



**Virtual Campus
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:

THST 5303 – VC01 Old Testament Foundations

TERM:

Fall 1, 2026

INSTRUCTOR:

Andrew Marquez, Ph.D.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Email: andrew.marquez@wbu.edu

OFFICE HOURS, BUILDING & LOCATION:

By Appointment

COURSE MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

Asynchronous interaction with specific deadlines; Virtual Campus Blackboard website.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Introduction to the ancient Near Eastern background of the books of the Hebrew Bible, with emphasis on pertinent historical-critical issues, theological interpretation, and contemporary application.

PREREQUISITE:

None

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND RESOURCE MATERIAL:

1. Barker, K. (Gen. Ed.). 2011. *The NIV Study Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. ISBN 978-0310438922.
2. Longman, Tremper, and Raymond B. Dillard. 2006. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan. ISBN 978-0310263418

COURSE OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCIES:

Students will –

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the inspiration and canon of the Old Testament.
2. Demonstrate the ability to relate the Old Testament writings within the context of similar traditions in ancient Near East
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the content and significance of the writings found in the three major divisions of the Old Testament: Torah, Prophets, and Writings.
4. Produce a research project that shows critical analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of a cultural, historical, or theological issue found in the Old Testament.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:

Students are expected to participate in all required instructional activities in their courses. Student “attendance” in an online course is defined as active participation in the course as described in the course syllabus. 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 may receive an F for that course. 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. 7. When a student reaches a number of absences considered by the instructor to be excessive, the instructor will submit a Report of Unsatisfactory Progress to the student’s WBU student email account and to appropriate university personnel.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM & ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Wayland proudly adheres to high standards of intellectual, moral, ethical, and spiritual values. Convinced that self-discipline is more desirable than outside force and that the truly educated person must pursue what is right under all circumstances, Wayland entrusts each student with the solemn obligation of preserving these standards. [Link to Statement on Academic Integrity](#)

No use of any generative AI tools permitted. 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:

Class Participation

Weighting: 8%

Possible Points: 80

Due to the scope of material to be covered in this course, learners are expected to attend and participate throughout the semester. Participation points are not guaranteed. To gain points, learners must engage in the instructional activities of the course.

Discussion Posts

Weighting: 14% (2% per Board)

Possible Points: 140 (20 points per Board)

Students are expected to respond to 7 discussion boards throughout the course. Each thread in the discussion board must be addressed for full credit in the assignment. These questions are reflective in nature, without a “correct” answer. They are intended to encourage thought about the readings and lectures as well as to facilitate dialogue on these topics. Sunday deadline for initial responses to instructor’s threads (questions). Students should also engage in robust discussions with their classmates about posts on discussion boards. **There is a minimal expectation of two substantive responses to classmates’ posts per week.** These interactions are due by Sunday of the week following the initial posts. All discussion posts should strive to build community and enhance the learning process.

Journal Posts

Weighting: 28% (7% per report)

Possible Points: 280 (70 per report)

Students are expected to compose four journal posts over the course of the term. Journal posts should be at least 200 words in length. Students will journal on specific weeks in response to specific content covered in the course.

Research Paper

Weighting: 20%

Possible Points: 200

Students will write an exegetical paper between 12-15 pages of text, excluding cover page, table of contents, appendices, and bibliography. The paper must follow the guidelines stipulated in the WBU School of Religion and Philosophy’s Style Guide. Specific details of the paper will be distributed on the first day of class.

Exams

Weighting: 30% (10% per exam)

Possible Points: 300 (100 per exam)

Students will be required to take three exams for the course. These exams will focus on material covered in the class lectures and reinforced in the required reading.

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.

COMPUTATION OF FINAL GRADE:

Attendance/participation:	80 points	8%
Discussion Posts:	140 points	14%
Journal Posts:	280 points	28%
Research Paper:	200 points	20%
Exams:	300 points	30%
Total Possible Score:	1000 points	100%

Grade Appeal Statement: "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."

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Due: Discussion Board #1 (DB 1); Paper Topic/Passage Selection

Watch/Read: Lecture 1-2

Read: *IOT* Chapter 1

NIV: Preface (xi-xiii); Quick Start Guide (xiv); Introduction to the NIV Study Bible (xv-xviii); Ancient Texts Relating to the Old Testament (xxii-xxiv); Old Testament Chronology (xxv-xxix); Tables of Weights and Measures (2181); Maps (2515-30); The Five Books of Moses (3); Intro to Genesis (4-9). Genesis 1-11; Be familiar with where these features are and what they can be used for: Table of Contents (v-x); Abbreviations (xxi); Revised Spelling of Proper Names (2182-83); Index to Topics (2184-324); Index to Notes (2325-61); Concordance

Week 2: Due: Journal Post #1 (JP 1); DB 2; Exegetical Paper Part 1

Watch/Read: Lecture 3

Read: *IOT* Selected Chapter from Chapters 2-6

NIV: Gen 12:1-19:38; 21:1-25:18; 25:19-34; 27-35; 37-45; 47-48; 50; Major Covenants in the Old Testament (23); Intro to Exodus (92-97); Ex 1:1-12:42; 13:17-14:31; 15:19-16:35; 18-20; 32-34; The Tabernacle (134); Tabernacle Furnishings (135); Intro to Leviticus (156-59); Old Testament Sacrifices (164); Lev 16; 25; Old Testament Festivals and Other Sacred Days (188-89)

Week 3: Due: Exam 1; DB 3; Exegetical Paper Part 2

Watch/Read: Lecture 4

Read: *IOT* Selected Chapter from Chapters 7-11

NIV: Intro to Numbers (197-202); Nu 9:15-23; 13-14; 20:1-13; 21:4-9; Intro to Deuteronomy (256-60); Dt 17:14-20:20; The Conquest and the Ethical Question of War (308); Dt 6:1-9:6; 29-30; Major Social Concerns in the Covenant (287); Dt 31:1-8; 34

Week 4: Due: JP2, DB 4, Exegetical Paper Part 3

Watch/Read: Lecture 5-6

Read: *IOT* Selected Chapter from Chapters 20-23

NIV: The Historical Books of the Old Testament (307); Intro to Joshua (309-14); Jos 1:1-13:8; 23-24; Intro to Judges (350-56); Jdg 1-8; 10:6-12:7; 13-16; 21:25; Intro to Ruth (391-94); Ru 1-4; Intro to 1 Samuel (402-08); 1Sa 1-10; 13; 15; 28:3-25; 31; 16-20; 24; 26:1-28:2; 29-30; Intro to 2 Samuel (457-59); 2Sa 1:1-2:11; 4-7; 11-15; 18:1-19:15;

Week 5: Due: JP 3, DB 5, Exegetical Paper Part 4

Watch/Read: Lecture 6

Read: *IOT* Selected Chapter from Chapters 15-19

NIV: Intro to 1 Kings (502-10); 1Ki 1-8; Solomon's Temple (522-23); Temple Furnishings (524); 1Ki 9-11; Rulers of the Divided Kingdom of Israel and Judah (544-45); 1Ki 12-19; 20:35-22:40; Intro to 2 Kings (567-68); 2Ki 1:1-2:18; 3:10-5:27; 9-11; 2Ki 14:23-29; The Prophets (1109); The Book of the Twelve, or The Minor Prophets (1439-40); Intro to Amos (1469-72); Am 1-5; 7-8; 9:11-15; Intro to Hosea (1441-43); Hos 1-4; 6; 9:7-8; 10:11-11:11; 14; 2Ki 15:8-31; 17; 2Ki 16; Intro to Micah (1498-501); Mic 1:1-4; 2:6-4:5; 5-6; Intro to Isaiah (1110-16); Isa 1-2; 5:1-9:7; 11-12; 14:3-23; 26; 30; 35; 2Ki 18-20; 2Ki 21; Intro to Zephaniah (1526-28); Zep 1:1-2:3; 3:8-18; 2Ki 22:1-23:30; Intro to Jeremiah (1216-22); Jer 1; 3:1-4:4; 5; 7:1-15; 11:18-23; 13; 2Ki 23:31-24:17; Intro to Nahum (1511-13); Na 2; Intro to Habakkuk (1518-20); Hab 1-3; Jer 23-24; 26; 28-29; 35-36; 2Ki 24:18-25:30; Jer 18-21; 31:15-32:44; 38

Week 6: Due: Exam 2; DB 6; Exegetical Paper Final

Watch/Read: Lecture 7-8

Read: *IOT Selected Chapter from Chapters 25-36*

NIV: Jer 39:11-40:10; 41:1-3; 41:11-42:16; 43:1-7; 44:1-6, 15-18; Ps 137; Intro to Lamentations (1320-23); La 1; 3-4; Intro to Ezekiel (1334-40); Eze 1-6; 10-11; 16; 18; 20:1-44; 24:15-22; 33:21-33; 36:22-32; 37; Ezekiel's Temple (1399); Eze 43:1-12; 47:1-12; Isa 40:1-41:4; 42:1-9; 44:24-45:13; 49:1-7; 50; 52:13-53:12; 55; 61; 65:17-66:24; Jer 39:11-40:10; 41:1-3; 41:11-42:16; 43:1-7; 44:1-6, 15-18; Ps 137; Intro to Lamentations (1320-23); La 1; 3-4

Week 7: Due: JP 4; DB 7

Watch/Read: Lecture 9-10

Read: *IOT Selected Chapter from Chapters 12-14, 24*

NIV: Intro to Ezekiel (1334-40); Eze 1-6; 10-11; 16; 18; 20:1-44; 24:15-22; 33:21-33; 36:22-32; 37; Ezekiel's Temple (1399); Eze 43:1-12; 47:1-12; Isa 40:1-41:4; 42:1-9; 44:24-45:13; 49:1-7; 50; 52:13-53:12; 55; 61; 65:17-66:24; Intro to Obadiah (1486-59); Ob 1-21; Intro to Joel (1460-61); Joel 1-3; Intro to Jonah (1490-93); Jnh 1-4; Intro to Malachi (1561-64); Mal 1-4; Intro to Esther (769-72); Est 1-10; Intro to Daniel (1414-16); Ptolemies and Seleucids (1436-37); Da 1-8

Week 8: Due: Exam 3

Read: *NIV: The Books of Poetry (785); Intro to Psalms (841-56); Types of Hebrew Parallelism (859); Pss 1-2; 12; 22-23; 66; 121; 136; 148; Wisdom Literature (786); Intro to Song of Songs (1096-99); SS 1-8; Intro to Proverbs (1024-30); Pr 1-3; 8-9; Character Traits in Proverbs (1053); Pr 15-16; 26; 31:10-31; Intro to Ecclesiastes (1079-83); Ecc 1-3; 12; Intro to Job (787-93); Job 1-5; 18-19; 29-33; 36; 38:1-40:14; 42*