Wayland Baptist University Logo

## WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

## VIRTUAL CAMPUS

## SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES

**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.

**Course Title and Number:** THST/PHIL 5300 HI01 Biblical Interpretation

**Term:** Fall 2: 2021

**Name of Instructor:**  Dr. Brent Schlittenhart

**Office Phone Number and WBU Email Address:** Office: 808-488-8570; Home: 808-234-6960; [schlittenhartb@wbu.edu](mailto:schlittenhartb@wbu.edu); or [schlittenhartb@yahoo.com](mailto:schlittenhartb@yahoo.com); Please use the wbu.edu email for primary correspondence. You are free to call me at home but remember the time difference since I live in Hawaii.

**Office Hours, Building, and Location:** The professor is available at 4 PM Hawaii time and 30 minutes after class. The professor is also available by appointment at other times. Office Location is 599 Farrington Highway, Kapolei, HI 96707.

**Class Meeting Time and Location:** Virtual Campus October 11, 2021 through December 11, 2021

**Catalog Description:** Research in the principles and methods of biblical exegesis and interpretation with an emphasis on the problem of communicating the biblical message in the modern world.

### **Prerequisites/Co-requisites: None**

**Required Textbook(s) and/or Resource Material:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Title** | **Editor/Author** | **Publisher** | **Ed** | **Year** | **ISBN** |
| *How to Read the Bible For All Its Worth* | Gordon Fee, Douglas Stuart | Zondervan | 4th | 2014 | 9780310517825 |
| *Biblical Hermeneutics: A Comprehensive Introduction to Interpreting Scripture* | Bruce Corley, Steve Lemke, Grant Lovejoy | Broadman & Holman Publishers | 2nd | 2002 | 9780805424928 |
| *Plowshares & Pruning Hooks: Rethinking the language of Biblical Prophecy and Apocalyptic* | D. Brent Sandy | IVP Academic |  | 2002 | 9780830826537 |
| *Bible* | Any translation recognized by mainstream Christianity |  |  |  |  |

**The Corley Text is not available in VitalSource at this time and will need to be acquired through another means. The other textbooks are Automatic eBooks 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 due date.**

**Other Books and Periodicals:** the professor may provide additional articles and websites for you to read throughout the course of the term.

**Course Outcome Competencies:** Students will:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the general rules of biblical interpretation leading to a proclamation of the biblical text that is both responsible and defensible

2. Demonstrate knowledge of the history of interpretation and the effect on biblical interpretation

3. Demonstrate knowledge of the genres of the biblical text, tools used in interpretation, and scholarly criticism necessary for responsible exegesis of the biblical text

4. Organize research and interpretation of biblical passages into an exegetical paper

5. Understand and apply the principles and methods of biblical interpretation

6. Analyze, evaluate, and explain the language of Biblical prophecy and apocalyptic

## **Attendance Requirements: Online Attendance Policy**

**Online Students:** Students are expected to participate in all required instructional activities in their courses. Online courses are no different in this regard; however, participation must be defined in a different manner. Student “attendance” in an online course is defined as active participation in the course as described in the course syllabus. Instructors in online courses are responsible for providing students with clear instructions for how they are required to participate in the course. Additionally, instructors are responsible for incorporating specific instructional activities within their course and will, at a minimum, have weekly mechanisms for documenting student participation. These mechanisms may include, but are not limited to, participating in a weekly discussion board, submitting/completing assignments in Blackboard, or communicating with the instructor. 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, i.e., non-participatory during 2 or more weeks of an 8 week term, may receive an F for that course. Instructors may also file a Report of Unsatisfactory Progress for students with excessive non-participation. 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. 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.

**Students are expected and required to meet deadlines. You are personally accountable for anticipating unforeseen delays.**

**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 associated with plagiarism stated in the catalog. This is the link for the full statement on plagiarism in the University catalog. <http://catalog.wbu.edu/content.php?catoid=7&navoid=446>

**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:**

1. Each student will read the assigned readings and participate in the classroom experience.

2. Each student will take a midterm and a final exam. Material will come from the assigned readings and class notes. The exams will be administered through Blackboard.

3. Each student will write an exegetical paper from either an Old Testament or New Testament passage that he or she chooses. The exegetical paper needs to make clear the historical meaning of the passage for its original audience in addition to applying the historical meaning of the text for the lives of contemporary Christian believers. **The paper should employ the elements suggested in the Corley text book on pages 9—19 as the student works on the paper.** The paper needs to follow the Turabian format by using the WBU Religion Writing Lab Style Guide in form and documentation and use footnotes in the paper The paper needs to include a title page, table of contents, and a bibliography in addition to the 8 to 10 pages of text and requires a minimum of ten sources. Margins for the paper need to conform to the writing lab style guide, use 10 or 12 New Times Roman font, and double space. In addition to submitting the paper to the professor the body of the paper needs to be submitted through safe assignment in Blackboard.

4. Each student will read the lecture notes on Blackboard and submit postings to the Discussion Board forums on the assigned weeks. The student posting needs to be a minimum of 200 words. Students need to read all other student postings and make a student response to at least one other student posting. The student response needs to be a minimum of 175 words. There will be one grade for each discussion board forum which includes both the student posting and student response.

5. Each student will write a 3 to 5-page critical book review of *Plowshares & Pruning Hooks*. The book review needs to have a title page, an analysis and evaluation of the book’s contents highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of the book. Quotations from the book in the review can be referenced parenthetically with just the page number. The student can use book reviews from journal articles to assist in the analysis and evaluation of the book as long as they are properly documented and footnoted and then included in a bibliography page.

6. Each student will write a practical presentation of their exegetical paper in the form of a brief Bible Study or Devotional that could be used in a ministry setting based on the passage of their exegetical paper. This is not a repeat of the exegetical paper but will incorporate the main points learned in the exegetical paper into a practical presentation format. The written Bible Study or devotional needs to be 2 to 6 pages. The professor will provide guidance on this assignment during the term.

### **Resources:**

The student should request many resources through the WBU main campus library and have them mailed directly to his/her home. The Bible does not count as one of your minimum resources but follow the style guide for footnoting a reference, when referencing a study note from the *NIV Study Bible* use the form for one general editor. **START YOUR RESEARCH EARLY!**

### **Course Evaluation:**

### **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 work required is completed prior to the last day of the next 8-week term, unless the instructor designates an earlier date for completion. If the work is not completed by the appropriate date, the I is converted to a grade of F. An incomplete notation cannot remain on the student’s permanent record and must be replaced by the qualitative grade (A-F) by the date specified in the official University calendar of the next regular term. An incomplete turned to a qualitative grade will be indicated by the notation I/grade on the student transcript.

### **Procedure for computations of final grade**

1. Midterm exam: 20%

2. Final exam: 20%

3. Exegetical Paper: 20%

4. Blackboard Average: 20%

5. Book Review 10%

6. Practical Presentation 10%

**Late assignments will not receive full credit and will usually receive a five point minimum reduction.**

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.

### **Tentative Schedule: Course Outline and Calendar**

**Week 1 10/11—10/17/2021 Columbus Day No Face to Face Class**

Introduction; General hermeneutical principles; Tools for interpretation.

**Reading: Fee 11-56; 275-90; Corley 2-53; 176-241**

**Blackboard Discussion 1: Student Posting Due 10/15, Student Response Due 10/17**

**Week 2 10/18—10/24/2021** Interpreting the Epistles

**Reading: Fee 57-92; Corley 331-346**

**Blackboard Discussion 2: Student Posting Due 10/22, Student Response Due 10/24**

**Week 3 10/25—10/31/2021** Interpreting Old Testament Narratives; Acts and the History of Interpreting the Bible .

**Reading: Fee 93-131; Corley 56-162; 260-279; 328-329; 387-418**

**Blackboard Discussion 3: Student Posting Due 10/29, Student Response Due 10/31**

**Week 4 11/01—11/07/2021** Interpreting the Gospels and Parables

**Reading: Fee 132-167; Corley 316-328**

**Midterm Exam Due** **11/07**

**Week 5 11/08—11/14/2021** Interpreting the Law and the Prophets

**Reading: Fee 168-211; Corley 244-259; 301-315**

**Blackboard Discussion 4: Student Posting Due 11/12, Student Response Due 11/14**

**Week 6 11/15—11/21/2021** Interpreting the Psalms and Wisdom Literature

**Reading: Fee 258-273; Corley 280-300**

**Blackboard Discussion 5: Student Posting Due 11/19, Student Response Due 11/21**

**Book Review Due 11/21**

**11/22—11/28/2021 Thanksgiving Break**

**Week 7 11/29—12/05/2021** Interpreting the Apocalyptic

**Reading: Fee 258-273; Corley 347-354**

**Exegetical Paper Due on 12/05**

**Week 8 12/06—12/11/2021** Concluding Information

**Final Exam due on Saturday 12/11**

**Practical Presentation Paper due on Saturday 12/11**

### **Additional Information:**

###### Method of Instruction: Online through Blackboard and the Virtual Campus; Lecture/Split level

## **Internet Access**

All Virtual Campus students are required to have access to the Internet, an e-mail account, and access to a computer with Microsoft word processing capability. All information exchanges, homework assignments, exams, and other requirements for this course will be conducted via Wayland Baptist University’s Blackboard, e-mail/email attachment(s). Use of anti-virus software for computer is highly recommended. If you have not activated your Wayland email account this is a good time to do so. Important announcements and other information can be emailed to your Wayland account directly from Blackboard.