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OT 810 Exegesis of Deuteronomy

Bill T. Arnold

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Syllabus

Course: OT810 W1 (SP 2009)
Title: Exegesis of Deuteronomy
Hours: 3.00
Published: Yes, on 01/30/2009
Prerequisites:

None

Department: Old Testament
Faculty: Dr. Bill Arnold



Email: bill.arnold@asburyseminary.edu
 Office: MC 207
 SPO: 787

Meetings:

During 02/09/2009 to 05/22/2009 on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30a to 10:45a in BC223.

Maximum Registration: 12
Catalog Description:

Objectives:

Course description

A seminar on the book of Deuteronomy, in which participants explore through readings, practice, and critical discussion the range of methods employed in contemporary Old Testament study. Seminar members will immerse themselves in the primary sources (Masoretic Text, and ancient versions as appropriate), and engage in a wide array of methods in recent secondary literature as well.

Course objectives

Students in this course will:

- continue to develop competence with the primary text, especially the MT of Deuteronomy;
- apply the range of critical approaches studied in OT/NT 820 to the Book of Deuteronomy;
- determine which methods are appropriate to particular problems or questions in the study of Deuteronomy;
- discern ways in which Deuteronomy may be read within the horizons of the contemporary church and world, especially perhaps its contributions to contemporary ethics, and exploring the importance of Deuteronomy for the Wesleyan understanding of justification by grace through faith.

Required Texts:

Alexander, Patrick H., et al. *The SBL Handbook of Style for Ancient Near Eastern, Biblical, and Early Christian Studies*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson Publishers, 1999.

Levinson, Bernard M. *Deuteronomy and the Hermeneutics of Legal Innovation*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.

MacDonald, Nathan. *Deuteronomy and the Meaning of "Monotheism."* FAT II/1. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2003.

Students will also be expected to have the following ready-to-hand (abbreviations are available in Alexander, SBL Handbook): BHS, GKC, IBHS, Joüon. In addition, BHQ is now available for Deuteronomy, and is preferable for this class: Carmel McCarthy, Biblia Hebraica Quinta: Deuteronomy (Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 2007).

Course Requirements:

1. *Class participation.* The seminar is a community of learning. A shared commitment to attend all sessions with a willingness to contribute to the learning process is essential. Students will be expected to come to each class session prepared to discuss the assigned readings, and in cases in which papers are to be presented, to contribute substantively to the discussion of the papers and presentations. Written materials must be submitted in a timely fashion. Late work will receive no written comments. Late assignments will receive a penalty of one-third letter grade after twenty-four hours, and a full letter grade thereafter. (0%)

2. *Periodic assignments & final exam.* See the tentative schedule of assignments below. These periodic assignments are regular readings of the MT of Deuteronomy, and are to be discussed in class as time allows. Class discussion will explore relevant grammatical particulars of the text, use assigned portions to explore methodological options and theological results, and prepare the student for the final examination, which will require translations of selected pericopes of Deuteronomy (15% of final grade). The class will also use the assigned readings to explore further the research agenda, from inception of a research question (problem) to exploration and organization of data, and finally, to tentative conclusions (solution). (35%)

3. *Two research papers.* The primary assignments for the seminar are two papers, the first of which will be a literature review of a carefully circumscribed research question emerging from the work in #3.2 above (5000 words, including notes but not bibliography). The second paper will present the results of the research, including organization and analysis of pertinent data, and tentative conclusions (7000-8000 words, including notes but not bibliography). Both papers will be presented to the seminar, and drafts of the papers shall be made available to members of the seminar no less than one week prior to each presentation. (55%)

4. *Critical response.* Each participant will prepare a written response on an essay to be prepared by another member of the seminar. Responses are to be presented in written form to the author of the paper and to the instructor, and in oral form to the seminar, at the class session for which the paper is due to be discussed (10%)

Additional Readings:

- Barker, Paul A. *The Triumph of Grace in Deuteronomy: Faithless Israel, Faithful Yahweh in Deuteronomy*. Paternoster Biblical Monographs; Carlisle, U.K, Waynesboro, GA: Paternoster Press, 2004.
- Barr, James. "A Puzzle in Deuteronomy." Pages 13-24 in *Reading from Right to Left: Essays on the Hebrew Bible in Honour of David J.A. Clines*. Edited by J. C. Exum and H. G. M. Williamson. JSOTSup 373. London, New York: Sheffield Academic Press, 2003.
- Braulik, Georg. *The Theology of Deuteronomy: Collected Essays of Georg Braulik*. BIBAL collected essays 2. N. Richland Hills, Tex.: BIBAL Press, 1994.
- Braulik, Georg. *Bundesdokument und Gesetz: Studien zum Deuteronomium*. Herders Biblische Studien 4. Freiburg: Herder, 1995.
- Brueggemann, Walter. *Deuteronomy*. AOTC. Nashville, Tenn.: Abingdon, 2001.
- Christensen, Duane L. *Deuteronomy 1-11*. WBC 6A. Dallas, Tex.: Word Books, 1991.
- Christensen, Duane L. *A Song of Power and the Power of Song: Essays on the Book of Deuteronomy*. SBTS 3. Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbrauns, 1993.
- Clements, R. E. *Deuteronomy*. OTG Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1993.
- Craigie, Peter C. *The Book of Deuteronomy*. NICOT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1976.
- Driver, S. R. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on Deuteronomy*. ICC 5. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1965 [1895].
- Dutcher-Walls, Patricia. "The Circumscription of the King: Deuteronomy 17:16-17 in its Ancient Social Context." *JBL* 121/4 (2002): 601-16.
- Elliott, J. H. "Deuteronomy - Shameful Encroachment on Shameful Parts: Deuteronomy 25:11-12." Pages 161-76 in *Ancient Israel: The Old Testament in Its Social Context*. Edited by Philip F. Esler. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2006.
- Finsterbusch, Karin. *Weisung für Israel: Studien zu religiösem Lehren und Lernen im Deuteronomium und in seinem Umfeld*. FAT 44. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2005.
- Frankena, R. "The Vassal-treaties of Esarhaddon and the Dating of Deuteronomy." *OtSt* 14 (1965): 122-54.

- Janzen, J. Gerald. "On the Most Important Word in the Shema (Deuteronomy VI 4-5)." *VT* 37 (1987): 280-300.
- Kaufman, Stephen A. "Deuteronomy 15 and Recent Research on the Dating of P." Pages 273-76 in *Das Deuteronomium: Entstehung, Gestalt und Botschaft*. Edited by Norbert Lohfink. Bibliotheca Ephemeridum theologicarum Lovaniensium 68. Leuven: University Press, 1985.
- Knoppers, Gary N. "Rethinking the Relationship between Deuteronomy and the Deuteronomistic History: The Case of Kings." *CBQ* 63 (2001): 393-415.
- Levinson, Bernard M. "'But You Shall Surely Kill Him!': The Text-Critical and Neo-Assyrian Evidence for MT Deut 13:10." Pages 37-63 in *Bundesdokument und Gesetz: Studien zum Deuteronomium*. Edited by Georg Braulik. Herders Biblische Studien 4. Freiburg: Herder, 1995.
- Levinson, Bernard M. "Recovering the Lost Original Meaning of *wyl hskt alw* (Deuteronomy 13:9)." *JBL* 115/4 (1996): 601-20.
- Levinson, Bernard M. "Textual Criticism, Assyriology, and the History of Interpretation: Deuteronomy 13:7a as a Test Case in Method." *JBL* 120/2 (2001): 211-43.
- MacDonald, Nathan. "The Literary Criticism and Rhetorical Logic of Deuteronomy i-iv." *VT* 56/2 (2006): 203-24.
- Maeir, Aren, Oren Ackermann, and Hendrik J. Bruins. "The Ecological Consequences of a Siege: A Marginal Note on Deuteronomy 20:19-20." Pages 239-43 in *Confronting the Past: Archaeological and Historical Essays on Ancient Israel in Honor of William G. Dever*. Edited by Seymour Gitin, J. E. Wright, and J. P. Dessel. Winona Lake, Ind: Eisenbrauns, 2006.
- Mayes, A. D. H. "On Describing the Purpose of Deuteronomy." *JSOT* 58 (1993): 13-33.
- Mayes, A. D. H. "Psychology - Moses and Monotheism: The Future of Freud's Illusion." Pages 296-308 in *Ancient Israel: The Old Testament in Its Social Context*. Edited by Philip F. Esler. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2006.
- McCarthy, Carmel. *Biblia Hebraica Quinta: Deuteronomy*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 2007.
- McConville, J. G. *Law and Theology in Deuteronomy*. JSOTSup 33. Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1984.
- McConville, J. G. *Deuteronomy*. Apollos Old Testament Commentary 5. Leicester, England, Downers Grove, Ill: Apollos. InterVarsity Press, 2002.
- McConville, J. G., and J. G. Millar. *Time and Place in Deuteronomy*. JSOTSup 179. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1994.
- Milgrom, Jacob. "Profane Slaughter and a Formulaic Key to the Composition of Deuteronomy." *HUCA* 47 (1976): 1-17.
- Milgrom, Jacob. "The Nature and Extent of Idolatry in Eighth-Seventh Century Judah." *HUCA* 69 (1998): 1-13.
- Millar, J. G. *Now Choose Life: Theology and Ethics in Deuteronomy*. New Studies in Biblical Theology. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1999.
- Miller, Patrick D. "Constitution or Instruction? The Purpose of Deuteronomy." Pages 125-41 in *Constituting the Community: Studies on the Polity of Ancient Israel in Honor of S. Dean McBride, Jr.* Edited by John T. Strong and Steven S. Tuell. Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbrauns, 2005.
- Miller, Patrick D., Jr. *Deuteronomy*. IBC. Louisville: J. Knox Press, 1990.
- Nelson, Richard D. *Deuteronomy: A Commentary*. OTL. Louisville, Ky.: Westminster John Knox, 2002.
- Olson, Dennis T. *Deuteronomy and the Death of Moses: A Theological Reading*. OBT. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1994.
- Richter, Sandra L. "The Place of the Name in Deuteronomy." *VT* 57 (2007): 342-66.
- Schaper, Joachim. "A Theology of Writing: The Oral and the Written, God as Scribe, and the Book of Deuteronomy." Pages 97-119 in *Anthropology and Biblical Studies: Avenues of Approach*. Edited by Louise J. Lawrence and Mario I. Aguilar. Leiden: Deo, 2004.
- Thompson, J. A. *Deuteronomy: An Introduction and Commentary*. TOTC 5. Downers Grove, Ill.: Inter-Varsity Press, 1974.
- Tigay, Jeffrey H. *Deuteronomy: The Traditional Hebrew Text with the New JPS Translation*. The JPS Torah commentary. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1996.
- Vervenne, M, and J Lust. *Deuteronomy and Deuteronomic Literature: Festschrift C.H.W. Brekelmans*. BETL 133. Leuven: Leuven University Press; Uitgeverij Peeters, 1997.
- Vogt, Peter T. *Deuteronomic Theology and the Significance of Torah: A Reappraisal*. Winona Lake, Ind: Eisenbrauns, 2006.
- von Rad, Gerhard. *Studies in Deuteronomy*. Chicago: H. Regnery Co, 1953.
- von Rad, Gerhard. *Deuteronomy: A Commentary*. OTL Philadelphia: Westminster, 1966.
- Weinfeld, Moshe. *Deuteronomy and the Deuteronomic School*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1972.

- Weinfeld, Moshe. *Deuteronomy 1-11: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*. AB 5. New York: Doubleday, 1991.
- Weinfeld, Moshe. *The Place of the Law in the Religion of Ancient Israel*. VTSup 100. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2004.
- Welch, Adam C. *The Code of Deuteronomy: A New Theory of its Origin*. London: J. Clarke & Co., Limited, 1924.
- Willis, Timothy M. *The Elders of the City: A Study of the Elders-Laws in Deuteronomy*. SBLMS 55. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2001.
- Wright, Christopher J. H. *Deuteronomy*. New International Biblical Commentary 4. Peabody, Mass, Carlisle, Cumbria: Hendrickson Publishers. Paternoster Press, 1996.

Class Schedule:

February 10 & 12 - Introduction: Contemporary research on the Book of Deuteronomy

Readings: Begin reading Levinson

February 17 & 19 - Readings in Deut 1-4

Discussions of Levinson

February 24 & 26 - Readings in Deut 1-4 (continued)

Discussions of Levinson

March 3 & 5 - Readings in Deut 5-11

Student presentations

March 10 & 12 - Readings in Deut 5-11 (continued)

Student presentations

March 17 & 19 - Readings in Deut 12-15

Readings: Begin reading Nathan MacDonald

March 24 & 26 - Readings in Deut 16-19

Discussions of MacDonald

April 7 & 9 - Readings in Deut 20-22

Student presentations

April 14 & 16 - Readings in Deut 23-26

Student presentations

April 21 & 23 - Readings in Deut 27-28

Student presentations

April 28 & 30 - Readings in Deut 29-30

Student presentations

May 5 & 7 - Readings in Deut 31-34

Student presentations

May 12 & 14 - Student presentations

Final Exam (TBA) - Selections of Deuteronomy (MT)