***OLD TESTAMENT FOUNDATIONS I***

### RLGN 5350

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY: Virtual Campus**

**SCHOOL OF RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY**

**Fall Term Dates: August 21-November 4**

## Jeff Anderson, Ph.D., Instructor

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HOW DO I CONTACT DR. ANDERSON? For emergencies, call/text my cell. Email works well too. I’m also on BlackBoard IM if you want to chat live.

**Course Number and Title:** RLGN 5350 [VC01], Old Testament Foundations I

**Catalog Description:** Introduction to the ancient Near Eastern background and canon of the Old Testament, including the contents of Genesis 1 through 1 Kings 11 (and 1 Chronicles) with emphasis on pertinent historical issues, theological interpretation, and contemporary application.

**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:**

* None

#### Resources:

**Required Textbooks:** The NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible, Zondervan 2016. ISBN: 978-0-310-43158-9

**Recommended Textbooks:** Jeff Anderson, *The Old Testament: Its Story and History* (Raleigh, NC; Lulu, 2010) ISBN: 978-0-557-71637-1. Recommended textbook is available through Lulu Press. <http://www.lulu.com/shop>

**Course Outcome Competencies: Students will:**

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the nature and canon of the Old Testament.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the content and significance of the books of Genesis through 1 Kings 11 (1 Chronicles).
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the cultural, social, and historical background from Abraham to Solomon.

#### Course Requirements:

1. Biblical Readings: Carefully read the biblical texts assigned for each week of class.
2. Weekly Open Book Quiz: Complete an online weekly quiz over the biblical readings for that week. These open-book quizzes will assist you in reading the biblical material carefully.
3. Weekly lecture: Listen to the lecture appropriate for each week on MP4, Blackboard Collaborate or Voice over Powerpoint.
4. Mid-Term and Final Exams: Complete a midterm examination and a final examination over material covered in class.
5. Discussion Board participation as assigned.
6. Research Paper: Complete a 15 page research paper over one of the following topics. Paper must conform to all style guide requirements of Wayland Baptist University’s School of Religion and Philosophy. Please make sure you listen to the PowerPoint presentation on “How to Write a Research Paper for Dr. Anderson.” Paper is due October 28, 1159p.m. Central Time. I accept no late papers. <http://www.wbu.edu/academics/schools/religion_and_philosophy/student_help/default.htm>

The Old Testament Canon

Gilgamesh Epic

Baal and Canaanite Religion

Mari Tablets

Nuzi Tablets

Enuma Elish

The Documentary Hypothesis

Hebron

Shechem

The Exodus from Egypt

The Ten Plagues

Amarna Letters

Midian

Passover

Ark of the Covenant

The Day of Atonement

Code of Hammurabi

Old Testament Covenants

Holy War

The Fall of Jericho

The Philistines

The Nazirite Vow

Tel Dan

Tel Megiddo

The Judges Cycle

The Tribes of Israel

The Ten Commandments

The *Shema*

The Dead Sea Scrolls

The Name of God

Where is Mt. Sinai?

Clean and Unclean Foods Laws

Sabbatical Year and the Year of Jubilee

The City of David in Archaeology

(Other topics must have prior approval)

**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.

**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 100-200 points total

Discussion Board Participation 20 points

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 of 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.

**Grade Appeal Procedures**

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. Any recommendation to lower a course grade must be submitted through the Executive Vice President/Provost to the Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee for review and approval. The Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.

**Course Outline and Calendar**

**Week of August 21**

**The Canon of the Old Testament**

**The Ancient Near Eastern Environment of the Old Testament**

**Week of August 28**

**Genesis 1-11**

**Week of September 4**

**Genesis 12-50**

**Week of September 11**

**The Exodus Event (Exodus 1-20)**

**Week of September 18**

**Giving of the Law at Sinai (Exodus 21-Deuteronomy)**

**Week of September 25**

**Mid Term Week**

**Week of October 2**

**The Conquest of Canaan 9Joshua 1-24)**

**Week of October 9**

**The Period of the Judges (Judges)**

**Week of October 16**

**The Rise of the Monarchy (1-2 Samuel)**

**Samuel**

**Saul**

**David**

**Week of October 23**

**The Legacy of Solomon (1 Kings 1-11)**

**Week of October 30**

**Final Exam**