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**WBU Online 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 4310 The Torah

## TERM:

Fall, 2021 Session 2 (October 11-December 11)

## INSTRUCTOR:

Jeff Anderson, Ph.D.

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

Office phone: 907-227-0622

WBU Email: anderson@wbu.edu

## OFFICE HOURS, BUILDING & LOCATION:

This is an online class. You may text, email, or phone me. Zoom and Collaborate appointments can be easily arranged.

## COURSE MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

This is an online class. Assignments are ordinarily given on Mondays and due by Saturday of the same week. Discussion Boards require responses throughout the week.

## CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

An exploration of the first five books of the Old Testament, including historical and cultural setting, key themes, and interpretive issues.

## PREREQUISITE:

RLGN 1301 or RLGN 1302

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND RESOURCE MATERIAL:

Required:

| Title | Editor/Author | Publisher | Ed | Year | ISBN |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| The Book of the Torah, 2nd Ed. | Thomas Mann | Wipf and Stock | 2 | 2013 | 978-1498214834 |
| NIV Cultural Backgrounds Bible | Walton, et. Al. | Zondervan | 1 | 2016 | 978-0-310-43158-9 |
| The Lost World of the Torah | John Walton | IVP | 1 | 2019 | 978-0830852413 |

## Important Message about Automatic Ebook:

If your course is using an E-textbook, please note that Wayland Baptist University has partnered with VitalSource to bring Inclusive Access, which is a digital copy of the required textbook available on Blackboard. You can access your textbook approximately one week before class begins. The prices are very competitive with the market and in most cases below the standard cost. If your course is using the VitalSource system, once you access the textbook on Blackboard you will be asked if you would like to opt-out. If you choose NOT to use the VitalSource provided textbook version, you MUST opt-out by the second week of class/census date or you will be charged (and refunds are not available). The price of the textbook will be billed automatically to your student account. To check the price of the textbook, please locate your required course material in Blackboard or go to your student services financial area.

Please keep in mind that VitalSource has to work with publishers to get your copy so check your Wayland email daily. A link may be provided in just a few hours, or it may take a few days.

For student access:

1. Every Course in Blackboard has a link to eTextbook [Vital Source] embedded in the course menu, with basic instructions.

2. Please encourage use of this textbook. Printed copies will NOT be available through our bookstore. Students can purchase via Amazon or similar vendor but the cost is usually substantially more expensive.

3. Student will “register”, just like you, to access their library, and opt out if desired.

4. They will be able to read and interact with their textbook from that location.

5. Some Cengage textbooks are just eTextbooks and will have direct Vital Source access in the classroom. Ask us if you are not sure.

6. IF your course is a Cengage, or Pearson with “access” to special courseware materials [MyLab, Mindtap with special assignments, accounting, etc.] you will need to set up the links to that in your Blackboard Classroom by Day 1 of the term. Students pay for the textbook and access via VitalSource, and be given a code in most cases, and will need that special link to the special materials you want them to access. WBUonline can assist you with this if you need help.

## OPTIONAL MATERIALS

Will be provided by the instructor.

## COURSE OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCIES:

Each student will:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the history of scholarship and major issues in criticism and interpretation concerning the Pentateuch
2. Demonstrate the ability to relate the mythical, narrative, and legal traditions in ancient Israel within the context of similar traditions in ancient Near East
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the content and significance of the writings found in the Pentateuch that leads to the application of the message of the books to the contemporary world

## ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:

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. Theses mechanisms may include, but are not limited to, partipating in a weekly discussion board, submitting/completing assignments in Blackboard, or communicating with the instructor. Students award 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. nonparticipatory during 3 or more weeks of an 11 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.

## 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:

Students are expected to successfully complete the requirements below:

1. Biblical Readings with quiz. Undergraduate and graduate students will have separate quizzes.
2. Textbook Readings with quiz. Undergraduate and graduate students will have separate quizzes.
3. Research Project: Write a 7-10 page exegetical or topical research paper on a topic that is approved by the instructor. Project due on December 4, 2021. List of possible topics:

*Enuma Elish* (Babylonian Creation Account)

Rest and the Seventh Day

The Serpent in the Torah

The Name of God

Who Wrote the Torah?

*Toledoth* Formula/Genealogies

Gilgamesh Epic and the Bible

Pick a Covenant: Noah, Abraham, Moses

Genesis 1-11 and Genre

Ziggurats/Babel Story

Abraham’s Battles with the Kings

Circumcision

Jacob’s Journeys

Shechem

Inheritance Rights/Birthright

Levirate Marriage

The Exodus and History

The Plagues of Egypt

Passover

The Red Sea

Ten Commandments

Location of Mt. Sinai

Tabernacle

Urim and Thummim

Bodily Secretions in Old Testament Law

Water Ordeal and Adultery/Numbers 5

Golden Calf

Death of Moses

Ancient Near Eastern Law Codes

Code of Hammurabi

OT Sacrificial Law

Covenant Blessings and Curses

The Shema

Nazirite Vow

Balaam Story

Suzereinty Treaties and the OT

Canaanite Religion

How the Torah Ends

Documentary Hypothesis/Source Criticism

Song of Miriam, Song of Deborah

Polygamy in Genesis

1. Comprehensive Final Exam

A Warning about Style Guide Requirements**:**

WBU’s School of Religion and Philosophy requires a Turabian 9th edition format for all written work. Written submissions that do not conform to this style guide will be penalized severely.

Course Evaluation (Method of Determining Grade): University Grading System

 A 90-100: INCOMPLETE\*\*

 B 80-89: Cr FOR CREDIT

 C 70-79NCr NO CREDIT

 D 60-69WP 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 [points and assignments may vary]

 Quizzes: 100 points

 Research Project: 100 points

 Final Exam 100 points Total: 300 points.

## 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 One (October 11): An Introduction to the Torah (Read Mann, Introduction)

Week Two: (October 18) The Primeval History (Read, Genesis, 1-11; Read Mann, Chapter One)

Week Three: (October 25) Abraham and the Ancestors of Israel (Read Genesis 12-50)

Week Four: (November 1) The Exodus Story (Read Exodus, Read Mann, Chapter 2)

Week Five: (November 8) Sinai and the Giving of the Law (Read Leviticus, Read Mann, Chapter 3)

Week Six: (November 15) In the Wilderness (Read Numbers, Read Mann, Chapter 4)

No Class the Week of November 22

Week Seven: (November 29) Deuteronomy/End of the Torah (Read Deuteronomy, Mann, Chapter 5)

Week Eight: (December 6) Final Exam

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

None