OT 810 Exegesis of Deuteronomy

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**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

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**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:**


_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)._
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%)

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**Additional Readings:**


### 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)