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**WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY**

**WBU ONLINE**

**SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES**

**UNIVERSITY 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 NUMBER & NAME:

RLGN 1303 VC01 Old Testament for Majors and Minors

## TERM:

Fall I 2020 (August 17-October 10) and Fall II (Oct 19-Dec 19)

## INSTRUCTOR:

Rev. Ginny Brewer-Boydston, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

Office phone: (806) 291-3409 (email is a much more reliable method of contact)

WBU Email: brewer-boydstong@wbu.edu

## OFFICE HOURS, BUILDING & LOCATION:

Monday 11:00am-12:00pm, 1:30-4:30pm

Tuesday 1:30-3:00pm

Wednesday 1:30-4:30pm

Thursday 1:30-4:30pm

Friday 11:00am-12:00pm

Flores Bible Building Office Suite (Plainview Campus)

## COURSE MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

Since this is an online class, class meeting times will be observed by regular and timely participation in online activities every week. There are specific due dates per assignments.

## CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

*RLGN 1303 Old Testament for Majors and Minors*: “Old Testament history with an emphasis on biblical background, canonization, scholarship, nature of the Bible, and content of the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament.”

## PREREQUISITE:

None

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND RESOURCE MATERIAL:

**NOTE:** This textbook is an Automatic eBook already in the classroom – click on the menu link for information. Should you wish to purchase a print copy remember to opt out by the date listed on Blackboard.

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| **TITLE** | **EDITOR/AUTHOR** | **PUBLISHER** | **ED** | **YEAR** | **ISBN#** |
| The NIV Study Bible | D. A. Carson, Editor | Zondervan | Hardcover or personal size | 2011 | 9780310438922 or9780310437321 |

**NOTE: No other Bible versions or publications will be accepted for reading quizzes because of the unique study material contained in *NIV Study Bible*. This material includes background information that will be on quizzes and exams.**

## COURSE OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCIES:

* Demonstrate knowledge of the historical, religious, and social context of the Old Testament world
* Demonstrate knowledge of some of the critical methods used in Old Testament studies
* Demonstrate an understanding of the basic content of the Old Testament and its main teachings (theological content)
* Demonstrate knowledge of the canonical process producing a more complete understanding of the compilation of the Old Testament

## ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:

As an online class, your attendance will be determined by weekly login to the class portal and consistent participation in assignments. You are required to log in to class each week and meet specific deadlines. Skipping scheduled weekly assignments will be considered as an “absence” for that particular week. No student missing morethan 25% of the class meetings (including both excused and unexcused absences) can pass the course. Thus, if you miss 2 weeks of weekly assignments and quizzes, you will fail this class.

## STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM & ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Wayland Baptist University observes a zero tolerance policy regarding academic dishonesty. Per university policy as described in the academic catalog, all cases of academic dishonesty will be reported and second offenses will result in suspension from the university.

## 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.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS and GRADING CRITERIA:

✡*Grading*

[*Grading System*](http://catalog.wbu.edu/content.php?catoid=8&navoid=725&hl=grading&returnto=search#the_grading_system)

A = 900-1000 pts. (90-100%)

B = 800-899 pts. (80-89.9%)

C = 700-799 pts. (70-79.9%)

D = 600-699 pts. (60-69.9%)

F= 599 and below (<59.9%)

Quizzes *120 pts. (12%)*

Exam 1 *120 pts. (12%)*

Exam 2 *120 pts. (12%)*

Exam 3 *120 pts.**(12%)*

Final Exam *160 pts. (16%)*

Discussion Board *160 pts. (16%)*

Research Project: Paper Sections *80 pts. (8%)*

Research Project: Final Paper *120 pts. (12%)*

 ***1000 pts. (100%)***

Note: Grades are assigned based on *actual performance*, not student effort. *Do not expect your final grade to be rounded up.*

✡*Quizzes*

A total of eleven quizzes will be administered throughout the semester. The three lowest scores will be dropped, resulting in 120 overall points of the student’s grade. The quizzes will generally consist of ten multiple choice, true-or-false, matching questions, or short answers, which will be from the reading assigned for that week (NSB essays, Scripture passages, and PDF readings). The process and due dates for the quizzes are located on Blackboard under the Quizzes section.

✡*Exams*

There will be three exams during the regular semester with a final exam. These exams may include multiple-choice, true-or-false, short answer, and matching questions. The questions will be taken from the readings (NSB essays, Scripture passages, and PDF readings) and lecture videos. Approximately twenty percent of the final exam will be comprehensive. The three regular exams count for 360 points (120 points each) of the student’s grade. The final exam counts for 160 points. A review sheet will be provided for the comprehensive portion of the final exam. See the Exam and Quiz Helps section on Blackboard for helpful hints for studying for the exams.

The final exam is proctored (monitored). The student is responsible for finding and using an approved proctor ([see the WBUonline process](https://www.wbu.edu/wbu-online/current-students/proctored-exams.htm) and Blackboard). (WBU testing sites do not require WBUonline staff approval.)

✡*Discussion Board*

Each week, students will engage each other through an online discussion board. The instructor will assign a topic or question each week based on the readings and videos and the student will respond in a thoughtful manner and dialogue with other class members. Each discussion will require an original post responding to the posed topic or question and then two follow-up posts responding to other students’ posts. The discussion board assignment is worth 160 points total. The process and due dates for the discussion board posts are located on Blackboard under the Discussion Board section.

✡*Research Project*

Students will write a research paper exploring the background of one Old Testament book. The different sections of the paper and the final paper itself will count for 200 points of the student’s grade. The student will submit each assignment electronically through Blackboard *by 11:59pm on the day it is are due. No e-mail submissions accepted!* Late papers will receive a ten percent deduction for each day (including weekends) past the due date. Assignments are considered one day late if they are not submitted to Blackboardat 11:59pm. If you are traveling on or around the due date, please submit the essay earlier than the due date to accommodate for your travel. Blackboard works best when files are submitted in .doc, .docx, or .pdf formats.

The completed paper is based on research from relevant sources (e.g., commentaries, Bible dictionaries, Old Testament introductions) and Turabian form. Select one Old Testament book to provide a background paper. Research the following issues for your chosen biblical book: authorship, date of writing, recipients of the writing (if identifiable), purpose of the writing, and key themes. Note that you will find that there is always more than one simple answer for each of these issues, regardless of your personal beliefs. I am asking you to research the question thoroughly and then develop conclusions based on our reading and research.

The paper should be approximately 1500-2100 words, not including the table of contents and bibliography (please double-spaced and use 12 point Times New Roman font). You must use at least five sources taken from the commentary list provided in the suggested bibliography and properly cite these five sources in the paper. Follow the proper form found in Turabian, including the title page, content and page format, proper margins, proper grammar, footnotes, and bibliography.

Your research paper is due in sections over the semester and then the completed paper as a whole will be submitted. See the Assignment Schedule for the due dates for the following parts of the paper: choice in Old Testament book (from a selection of approve biblical books); title page, table of contents, and purpose statement; working bibliography; first section detailing authorship (appx. 300 words) with proper footnotes. Each of these parts total 80 points for this assignments. For the remaining 120 points of this assignment, the completed research paper (as a whole with all previously submitted parts) is due online the last week of the semester (see assignment schedule). See the grading rubric on Blackboard under Research Assignment for the scoring breakdown and expectations for this assignment.

✡*Extra Credit*

For extra credit, students may complete multiple assignments for up to 40 points (4% of a student’s total grade). The list of extra credit opportunities and their requirements may be found on Blackboard under Extra Credit. Extra credit points vary from assignment to assignment. You cannot earn more than a total of 40 points from these assignments, so plan wisely. Due dates vary from assignment to assignment. You cannot complete an assignment and receive extra credit after the due date (*late submissions are not accepted*); again, plan wisely. Wait to complete the assignment until after we have addressed the topic in class so your readings and the lecture inform your response. No other extra credit opportunities will be offered regardless of student request.

## STUDENT GRADE PROTECTION AND APPEALS:

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 Vice President of Academic Affairs/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.

## USE OF BLACKBOARD, E-MAIL, AND SAFE ASSIGN:

We will use the course site at <https://wbu.blackboard.com/webapps/login/>. The syllabus, PDF readings, grading rubrics, study hints, grades, and more will be found on our class portal. When I need to contact the class as a group, I will send out an e-mail through Blackboard. Blackboard uses WBU e-mail addresses, so set your e-mail to forward if necessary.

Also, if you need to e-mail me, be sure to include (1) your name (I need to know who you *really* are rather than your “Gandalf7” or “Shelldor9” e-mail name), and (2) your class and class time (e.g. RLGN 1301, 9:00am). Please do not use e-mail chat or texting lingo. Consider our communication an extension of class.

Students agree that by taking this course, all required papers, exams, class projects or other assignments submitted for credit will be submitted to SafeAssign to review and evaluate for originality and intellectual integrity. Understand that all work submitted to the SafeAssign app in Blackboard will be added to its database of papers. Further understand that if the results of such a review support an allegation of academic dishonesty, the course work in question as well as any supporting materials will be submitted to the proper authorities for investigation and further action.

## CLASS DECORUM:

This course is taught in a liberal arts context and, therefore, you do not have to share a particular faith commitment to do well in this class. This course is a learning environment. Be open to learning from all viewpoints. Education is the goal, not indoctrination. Various responsible viewpoints on critical issues will be presented and you are not expected to agree with any one particular view. You are required to demonstrate that you understand the issues involved and the various viewpoints discussed in class. This course will spark your thought-processes in ways that may make you feel uncomfortable. Others may make comments of which you disapprove. To be a responsible citizen, one should be able to discuss conflicting and controversial ideas without coming to blows or emotionally battering the dialogue partner. Be respectful at all times of other viewpoints and beliefs and other religions and/or denominations.

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of *wisdom*,

and the *knowledge* of the Holy One is *insight*.” Proverbs 9:10

“And Jesus increased in *wisdom* and in years and in divine and human favor.” Luke 2:52

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your *mind*; and your neighbor as yourself.” Luke 10:27

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**[[1]](#footnote-1)ℵ**

The instructor reserves the right to alter this schedule as needed throughout the semester. The material next to the dates below should be prepared by that class date.

1. **ℵ** Read the assignments in the order listed on the reading schedule. With regards to the Scriptures, focus on the plot and relationships between the main characters. Passing quizzes will be difficult if you do not read all of the assignments. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)