

WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

VIRTUAL CAMPUS

SCHOOL OF RELIGION & PHILOSOPHY

Mission: 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 AND TITLE

RLGN 1302 VC03 New Testament History

TERM AND DATES

Spring 2014 Feb 24—May 17, 2014

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME, OFFICE NUMBER, AND E-MAIL ADDRESS

Dr. J. M. Givens Jr.

Professor of Religion and Philosophy

Director of the Online Religion Programs

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Instant Messaging available through Blackboard IM (download through Tools section)

OFFICE LOCATION AND HOURS

Flores Bible Building office suite

Mon 9-12; Tues 1-3; Wed 9-11; Thurs 1-4 CDT/CST (phone and instant messaging)

Other times available by email and/or appointment

CLASS MEETING TIME AND LOCATION

Asynchronous interaction; Virtual Campus Blackboard website

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

An introductory survey of the historical literature with special attention to the background and origins of Christian beliefs and practices, and to the life of Jesus Christ and the early Christian community.

PREREQUISITE(S)

None.

REQUIRED RESOURCE MATERIALS

1. *The NIV Study Bible*. Grand Rapids, IL: Zondervan, 2011.

OPTIONAL: *The Learning Bible: New International Version*. New York: American Bible Society, 2003.

NOTE: Lectures and some other assignments are keyed to *The Learning Bible*, which just went out of print. Former students who already possess *The Learning Bible* may continue to use that text for the course. Others should secure *The NIV Study Bible*. If you have *The NIV Study Bible*, please ignore any references in lectures to a page number. Instead, use the book and verse references that are also stated in the lectures. The text change was sudden, so I am in the process of revising the lectures for new page number references.

2. INTERNET EQUIPPED COMPUTER

- A. Must conform to minimum recommended settings identified on the Blackboard login page
- B. Must utilize WBU student email account for official university communications

3. WBU BLACKBOARD COURSE MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

- A. Blackboard website URL: <https://wbu.blackboard.com>
- B. Login username: WBU student id (9 digit number, usually 3-5 zeros at beginning)
- C. Login password: first three letters of first name + first three letters of last name (unless you have used Blackboard previously and have changed your password)
- D. Technical support: 24/7 via phone and chat; see login page of Blackboard

OPTIONAL MATERIALS

1. Blackboard Mobile App

Limited version of Blackboard for mobile devices--Apple App Store or Google Play

2. Internet or App for Audio-Mobile NIV texts

While textbook is required for additional readings, students may also access/download one of the following web-based or app-based texts of the NIV for assisting with the reading of the assigned Bible passages

- A. NIV Live app – dramatized reading; well produced; read along text available with audio; Genesis downloads for free; \$19.99 for access to entire Bible (or \$49.99 for multiple platforms/devices)
- B. Bible Gateway app – free NIV audio and text within the app; 3 options available—dramatized and two readers
- C. Biblegateway.com website – online version of B, with free NIV text (if textbook not available) and three audio options
- D. Other options exist for websites and apps

COURSE OUTCOME COMPETENCIES

Students will –

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

ATTENDANCE POLICIES

1. Student "attendance" in an online course is defined as active participation in the course as described in the course syllabus.
2. Students aware of necessary absences must inform the professor with as much advance notice as possible in order to make appropriate arrangements.
3. Any student absent 25 percent or more of the online course, i.e., non-participatory during 3 or more weeks of an 11 week term, may receive an F for that course.
4. 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.
5. 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.

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 ASSIGNMENTS/REQUIREMENTS

1. *Blackboard Scavenger Hunt*. The hunt is designed to help familiarize you with the essential features of Blackboard. **Complete by Wednesday of Week 1 (3rd day of class). 1 point** will be deducted each day for **late submissions**. The scavenger hunt is counted with the discussion board for grading purposes.
2. *Assigned Readings*. Weekly reading assignments are listed in the schedule. These should be completed toward the beginning of the week as much as possible to ensure time to complete other assignments which depend on the readings.
3. *Reading Quizzes*. The weekly classes primarily consist of video lectures over the assigned readings. The lectures, however, assume a general familiarity with the weekly reading assignments. To ensure that you are prepared for the lectures, you will take a reading quiz to assess your *general* understanding of these materials. Tests should be completed toward the beginning of each week. Remaining assignments, such as the video lectures, will not be accessible until after the completion of the quizzes.
4. *Video Lectures*. Students will watch video lectures each week after completing the reading quiz. Students should take notes as if they were in a face to face class in order to prepare

for the examinations. Handouts are provided to assist with note-taking, but students should not solely rely on the handouts for information relevant to the exams.

5. *Discussion Boards.* Students are expected to respond to weekly topics assigned by the instructor in a thoughtful, academic manner. 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.
6. *Community Development.* It is important in this class to create a learning community to encourage active learning and enhance the online experience. The scavenger hunt above is a first step in the process, as students build wikis to introduce themselves and to get to know their classmates. **Students should engage in robust discussions with their classmates during the term through discussion board and wiki interaction.** In addition to responding to classmates’ posts on weekly assigned discussion topics, there is a weekly thread entitled “anything else?” where students can ask questions about issues in the reading they didn’t find addressed in the lectures or topics they would like to discuss about the readings/lectures. There are also a number of non-point discussion boards (prayer requests, study halls for quizzes) intended to encourage community. All discussion posts should strive to build community and enhance the learning process.

Note: Because the university classroom is a place designed for the free exchange of ideas, we will frequently encounter the opinions of others which may seem novel and, occasionally, outlandish. We should show respect for one another in all circumstances. Part of the learning experience will be the opportunity to hear other opinions and/or interpretations of the assigned readings. Therefore, we should show respect for one another by exhibiting patience and courtesy. Persistent belligerence of another’s views will **lower your class participation grade.**

7. *Examinations.* Two exams will be given, one per completed unit of study. (There is no comprehensive final.) Questions will be multiple choice, true/false, matching, and short answer/fill in the blank. The exams will **primarily** cover material from the lectures along with some questions from assigned readings. All class lectures, however, presuppose knowledge of the assigned reading as background for understanding the lectures.

Note: The two exams will be **proctored** (monitored). The student is responsible to secure an approved proctor following the procedures defined by the Virtual Campus. Remote proctoring is an option if time or location hinders other approved testing venues.
http://www.wbu.edu/academics/online_programs/proctor/proctorrequest.htm

Practice Quizzes: Each week, practice questions will be posted on Blackboard for the upcoming exam. These questions are *related to actual questions* that will be on the exam. (The content is the same, although the question itself may appear in a different form on the exam.) **Practice quizzes are not graded.** (They are visible in the grade center and may

show a “grade” after you take them, but they are visible only so you can see your answers and level of success on the practice quiz.) They are provided to prepare students for the exams, like a personal tutor. *Students who utilize practice quizzes see significant improvement in exam scores!*

GRADING CRITERIA

1. University Grading Scale

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	below 60

2. Procedure Used for Computation of Final Grade

a. Weekly Activities/Discussion Boards:	25%
b. 10 Reading Quizzes:	25%
c. Community Development:	10%
d. 2 Major Exams:	40%

ACADEMIC HONESTY

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.)

Disciplinary action for academic misconduct is the responsibility of the faculty members assigned to the course. Any infraction of this policy will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Penalties may be applied to individual cases of academic dishonesty. See catalog for more information about academic dishonesty.

COURSE CONTENT & OUTLINE

All reading assignments should be completed **PRIOR** to other assignments for the week. **Abbreviations** are located on *The Learning Bible* bookmark and p. viii. **Please read in the order assigned.**

Session	Discussion Topics	Required Reading
Week 1 (continues next page)	Scavenger Hunt	Complete before other assignments
	Course Introduction; History of the NT Text; Geography of Palestine; Intertestamental History; Cultural Setting	
	Overview of the Four Gospels	
Week 2	Birth and Childhood Narratives; Jesus’ Early Ministry	Matt 1-2 ; Luke 1-2 ; Mt 3-4 ; Mark 1:1-39 ; Luke 3:1-5:11
	Galilean Ministry I	Matt 5-13 ; Mark 1:40-6:13 ; Luke 5:12-9:9

Week 3	Galilean Ministry II	Matt 14-20 ; Mark 6:14-10:52 ; Luke 9:10-50
	Luke's Travel Narrative	Luke 9:51-19:27
Week 4	John's Account	John 1:1-11:54
	Entry into Jerusalem	Matt 21-25 ; Mark 11-13 ; Luke 19:28-21:38 ; John 11:55-12:50
Week 5	Last Supper, Crucifixion, and Resurrection	Matt 26:1-28:31 ; Mark 14:1-15:20 ; Luke 22:1-23:25 ; John 13:1-19:16 ; Matt 27:32-28:20 ; Mark 15:21-16:20 ; Luke 23:26-24:53 ; John 19-:17-21:25
	The Primitive Church	Acts 1-12
Week 6	Exam 1	Introduction and the Gospels
Week 7	Paul's Early Ministry & Letters	Acts 13-18 ; Gal 1-6 ; 1 Thes 1-5 ; 2 Thes 1-3
	Paul's Major Letters: 1 Corinthians	1 Cor 1-16
Week 8	Paul's Major Letters: 2 Corinthians	2 Cor 1-13
	Paul's Major Letters: Romans; Paul's Later Ministry	Rom 1-16 ; Acts 19-28
Week 9	Paul's Prison Letters; Paul's Pastoral Letters	Phlm 1-25 ; Col 1-4 ; Eph 1-6 ; Phil 1-4 ; 1 Tim 1-6 ; Titus 1-3 ; 2 Tim 1-4
	General Letters I	Heb 1-13
Week 10	The General Letters II	Jas 1-5 ; 1 John 1-5 ; 2 John 1-13 ; 3 John 1-14 ; 1 Pet 1-5 ; 2 Pet 1-3 ; Jude 1-25
	The Revelation	Rev 1-22
Week 11	Exam 2	Acts through the Revelation

OBSERVATION AND INVITATION

This is an academic class which will explore the historical background and literary features of the New Testament. *The Christian belief about the Bible, however, is that it is intended to speak God's word to the reader about her or his own life circumstances.* Therefore, if you ever have **questions** about how the Bible readings apply to your own life **or wish to talk** about your personal, spiritual life in a format other than the classroom, I would be happy to visit with you by email, instant messaging, or phone.

CONFESSIONAL STATEMENT

It is the instructor's belief that the Bible is written *exactly* the way God intended for it to be written. Further, the instructor holds to the Baptist view of religious liberty for all—including his students.

The liberty I contend for, is more than toleration. The very idea of toleration, is despicable; it supposes that some have a pre-eminence above the rest, to grant indulgence; whereas, all should be equally free, Jews, Turks [i.e., Muslims], Pagans and Christians. Test oaths and established creeds should be avoided as the worst of evils.

— Virginia Baptist and First Amendment advocate John Leland;
quoted in *Baptist Ways* by Bill Leonard [2003], pp. 130-31)