***Seminar on Exegesis and Interpretation of Selected Old Testament Writings: Judges and Ruth***

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY: Virtual Campus**

**SCHOOL OF RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY**

# Spring 2014

## Jeff Anderson, Ph.D., Instructor

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HOW DO I CONTACT DR. ANDERSON? For non-emergencies and general questions go to Course Café under Discussion Board. For emergencies and specific personal questions, email me or call my cell.

**Catalog Description:** A detailed examination and exposition of individual Old Testament books. May be repeated when content varies.

**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.

**Method of Instruction:** [Online through Blackboard and the Virtual Campus]

**Prerequisite/ Co-requisites:**

* RLGN 4314/5314 or equivalent

#### Resources: Order through our VC Bookstore.

**Required Textbooks:**

Robert Chisholm. *Commentary on Judges and Ruth*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic, 2012. ISBN 978-0825425561

Barry G. Webb. *The Book of Judges*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012. ISBN 978-0-8028-2628-2

Any translation of the Bible.

**Recommended Textbooks:** Jeff Anderson, *The Old Testament: Its Story and History* (Raleigh, NC; Lulu, 2010) ISBN: 978-0-557-71637-1

**Course Outcome Competencies: Students will:**

To describe the theological content of the books of Judges and Ruth

To discuss how the books of Judges and Ruth reflect the dynamic history of Israel in the setting of the politics and culture of the ancient Near East.

To articulate a literary appreciation of Judges and Ruth that is critical, imaginative, and personally involving.

To dialogue about the ways in which the books of Judges and Ruth have influenced critical areas of our social experience.

To evaluate the books of Judges and Ruth in light of the total Christian canon and their impact on Christian life, theology, worship, and witness.

#### Course Requirements :

1. Biblical/Textbook Readings: Carefully read the biblical and secondary texts assigned for each week of class.
2. Weekly Quiz: Complete an online open book weekly quiz over the biblical readings for that week.
3. Weekly lecture: Listen to the lecture appropriate for each week on Collaborate or Voice over PowerPoint.
4. Final Exams: Complete a final examination over material covered in class.
5. Discussion Board participation as assigned.
6. Research Paper: Complete a 15 page research paper over one of the following topics. Paper must conform to all style guide requirements of Wayland Baptist University’s School of Religion and Philosophy. <http://www.wbu.edu/academics/schools/religion_and_philosophy/student_help/default.htm>

Ancient Near Eastern Hero Stories

Shechem in History and Archaeology

The Midianites

Canaanite Religion

The Deuteronomic View of History

Ugarit

Samson in Recent Archaeological Mosaic Discoveries

Megiddo in History and Archaeology

Jezreel in History and Archaeology

Sacred Trees in the Ancient Near East

The Tribe of Dan

The Spirit of the LORD in the book of Judges

The Kinsman Redeemer

Threshing Floors in Ancient Israel

Property and Boundary Curses

The Song of Deborah

Hazor in History and Archaeology

The Dog Cemetery at Ashkelon

The Philistines

Deceit and Treachery in Judges

Judges as an Apology for the Monarchy

Structure and Genre in Ruth

References to Time in Judges

Students may also write a detailed exegesis of 6-12 verses from Judges/Ruth

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“A Warning about Style Guide Requirements: WBU’s School of Religion and Philosophy requires a modified Turabian format for all written work. It can be found online at the following URL <http://www.wbu.edu/academics/schools/religion_and_philosophy/student_help/default.htm> . Written submissions that do not conform to this style guide will be penalized severely. If you are uncomfortable with your abilities to do graduate level research or write to this style guide, Wayland offers the following two courses that will assist you: RLGN 0001 (Theological Research and Writing Lab) and RSWR 3345 (Research Writing Methods). Both classes will allow you to use your research paper for this course as your project in that class and may be taken concurrently with this course.”

###### Attendance - External Campuses

* + - * Students enrolled at one of the university's external campuses should make every effort to attend all class meetings. All absences must be explained to the instructor, who will then determine whether the omitted work may be made up. When a student reaches that number of absences considered by the instructor to be excessive, the instructor will so advise the student and file an unsatisfactory progress report with the campus dean. 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 policies for each course, as defined by the instructor in the course syllabus, are considered a part of the university's attendance policy. A student may petition the Academic Council for exceptions to the above stated policies by filing a written request for an appeal to the provost/academic vice president.

**Course Evaluation (Method of Determining Grade)**

##### 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.

* **Procedure for computations of final grade**

Quizzes 100 points total

Midterm 100 points

Final 100 points

Research Paper 100 points

**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 pf the work of another as one’s own work. It is the student’s responsibility to be familiar with penalties associates with plagiarism stated in the catalog.**

Services for the Disabled

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 Outline and Calendar:**

**Week of February 24 Introduction [1:1-2:15]**

**Week of March 2 Judges Cycle [2:16-3:31]**

**Spring Break: March 8-15**

**Week of March 17 Deborah [4:1-5:31]**

**Week of March 24 Gideon [6:1-8:35]**

**Week of March 31 Abimelech [9:1-10:18]**

**Week of April 6 Jepthah [11:1-12:15]**

**Week of April 13 Samson [13:1-16:31]**

**Week of April 20 Micah and the Danites [17:1-18:31]**

**Week of April 27 Troubles with Benjamin [19:1-21:25]**

**Week of May 4:**  **The Book of Ruth**

**Week of May 11: Final Examination**