each student early in Fall semester.

POST-INTENSIVE REQUIREMENTS

1. Take home Exam.

Students will have one final take home exam. **Due before or on November 30, 2026.**

2. Book Report

Every student is required to write book report on Doukhan, Jacques B. *Genesis*. Seventh-day Adventist International Bible Commentary Series 1. Nampa, ID, Pacific Press, 2016.

Due no later than November 30, 2026.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is required at all classes and other academic appointments. When the total number of absences exceeds 10% of the total course appointments, the teacher may assign a failing grade. Merely being absent from campus does not exempt the student from this policy. Absences recorded because of late registration, suspension, and early/late vacation leaves are not excused. The class work missed may be made up only if the teacher allows. Three tardies are equal to one absence.

Class Absences

“Whenever the number of absences exceeds 20% (10% for graduate classes) of the total course appointments, the teacher may give a failing grade. Merely being absent from campus does not exempt the student from this policy. Absences recorded because of late registration, suspension, and early/late vacation leaves are not excused. The class work missed may be made up only if the teacher allows. Three tardies are equal to one absence.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Course Materials

Doukhan, Jacques B. *Genesis*. Seventh-day Adventist International Bible Commentary Series 1. Nampa, ID, Pacific Press, 2016. ISBN: 9780816362486 www.andrews.edu/bookstore. (544pp)

Recommended Course Materials

Jean-Louis Ska, *Introduction to the Reading the Pentateuch* (Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2006).

Hebert Wolf, *An Introduction to the Old Testament Pentateuch* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1991). For ISBN and price information, please see the listing at the Bookstore www.andrews.edu/bookstore.

Norman Whybray, *Introduction to the Pentateuch* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995).

Terence Fretheim, *The Pentateuch* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996). For ISBN and price information, please see the listing at the Bookstore www.andrews.edu/bookstore.

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MORE ABOUT THE COURSE

TIME EXPECTATIONS FOR THE COURSE

US Credit-Hour Regulations

For every semester credit, the Andrews University credit hour definition requires that:

- **Courses for professional masters' degrees (e.g. MDiv)** include 15 instructor contact hours and 30 hours of independent learning activities.
- **Courses for academic masters' (e.g. MA [Religion]) and all doctoral degrees** include 15 instructor contact hours, and 45 hours of independent learning activities.

The calculation of hours is based on the study skills of the average well-prepared graduate student. Students weak in these skills: 1) may require more time and should consider taking fewer classes each semester; and 2) can find skill development assistance through the Seminary Study and Research Skills Colloquia, the AU Writing Center, and AU Student Success office.

In order to achieve the outcomes of this course, learning time will be distributed as follows:

Professional Masters' Programs		
3 Credits		
Instructor Contact Hours	Face to Face Instructional Time	36 hours
	Other Instructor-Directed Activities	9 hours
Independent Learning Activities	Reading	45 hours
	Take Home Exam	15 hours
	Book Report	30 hours
Total Hours:		135 hours

GUIDELINES FOR COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Grades are based on the independent learning activities below which provide practice toward, and assessment of, the learning outcomes of this course. The grade weighting for each assignment is provided in the right-hand column. Specific due dates are given in the Course Overview above.

Criteria for Grades

1. Take home Exam

Students will have one final take home exam. **Due before or on November 30, 2026.**

2. Book Report

Every student is required to write book report on Doukhan, Jacques B. *Genesis*. Seventh-day Adventist International Bible Commentary Series 1. Nampa, ID, Pacific Press, 2016.

Due no later than November 30, 2026.

Assignment Description	Weighting
1. Book Report	20%
2. Take Home Exam	80%
Total	100%

* For grading rubrics that specify grading criteria in more detail, see Appendices.

In order to make grading fair for everyone, grades will be assigned on the basis of the above requirements alone. No individual arrangements will be made for those requesting last minute grade adjustment or extra credit.

Submission of Assignments

Book report must be submitted before or on (time to be determined when class starts)

Late Submission

Late submission is not possible

ABOUT YOUR INSTRUCTOR

Paul and his wife Helena enjoy spending time with their married son Samuel and grandsons Luka and Nikola.



OTHER COURSE-RELATED POLICIES

Academic Integrity

The Seminary expects its students to exhibit rigorous moral integrity appropriate to ministry leaders representing Jesus Christ. Complete honesty in academic matters is a vital component of such integrity. Any breach of academic integrity in this class is subject to discipline. Consequences may include receipt of a reduced or failing grade, suspension or dismissal from the course, suspension or dismissal from the program, expulsion from the university, or degree cancellation. Disciplinary action may be retroactive if academic dishonesty becomes apparent after the student leaves the course, program or university. A record of academic integrity violations is maintained by the University Student Academic Integrity Council. Repeated and/or flagrant offenses will be referred to an Academic Integrity Panel for recommendations on further penalties.

Academic Dishonesty includes:

- Plagiarism in which one fails to give credit every time use is made of another person's ideas or exact words, whether in a formal paper or in submitted notes or assignments. Credit is to be given by use of:
 - Correctly designed and inserted footnotes each time one makes use of another individual's research and/or ideas; and
 - Quotation marks placed around any exact phrases or sentences (3 or more words) taken from the text or speech of another individual.
- Presenting another's work as one's own (e.g., placement exams, homework assignments);
- Using materials during a quiz or examination other than those explicitly allowed by the teacher or program;
- Stealing, accepting, or studying from stolen quizzes or examination materials;
- Copying from another student during a regular or take-home test or quiz;
- Assisting another in acts of academic dishonesty

- Submitting the same work or major portions thereof, without permission from the instructors, to satisfy the requirements of more than one course.

For additional details see: https://www.andrews.edu/academics/academic_integrity.html

Academic Accommodations

If you qualify for accommodation under the American Disabilities Act, please see contact Student Success in Nethery Hall 100 (disabilities@andrews.edu or 269-471-6096) as soon as possible so that accommodations can be arranged.

Use of Electronics

No recording or streaming is permitted in seminary courses.

Courtesy, respect, and professionalism dictate that laptops and cell phones are to be used only for class-related activities during class time.

Communications and Updates

Email is the official form of communication at Andrews University. Students are responsible for checking their Andrews University e-mail, Moodle, and iVue alerts regularly.

LearningHub Access

Andrews University Learning Hub hosts this course online. Your Learning Hub username and password are the same as your Andrews username and password. Use the following contact information if you need technical assistance at any time during the course, or to report a problem with LearningHub.

Username and password assistance	helpdesk@andrews.edu	(269) 471-6016
Technical assistance with Learning Hub	dlit@andrews.edu	(269) 471-3960
Technical assistance with your Andrews account	http://andrews.edu/hdchat/chat.php	

Emergency Protocol

Andrews University takes the safety of its student seriously. Signs identifying emergency protocol are posted throughout buildings. Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting that specific location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during any evacuation or sheltering emergency.

Please Note: The instructor reserves the right to revise the syllabus, with the consensus of the class, at any time during the semester for the benefit of the learning process. The up-to-date Course Description for this course may be found at www.learninghub.andrews.edu .

APPENDIX 1: INTERPRETING LETTER GRADES

Letter Grades and Percentages

94-100%	A	83-86%	B	65-74%	C
90-93%	A-	80-82%	B-	60-64%	C-
87-89%	B+	75-79%	C+	50-59%	D

THE B GRADE

The B grade is a sign that you have competently fulfilled all of the requirements stipulated for an assessment or competency evaluation. It is a very good grade and demonstrates a high level of the knowledge, insight, critical competence and professional presentation standards essential for an individual wishing to pursue a career as a professional leader in ministry.

THE A GRADE

An A grade is given only when a student not only fulfills the criteria for a B grade, but in doing so demonstrates an advanced academic aptitude for content knowledge, critique, synthesis and independent insight, while exhibiting highly developed communication skills and professional publication standards that would allow them to pursue a highly competitive academic career.

THE C GRADE

The C grade differs only from a B grade in that the traits outlined in the B grade above are not consistently applied. However, with diligence and by applying feedback from your lecturer, the academic process can provide opportunity for a student to improve their consistency, and hence, their grade.

THE D GRADE

The D grade points to a limited level of knowledge, insight, and critique, as well as to inadequate quality of written work. This may be because of a lack of time management on the part of the student, difficulty grasping the concepts being taught, use of English as a second language, or a personal issue that is affecting one's concentration and motivation levels. Again, with diligence, applying feedback from your lecturer, and seeking services offered by the University like the writing lab or the counseling center, the academic process can provide an opportunity for a student to significantly improve their performance.

THE F GRADE

A failing grade is given when very limited or no demonstrable competency has been observed.

APPENDIX 2: PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

MASTERS PROGRAMS

1. Master of Divinity (MDiv)

- 1) (Character) Models spiritual humility, maturity and integrity grounded in a living experience with God in joyful assurance of His salvation, nurtured by the sanctifying presence and power of the Holy Spirit.
- 2) (Scholarship) Manifests the practices of a Biblical scholar-theologian engaging the Bible, Christian/Adventist heritage and professional resources with theological maturity for personal growth and for facilitating the theological competence of others.
- 3) (Discipleship & Evangelism) Demonstrates personal commitment, passion and essential skills for discipleship and evangelism, while equipping members to carry out ministry within the scope of the local and global mission of the Seventh-day Adventist church.
- 4) (Leadership) Exercises creative and visionary leadership as a minister and servant of Christ, discerning the needs, spiritual gifts and potential of others, in order to equip and engage in their God-given ministries.
- 5) (Worship) Facilitates enriching corporate worship that brings diverse peoples into the transforming presence of God.
- 6) (Administration/Management) Engages the abilities of self and others to strategically steward personal and corporate resources including time, health, finances, property and service in areas of spiritual giftedness.
- 7) (Relationships) Models effective relationships with people of diverse cultures, backgrounds, character, and persuasions, reflecting the wisdom, compassion, and discernment of Jesus through the work of the Spirit.

2. MA in Pastoral Ministry (MAPM)

- 7) Deliver effective biblically-based sermons
- 8) Demonstrate proper biblical interpretation skills
- 9) Understand the historical-theological development of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
- 10) Exhibit capability for training church members for evangelism
- 11) Demonstrate an understanding of how to empower church members for leadership
- 12) Exhibit capability for reaching specific social groups

3. MA in Youth and Young Adult Ministry (MAYYAM)

- 1) Christian Apologist (a): Articulates effectively a theology and philosophy of youth ministry
- 2) Christian Apologist (b): Exposes students to general seminary content in order to provide an Adventist Christian foundation to the practice of youth and young adult ministry
- 3) Pastor-Teacher: Uses appropriate methodologies to disciple youth and young adults

- 4) Servant Leader: Demonstrates the ability to apply the principles of servant leadership in working with youth and young adults
- 5) Maturing Christian: Engages consistently in biblical devotional habits to be open to the transforming work of the Holy Spirit in his or her life
- 6) Youth and Young Adult Specialist: Develop, direct, advocate for, and evaluate youth ministry for the broader church

4. MA (Religion) Interdisciplinary Track

- 1) Conduct effective research for teaching and ministry
- 2) Practice a biblically grounded approach to scholarly inquiry
- 3) Articulate theology and research in terms of Seventh-day Adventist beliefs and practice.
- 4) Demonstrate understanding of biblical studies, theology, and religious history within the Seventh-day Adventist church

5. MA (Religion) Specialized Track

- 1) Conduct effective research in a specialized field of study
- 2) Practice a biblically grounded approach to scholarly inquiry
- 3) Articulate theology and research in terms of Seventh-day Adventist beliefs and practice
- 4) Demonstrate understanding of the content and central issues of the specialized field of study

6. MA (Religious Education)

- 1) Christian Apologist: who articulates a philosophy of Christian education
- 2) Pastor-Teacher: who uses appropriate methodologies to disciple
- 3) Servant-Leader: who demonstrates the ability to apply the principles of servant leadership
- 4) Evaluator-Researcher: who understands the basic terminology, potential contributions, and limitations of scholarly research in the evaluation and implementation of discipleship initiatives
- 5) Maturing Christian: who engages consistently with Scripture in biblical and spiritual disciplines to be open to the transforming work of the Holy Spirit in his or her life
- 6) Lifelong Scholar: who demonstrates on-going personal and professional development
- 7) Area of Emphasis: demonstrates the ability to apply all relevant core competencies to the area of emphasis

DOCTORAL PROGRAMS

7. Doctor of Ministry (DMin)

- 1) Critically reflect on, articulate, and apply biblically based principles and values for excellence in mission and ministry.

- 2) Conduct research and implement an intervention in response to ministry challenges and trends in a *glocal* context, related to the primary field of service.
- 3) Demonstrate knowledge and skills acquired, and analyze the resultant impact on one's ministerial experience.

8. Doctor of Missiology (DMiss)

- 1) Grow in spiritual disciplines
- 2) Develop theological foundations
- 3) Skill in research
- 4) Implement effective strategies
- 5) Ability to train

9. PhD (Religion)

- 1) Articulate an integrated theology and philosophy of faithfulness to God and Scripture, objectivity in research, and integrity in relationships.
- 2) Provide evidence of a broad understanding of the content area of the chosen major discipline and competency within the area of the minor discipline.
- 3) Demonstrate ability to propose a delimited topic of original research, carry out the investigation under faculty mentorship, and produce a logical and coherent written report of the study.
- 4) Write scholarly research, make a professional presentation, and submit for publication
- 5) Display teaching ability appropriate for college and university settings.

10. PhD (Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern Archaeology)

- 1) Knows the history, methods and theories of archaeology
- 2) Knows the material culture and history of the Biblical and ancient Near Eastern and Mediterranean world
- 3) Applies knowledge of the material remains to an understanding of Biblical and ancient Near Eastern contexts
- 4) Demonstrates the skills to conduct all phases of field work, including follow-up analyses and presentation and publication of findings

11. PhD (Religious Education)

- 1) Christian Apologist: Develop and articulate effectively a philosophy of religious education
- 2) Pastor-Teacher: Use and teach appropriate methodologies for discipling Christians across the lifespan
- 3) Servant-Leader: Demonstrate the ability to apply and model the principles of servant leadership in the church, school, and broader community

- 4) Evaluator-Researcher: who understands the basic terminology, potential contributions, and limitations of scholarly research in the evaluation and implementation of discipleship initiatives
- 5) Maturing Christian: who engages consistently with Scripture in biblical and spiritual disciplines to be open to the transforming work of the Holy Spirit in his or her life
- 6) Lifelong Scholar: who demonstrates on-going personal and professional development
- 7) Area of Emphasis: demonstrates the ability to apply all relevant core competencies to the area of emphasis

12. ThD (Theology)

- 1) Articulate an integrated theology and philosophy of faithfulness to God and Scripture, objectivity in research, and integrity in relationships.
- 2) Provide evidence of a broad understanding of the content area of the chosen major discipline and competency within the area of the minor discipline.
- 3) Demonstrate ability to propose a delimited topic of original research, carry out the investigation under faculty mentorship, and produce a logical and coherent written report of the study.
- 4) Write scholarly research, make a professional presentation and submit for publication
- 5) Display teaching ability appropriate for college and university settings.