***Course Syllabus***

***RLGN 5338: Seminar on Exegesis and Interpretation of Selected Old Testament Writings: Genesis 1-11***

**WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY: Virtual Campus**

**SCHOOL OF RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY**

# Fall 2017

## Jeff Anderson, Ph.D., Instructor

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* Conference Hours: Upon request via Blackboard IM, Skype, Phone, Collaborate

HOW DO I CONTACT DR. ANDERSON? For non-emergencies and general questions go to Course Café under Discussion Board. For emergencies and specific personal questions, email me or call my cell.

**Catalog Description:** A detailed examination and exposition of individual Old Testament books. May be repeated when content varies.

**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.

**Method of Instruction:** [Online through Blackboard and the Virtual Campus]

**Prerequisite/ Co-requisites:**

* RLGN 4314/5314 or equivalent. Make sure you have had this course!! Don’t ask me for an exception, please.

#### Resources: Order through our VC Bookstore.

**Required Textbooks:**

Barrett, Matthew and Ardel Caneday, eds. *Four Views on the Historical Adam*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013. ISBN 978-0-310-49927-5

Provan, Ian. *Discovering Genesis: Content, Interpretation, Reception*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2015. ISBN 978-0-8028-7237-1

Walton, John. *The Lost World of Genesis One: Ancient Cosmology and the Origins Debate*. Downers Grove, IVP, 2009 ISBN 978-0-8308-3704-5

**Course Outcome Competencies: Students will:**

To describe the theological content of Genesis 1-11

To discuss how Genesis 1-11 reflects the dynamic history of Israel in the setting of the politics and culture of the ancient Near East.

To articulate a literary appreciation of Genesis 1-11 that is critical, imaginative, and personally involving.

To dialogue about the ways in which Genesis 1-11 has influenced critical areas of our social experience.

To evaluate Genesis 1-11 in light of the total Christian canon and their impact on Christian life, theology, worship, and witness.

#### Course Requirements:

1. Biblical/Textbook Readings: Carefully read the biblical and secondary texts assigned for each week of class.
2. Weekly Quiz: Complete an online open book weekly quiz over the biblical readings for that week.
3. Weekly lecture: Listen to the lecture appropriate for each week on Collaborate or Voice over PowerPoint.
4. Final Exams: Complete a final examination over material covered in class.
5. Discussion Board participation as assigned. This will involve leading one week of discussion board exercises during the term. You will be asked to prepare a brief overview of a passage and lead a discussion board forum over that passage.
6. Research Paper: Complete a 12 page exegesis paper over an approved passage in Genesis 1-11. Paper must conform to all style guide requirements of Wayland Baptist University’s School of Religion and Philosophy. <http://www.wbu.edu/academics/schools/religion_and_philosophy/student_help/default.htm>

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###### A Warning about Style Guide Requirements:

###### WBU’s School of Religion and Philosophy requires a Turabian 8th edition format for all written work. Written submissions that do not conform to this style guide will be penalized severely.

###### Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th ed. Chicago: Univ. Chicago Press, 2013. ISBN 978-0-226-81638-8.

###### Attendance - External Campuses

* + - * Students enrolled at one of the university's external campuses should make every effort to attend all class meetings. All absences must be explained to the instructor, who will then determine whether the omitted work may be made up. When a student reaches that number of absences considered by the instructor to be excessive, the instructor will so advise the student and file an unsatisfactory progress report with the campus dean. Any student who misses 25 percent or more of the regularly scheduled class meetings may receive a grade of F in the course. Additional attendance policies for each course, as defined by the instructor in the course syllabus, are considered a part of the university's attendance policy. A student may petition the Academic Council for exceptions to the above stated policies by filing a written request for an appeal to the provost/academic vice president.

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

##### University Grading System

A 90-100 I INCOMPLETE\*\*

B 80-89 Cr FOR CREDIT

C 70-79 NCr NO CREDIT

D 60-69 WP WITHDRAWAL PASSING

F BELOW 60 WF WITHDRAWAL FAILING

W WITHDRAWAL

\*\*A grade of incomplete is changed if the deficiency is made up by midterm of the next regular semester; otherwise, it becomes "F". This grade is given only if circumstances beyond the student's control prevented completion of work during the semester enrolled and attendance requirements have been met. A grade of "CR" indicates that credit in semester hours was granted but no grade or grade points were recorded.

* **Procedure for computations of final grade**

Quizzes 100 points total

Midterm 100 points

Final 100 points

Research Paper 100 points

**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 pf the work of another as one’s own work. It is the student’s responsibility to be familiar with penalties associates with plagiarism stated in the catalog.**

Services for the Disabled

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.

**Course Outline and Calendar:**

**Week of August 21**

**Genre**

**Historical Setting**

**Canon**

**Week of August 28**

**Creation Account in Gen 1**

**Week of September 4**

**Creation Account in Gen 2**

**Week of September 11**

**The “Fall” in Gen 3**

**Week of September 18**

**Cain and Abel (Gen 4)**

**Week of September 25**

**Mid Term**

**Week of October 2**

**Genealogy in Gen 5**

**Week of October 9**

**The Flood Story (Gen 6-9)**

**Week of October 16**

**The Table of Nations (Gen 10)**

**Week of October 23**

**Babel**

**Paper Due**

**Week of October 30**

**Final Exam**