



**WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY  
VIRTUAL CAMPUS  
SCHOOL OF RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY**

**Wayland Mission Statement:** Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning-focused, and distinctively Christian environment for professional success, and service to God and humankind.

**Course Title and Number:** RLGN 4316 Pentateuch and Former Prophets

**Term:** Fall 2017

**Name of Instructor:** Dr. Timothy M. Pierce

**Office Phone Number and WBU Email Address:**

- Phone Numbers: (W) 817-571-7884
- Email address: timothy.pierce@wayland.wbu.edu

**Office Hours, Building, and Location:**

- Cell Phone 682-560-9767
- Fax: 817-571-1015
- The student is free to e-mail me at any time. I will accept phone calls on my cell phone Mon 2 – 10 pm CST; Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat 8am – 10pm CST; Wed 8am – 5pm CST;

**Class Meeting Time and Location:** Online class, weekly interaction required as noted below

**Catalog Description:**

Intensive examination of the lives and literature of Genesis through 2 Kings of the Hebrew Scripture in relationship to their historical and cultural setting and application of their message to the church of today.

Prerequisites: RLGN 1301, RLGN 1302

**Required Textbook(s) and/or Resource Material:**

- *The Bible (The Student is expected to read through the prophets this semester!)*
- Gordon J. Wenham, *Exploring the Old Testament: A Guide to the Pentateuch* (Downer's Grove, ILL: IVP Academic, 2008). [WEN]
- Philip E. Satterthwaite and J. Gordon McConville, *Exploring the Old Testament: A Guide to the Historical Books* (Downer's Grove, ILL: IVP Academic, 2016). [SaM]
- Internet Equipped Computer - Must conform to minimum recommended settings identified on the Blackboard login page. Must utilize WBU student email account
- WBU Blackboard Course Management Software  
Blackboard website URL: <https://wbu.blackboard.com>  
Login username: WBU student id (9 digit number, usually 3-5 zeros at beginning)  
Login password: first three letters of first name + first three letters of last name (unless you have used Blackboard previously and have changed your password)
- Technical support: 24/7 via phone and chat; see login page of Blackboard

Optional Materials:

- Blackboard Mobile App  
Limited version of Blackboard for mobile devices--Apple App Store or Google Play

**Course Outcome Competencies:**

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the historical, religious, and social context of the Old Testament world in general and the Pentateuch and Former Prophets specifically.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of some of the critical methods used in Old Testament studies.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the basic content of the Pentateuch and Former Prophets and its main teachings (theological content).
4. Demonstrate a knowledge of the historical background and message of each of books of the Pentateuch and Former Prophets and relate that message to the contemporary world

**Attendance Requirements:**

- Student "attendance" in an online course is defined as active participation in the course as described in the course requirements. Students aware of necessary absences must inform the professor with as much advance notice as possible in order to make appropriate arrangements.
- Any student absent 25 percent or more of the online course, i.e., non-participatory during 3 or more weeks of an 11 week term, may receive an F for that course.
- Any student who has not actively participated in an online class prior to the census date for any given term is considered a "no-show" and will be administratively withdrawn from the class without record. It is not enough to simply log in and view course content to be counted as actively participating. The student must be submitting work as described in the course requirements.
- Excessive absences, but still below the maximum allowable to receive credit, may result in a warning from the professor in the form of a Report of Unsatisfactory Progress to the student's WBU student email account. This report will also be submitted to appropriate university personnel.

**Disability Statement:** In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Wayland Baptist University that no otherwise qualified person with a disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the university. The Coordinator of Counseling Services serves as the coordinator of students with a disability and should be contacted concerning accommodation requests at (806) 291- 3765. Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations." (This statement is required on all university syllabi.)

**Course Requirements:**

- Students are expected to complete all of the weekly readings as outlined in the course schedule. This includes readings from the textbook and online lecture notes/videos. These readings will enable students to participate in the weekly discussion boards as well as complete the weekly quizzes.
- **Examination:** There will be one Final Exam given. Questions will be true/false, multiple choice, multiple answer, matching, fill in the blank, and short answer/listing. The exams will cover material from the lectures, rather than the readings. All class lectures, however, presuppose knowledge of the assigned reading as background for understanding the lectures.

Note: **The final exam will be proctored.** The student is responsible to secure an approved proctor following the procedures defined by the Virtual Campus. Remote proctoring is available. **Please contact the professor as early as possible if you do not understand what a proctor is or how to procure one.**

[http://www.wbu.edu/academics/online\\_programs/proctor/proctorrequest.htm](http://www.wbu.edu/academics/online_programs/proctor/proctorrequest.htm)

- **Questions to Professor:** Each week by Monday morning beginning Monday, September 4th, the student is required to submit **by email** a question over **each** of the lecture notes, biblical text, and assigned textbook to the professor (a total of 3 questions). The questions from the textbooks must reference the page number of the book from which the question comes. The questions must be submitted by midnight, CST on or before each Monday. Please submit to the following email address:

[timothy.pierce@wayland.wbu.edu](mailto:timothy.pierce@wayland.wbu.edu)

NOTE: The questions to the professor are required. If you miss a week or if you are late with the questions, you are considered absent for the week. Also, the questions **MUST** relate to the lecture and/or the reading from the textbook.

NOTE: If you do not hear from me with answers to your questions by Friday at 5pm CST, then I have not received your questions. You are responsible for informing me that you never received a reply within the week the questions are due. Be sure you keep up with your questions and replies.

- **Discussion Board:** Most weeks a new forum will be established in Discussion Board room of the “class.” These forums will include a question offered by the professor dealing with some interpretative or practical issue related to the text being discussed that week. You are expected to respond to each other’s assessments and answers; however, anyone demonstrating a less than proper attitude in responding will hurt his or her participation grade. Please remember that when writing, words often come across more harshly than they would in speaking. Responses should reflect the student’s perspective on the issues presented and will be evaluated for relevance, clarity, and critical thinking. These postings should also be completed by midnight CST on Sunday each week. The student is expected to do **at least** 1 original post and 2 responsive posts each week.
- **Exegetical Research Paper.**
  - The student will write an exegetical paper on a passage of the student’s choosing.
    - The passage must fall within the books under discussion in the class – Genesis – 2 Kings
    - The passage must be approved by the professor
    - Suggestions from the professor on potential passages will be offered if requested.
  - The Research Paper is due **October 30**, by Midnight.
  - See Paper Evaluation Form below for more expectations on form and content.

- MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.
  - If you do not meet the minimum requirements for the paper, the professor will not grade your paper and you will receive a “0” for the project.
    - 8-12 pages long, not including Table of Contents and Bibliography.
    - At least 8 of the sources must be used in your paper and properly footnoted with bibliography. Three of the sources must be periodicals (scholarly journals). The professor must approve any articles used from the internet unless it is published material.
    - There is an academic level of Bibliography that is expected. The professor will gladly provide suggestions when you have selected a passage.
    - You must follow the proper form found in Wayland’s Style Guide: [http://www.wbu.edu/academics/schools/religion\\_and\\_philosophy/student\\_help/documents/styleGuide.pdf](http://www.wbu.edu/academics/schools/religion_and_philosophy/student_help/documents/styleGuide.pdf)
    - Footnotes are the required form of citation
  - The Paper should have the following subtitles:
    - Title Page
    - Table of Contents
    - Introduction
    - Critical Questions (Authorship, Unity, etc...)
    - Historical Context (date, significant historical elements surrounding the writings of the text; location and recipients of the text)
    - Literary Context (purpose of the whole prophetic book and the passage within that whole; genre of the writing and the specific passage)
    - Exegetical Content (What the text means – key words, syntactical observations, etc...)
    - Application (Key Truths, Modern Application)
    - Conclusion
    - Bibliography

#### Other Information:

- Video Lectures  
The professor will post video lectures each week. A link will be posted where the student can go and watch the lectures. Exam questions will draw upon these lectures.
- Asking Questions  
Undoubtedly, throughout the semester questions will arise concerning assignments or other logistical issues. Such questions are welcomed and encouraged. *In order to prevent the repetition of having to answer the same question from various students and in order to allow other students to benefit from the questions, it is requested that any question that the student asks be posted in the Discussion Forum area under Forum 1: Questions from Students. I would respectfully ask that other students not respond to questions asked here, although other questions may be asked based on answers offered.* Questions of a biblical nature should be asked in the “Questions to Professor” assignment or via email.

**Course Evaluation (Method of Determining Grade):**

Questions to the Professor <b>(Weekly)</b>	15%
Final Exam <b>(Oct 30 – Nov 5)</b>	25%
Exegetical Research Paper <b>(Due Oct 30)</b>	40%
Discussion Board Participation <b>(Weekly)</b>	20%

## University Grading System

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	BELOW 60

Students shall have protection through orderly procedures against prejudices or capricious academic evaluation. A student who believes that he or she has not been held to realistic academic standards, just evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course by using the student grade appeal process described in the Academic Catalog. Appeals may not be made for advanced placement examinations or course bypass examinations. Appeals are limited to the final course grade, which may be upheld, raised, or lowered at any stage of the appeal process. The Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.

**Academic Honesty (Plagiarism)**

University students are expected to conduct themselves according to the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, forgery, or plagiarism. Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one's own work. It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with penalties associated with plagiarism stated in the catalog.

**Course Outline and Calendar (Reading Assignments (both Textbook and Biblical) are in Bold – Due at the BEGINNING of the Week in which they are listed. There is a lot of reading, so read whenever you can)**

August 21 – 27

The Authorship of the Pentateuch  
**WEN 1 – 7, 145 – 195**

August 28 – September 3

Genesis  
**WEN 9 – 34**  
**Genesis 1 – 11**

September 4 – 10

Genesis  
**WEN 35 – 56**  
**Genesis 12 – 50**

September 11 – 17

Exodus

**WEN 57 – 79**

**Exod 1 – 12; 13 – 14; 18 – 20; 25 – 40**

September 18 – 24

The Law and Christians, Leviticus

**WEN 81 – 100**

**Lev 1 – 7; 11 – 19**

September 25 – October 1

Numbers and Deuteronomy

**WEN 103 – 143**

**Num 1; 20 – 24; Deut 6 – 9; 20 – 23; 34**

October 2 – 8

The Nature of the Historical Books

Joshua

The Conquest of Israel

**SaM 1 – 25, 199 – 217, 41 – 70**

**Josh 1 – 12; 22 – 24**

October 9 – 15

Judges and Ruth

**SaM 73 – 103, 220 - 229**

**Judges 1 – 21; Ruth 1 – 4**

October 16 – 22

1 – 2 Samuel

**SaM 105 – 144**

**1 Samuel 1 – 17; 28; 2 Samuel 1 – 7; 11 – 12**

October 23 – 29

1 – 2 Kings

**SaM 147 – 196**

**1 Kings 1 – 14; 17 – 19; 22; 2 Kings 1 – 3; 17 – 20; 23 – 25**

October 30 – November 5

Wrap up remaining issues

**FINAL EXAM**

### **Instructor's perspective:**

As one who is firmly committed to historic Baptist beliefs, I fully affirm the Bible as the believer's sole authority in matters of faith and practice. As an instructor in a Baptist university, I am committed to the academic exploration of the biblical texts. I do not ask that any student agree with any particular position concerning issues presented in class, including my own. I simply ask that students openly and honestly consider the various arguments in developing their own informed perspective. The message of the Bible is Truth and Truth invites us to raise questions knowing that Truth will remain unchanged while personal opinion or tradition may require revision.

**PAPER EVALUATION FORM:**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(✓ equals problem area)

Form: (15%)

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Errors: \_\_\_\_\_ typographical; \_\_\_\_\_ spelling; \_\_\_\_\_ grammatical;  
\_\_\_\_\_ Wayland Style Guide not followed; \_\_\_\_\_ Use of parenthetical notes.

Omissions: \_\_\_\_\_ title page; \_\_\_\_\_ contents page; \_\_\_\_\_ bibliography

Notes for Improvement:

Organization: (15%)

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ weak outline; \_\_\_\_\_ lack consistency; \_\_\_\_\_ lack balance

\_\_\_\_\_ weak introduction; \_\_\_\_\_ weak conclusion/application

\_\_\_\_\_ too long; \_\_\_\_\_ too short; \_\_\_\_\_ need better development

Notes for Improvement

Content: (50%)

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ failure to follow directions concerning assignment

\_\_\_\_\_ lack critical insight/depth

\_\_\_\_\_ lack balance in critique (content vs. evaluation)

\_\_\_\_\_ important material not discussed

\_\_\_\_\_ incoherent arguments

\_\_\_\_\_ lack of research, hurt presentation

\_\_\_\_\_ difficult to follow (conclusions fail to follow insights)

Notes for Improvement:

Depth of Understanding/Use of Sources: (20%)

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ limited/minimal number used

\_\_\_\_\_ misrepresented/misunderstood sources

\_\_\_\_\_ lack variety of opinions

\_\_\_\_\_ lack variety of types of sources

\_\_\_\_\_ lack evidence of thorough reading

\_\_\_\_\_ lack scholarly insight in sources (too devotional)

\_\_\_\_\_ used outdated sources

\_\_\_\_\_ over-reliance on one source

Notes for Improvement:

Strengths of Paper: