

**Prerequisite:** *BIB-D502*

**Course Description:**

This course will examine the first five books of the Hebrew Scriptures: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. In addition to studying the religious significance of these books, we will examine them through historical-critical, literary, social-scientific, and liberationist lenses.

**Course Objectives:**

- To be able to identify the key periods of Israel's history and articulate their significance in the formation of the Torah;
- To be able to express coherently the diverse ways in which the Torah reflects Israel's experience of God;
- To recognize the shortcomings and the value of the Documentary Hypothesis;
- To be able to identify and use scholarly resources for study of the Torah.

**Evaluation:**

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| • Active presence and participation in each class | 25% |
| • One short paper                                 | 15% |
| • One research paper                              | 40% |
| • Final exam                                      | 20% |

**Required Texts:**

Guinan, Michael D. *The Pentateuch*. Eugene, Oregon: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2003.

Murphy, Roland E. *Responses to 101 Questions on the Biblical Torah: Reflections on the Pentateuch*. New York and Mahwah, New Jersey: Paulist Press, 1996.

Zucher, David J. *The Torah: An Introduction for Christians and Jews*. New York and Mahweh, New Jersey: Paulist Press, 2005.