# "WBUlogo"

School of Christian Studies

WBU Online

**WAYLAND BAPTIST 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 NAME: RLGN 1301-VC01

**TERM:** Fall 1, 2025

**INSTRUCTOR: J. Jeffrey Tillman, Ph.D.**

# CONTACT INFORMATION: *940-448-0845 james.tillman@wayland.wbu.edu*

**OFFICE HOURS, BUILDING, AND LOCATION:** *M-Th 3-6 PM*

*426 5th Ave., suite 7, Sheppard AFB, TX 76311*

**CLASS MEETING TIME AND LOCATION**:Online Course

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** an introductory survey of the historical literature with special attention to the institutions, religion, and national life of the Hebrew people.

**PREREQUISITE:** None

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND RESOURCES**:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Title** | **Editor/Author** | **Publisher** | **Ed** | **Year** | **ISBN** |
| NIV Study Bible |  | Zondervan |  | 2011 | **9780310428046** |

**This course includes an Automatic eBook.  Opt out date is the 8th day of class (third Monday of the session).**

**COURSE OUTCOME COMPETENCIES**:

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

**ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS**: Students enrolled at Wayland Baptist University should make every effort to attend all class meetings. All absences must be explained to the satisfaction of the instructor who will decide whether the omitted work may be made up.

Regardless of course format (face-to-face, online, or hybrid), it is the student's responsibility to understand and meet the attendance requirements set forth in the course syllabus.

Student “attendance” in an online course is defined as active participation in the course as described in the course syllabus. 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in an online class prior to the census date for any given term is considered a "no-show" and will be administratively withdrawn from the class without record. To be counted as actively participating, it is not sufficient to log in and view the course. The student must be submitting work as described in the course syllabus. 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 and participation policies for each course, as defined by the instructor in the course syllabus, are considered a part of the university’s attendance policy.

**STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM & ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

Please click on this link to [WBU’s Statement on Academic Integrity](https://www.wbu.edu/academics/writing-center/Academic%20Integrity%20Statement%20Pol%208.4.1%20Attch%20Oct%2020222.pdf) to understand policies concerning plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. All work must be the work of the student. In addition to normal means of plagiarism, the following policy concerning AI generated works also applies:

* + 1. No use of any generative AI tools permitted. i. Students are required to create and produce all work themselves or with assigned group members. Any work submitted that has used an AI generative tool like ChatGPT will be in immediate violation of the academic integrity policies for the course and WBU.
* All assignments must be fully created, designed, and prepared by the student(s).
* Any work that uses generative AI will be treated as plagiarism.

**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 Disability Services Coordinator and Academic Coach serves as the coordinator of students with disabilities and must be contacted concerning accommodation requests (office (806) 291-1057. Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.”

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING CRITERIA:**

1. **Measurement Instruments and Grading Chart**

Class Lectures and Outlines**:** Each student is responsible for gaining access to the class outlines listed below on the reading and discussion schedule.   These should be downloaded and printed out prior to the class for which they are assigned, and will direct the student in following the lecture for that day.

Blackboard: All assignments will be completed/uploaded through Blackboard. Feedback on assignments will be provided through the same platform. To access feedback on any assignment, click on the grade in the gradebook and continue following the screens, clicking on the underlined grade till you find feedback entered into a feedback field.

Examinations:

Weekly Quizzes: Each week a quiz is due over the material covered in the week’s lecture. Ten points each.

Exams will be a combination of matching and essay questions. Each of the three exams is 100 points.  For assistance in preparing for the essay exams, the student should consult the following sites:  [Writing Essay Exams](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/737/1/).  The exams will consist of matching questions and essay questions.   For the matching questions, the terms are found in the lecture notes, and additional terms can be found in these study guides:   [Exam 1](http://wbuwf.com/online/Courses/RLGN1301/New%20Notes/Study%20Guide%20Test%20One.htm), [Exam 2](http://www.wbuwf.com/online/Courses/RLGN1301/New%20Notes/Study%20Guide%20Exam%20%232.htm),  and [Exam 3](http://www.wbuwf.com/online/Courses/RLGN1301/New%20Notes/Study%20Guide%20Exam%20%233.htm).  Also, here are essay question pools for each exam, which correspond to sections in the lecture notes:   [Exam 1](http://www.wbuwf.com/online/Courses/RLGN1301/Essay%20Questions%20Exam%20One.htm), [Exam 2](http://www.wbuwf.com/online/Courses/RLGN1301/Essays%20Exam%202-1.htm), [Exam 3](http://wbuwf.com/online/Courses/RLGN1301/Essays%20Exam%203.htm).  The lecture notes and the study guides should be the sole source for material used on the exam.  You will have up to 180 minutes for each exam.

Discussions: Each week, there will be a class discussion. At the beginning of the term, each student will be assigned a question number, and the student should answer that question for each weekly discussion during the term paraphrasing and critically applying material from the week’s lecture. Each student should post a response to his/her question of at least 100 words by Wednesday 11:59 PM C.S.T. of each week: [Example](http://www.wbuwf.com/online/Courses/RLGN1301/Example%20of%20a%20Question%20Blog%20%20Response.htm).

By Saturday 11:59 PM C.S.T. each student should have read all the other discussion entries for that week, and posted at least a 50 word response to two students who answered different questions. These should be critical comments regarding the other student’s failure in addressing the assigned question in terms of the content of the lecture. Posts should be made to students who answered different questions from yours. Initial entries together with postings to other students are worth 20 points.

Students will note important correspondences between the topics of the discussions and the essays that appear on the exams. My comments on the discussions should be read with special interest, because I will indicate where each student has strayed from the line of content and perspective in which I’m interested.

Responses to Audio and Video Presentations (Extra Credit): Three audio streaming presentations will be viewed according to the dates and links provided on the schedule grid. On these dates, the student should submit a written response to the film. This response should include one paragraph summarizing the presentation, and one or more paragraphs reacting to the content of the tape. The student should spend the majority of the assignment reacting to the presentation in a reflective and critical manner. This is best done by picking out two or three controversial issues and exploring on paper why they are controversial and how the presentation succeeds or fails in describing and providing helpful perspectives on these issues. These assignments are worth 10 points each, and will be graded on clarity of writing, accuracy, and depth of reflection. Please note: I do not agree with all the perspectives portrayed in these materials, but these materials do represent views with which a person who is educated regarding the New Testament should be familiar. The goal in preparing this assignment is not to look for a clear right and wrong, or to defend your chosen beliefs, but to detect how the discussion impinges on how you see the world and how people across the world struggle with these issues and come up with different answers. These assignments should be submitted to the designated assignment upload in Blackboard. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Grading:  There is a total of 540 points for this course.

Eight quizzes times 10 points each 80 points

Eight Discussions times 20 points each— 160 points

Three exams times 100 points each --- 300 points

 Total 540 points

A-486-540 B-432-485 C-378-431 D-324-377 F-0-323

**Late Assignments will not be accepted.**

1. **Grading Scale**

 90 – 100% A

 80 – 89% B

 70 – 79% C

 60 – 69% D

 Below 60% F

**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 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**

**Reading and Discussion Schedule**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Readings NIV Study Bible | Lecture Outlines | Assignments Due | Internet Sites that may be helpful |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Week 1 –** August 11-16 |  | [Introductory Issues](http://www.wbuwf.com/online/Courses/RLGN1301/New%20Notes/Introductory%20Issues.htm) | Discussion 1Lecture Quiz 1 | [How Christians Interpret the Bible](http://www.religioustolerance.org/chr_inte.htm) |
| **Week 2 –** August 17-23 |   | [Pentateuchal Criticism](http://www.wbuwf.com/online/Courses/RLGN1301/New%20Notes/Pentateuchal%20Criticism%20and%20Old%20Testament%20Criticism%20in%20General.htm) | Discussion 2Lecture Quiz 2Audio/Video Reaction 1-[The Art of Translating the Bible](https://thebiblefornormalpeople.com/the-art-of-translating-the-bible/) | [Biblical Criticism](http://www.religioustolerance.org/chr_hcri.htm)[The Books of the Pentateuch](http://www.religioustolerance.org/chr_otb1.htm)[Flat Earth Society](http://www.alaska.net/~clund/e_djublonskopf/Flatearthsociety.htm) |
| **Week 3 –** August 24-30 | Introductory Material to Genesis | [Genesis](http://www.wbuwf.com/online/Courses/RLGN1301/New%20Notes/Genesis.htm) | Discussion 3Lecture Quiz 3Exam #1 | [Pagan Religion in Canaan](http://books.google.com/books?id=NopUi53PC0YC&pg=PA70&lpg=PA70&dq=baal+rituals+of+sexual+intercourse&source=bl&ots=oQbCPZfbnj&sig=r3tzyLLpFPPPojcx7AF7JlZ5BgY&hl=en&ei=y1XHTLjeM8KAlAfyiKHAAQ&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=9&ved=0CDcQ6AEwCA#v=onepage&q&f=false) |
| **Week 4-** August 31-September 6 | Introductory Material to Exodus-Deuteronomy |  [Exodus](http://www.wbuwf.com/online/Courses/RLGN1301/New%20Notes/The%20Exodus.htm) | Discussion 4Lecture Quiz 4Reaction to Audio 2-[Who Wrote the Penteteuch?](https://thebiblefornormalpeople.com/who-wrote-the-pentateuch-with-jeffrey-stackert/) |  |
| **Week 5**-September 7-13 | Introductory Material for Joshua, Judges, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings,  | [Conquest to the United Kingdom](http://wbuwf.com/online/Courses/RLGN1301/New%20Notes/The%20Conquest%20and%20the%20United%20Kingdom.htm) | Discussion 5Lecture Quiz 5Exam #2 |  |
| **Week 6 –** September 14-20 | Introductory Material 2 Kings, Lamentations, Ezra, and Nehemiah |  [Division of the Kingdom to the Exile](http://www.wbuwf.com/online/Courses/RLGN1301/New%20Notes/Split%20of%20the%20Kingdoms%20to%20the%20Exile.htm) | Discussion 6Lecture Quiz 6Audio Reaction: ['How to Read the Bible' Through History](http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5174963) |  |
| **Week 7-** September 21-27 | Introductory Material for Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, and Jeremiah  | [Prophets and Writings](http://www.wbuwf.com/online/Courses/RLGN1301/New%20Notes/Prophets%20and%20Writings.htm) | Discussion 7Lecture Quiz 7 |  |
| **Week 8 –** September 28-October4 | Introductory Material for Ezekiel, Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, and Psalms |   | Discussion 8Lecture Quiz 8Exam #3 |   |