**Note: This syllabus may change by the first day of class. However, the**

**requirements for the class will not change.**

**Note: The student must read the syllabus thoroughly. I want the student to**

**understand the requirements before the class starts. Please feel free**

**to contact me by email: ratcliff@wbu.edu .**

**WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY**

**Old Testament Foundations I**

**RLGN 5350 01**

**SCHOOL OF RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY**

Wayland Baptist 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.

### RLGN 5350 01

**Old Testament Foundations I**

**Spring, 2014**

## Instructor: Dr. Carolyn Ratcliffe

## Instructor Information

* **Phone: (806) 291-1167**
* **Email: ratcliff@wbu.edu**
* **Office Hours: 9:00-4:00 daily CST**
* **Office Location: Wayland Baptist University**

**School of Religion and Philosophy**

**Flores Bible Building—103A**

**1900 West 7th Street**

**Plainview, Texas 79072**

**NOTE WELL: All correspondences and contact MUST be done through email**

**using** [**ratcliff@wbu.edu**](mailto:ratcliff@wbu.edu) **address. (Please note that there is a no “e” at the end of my name in the email address. However, my name does have an “e” at the end. Do not become confused.)**

**NOTE WELL: This is a graduate class for which the student is earning**

**graduate credit. The requirements and conditions of the class**

**are those befitting a graduate class.**

**Class Time and Location: Daily, On line**

**Catalog Description:** This course is an introduction to the ancient Near Eastern background and canon of the Old Testament, including the contents of Genesis 1 through I Kings 11 (and I Chronicles) with emphasis on pertinent historical issues, theological interpretation, and contemporary application.

**Prerequisite: Graduate status**

**Required Textbooks and Resources**

*The Learning Bible*, New International Version. Please secure before the

first day of class.

Each student is required to enroll in **RLGN 0001 Theological Research and Writing Lab.** This lab is designed to help students write an acceptable research paper. The lab utilizes a Writing Manuel produced by the School of Religion and Philosophy which is available online. Students who have already completed and passed the lab are not required to take the lab. **However, if a student has not had the lab and does not take it with this course, the student cannot pass the course. If the student has taken the lab, the student must have received a CR (credit) as a grade that appears on the WBU transcript.**

**NOTE WELL: Failure to complete the lab with a CR constitutes a failing grade. To enroll in the lab, contact Debbie Wiley,** [**wileydeb@wbu.edu**](mailto:wileydeb@wbu.edu) **. San Antonio student are to enroll in their lab at the San Antonio campus.**

**Please contact Dr. Ratcliffe for any questions or information at** [**ratcliff@wbu.edu**](mailto:ratcliff@wbu.edu) **.**

**Other suggested reading:**

*The Old Testament Story*, 6th edition, John H. Tullock, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall Publishers, 2002.

*Encountering the Old Testament,* Bill T. Arnold and Brian E. Beyer, Grand Rapids: Baker Book House Co., 1999.

**Course Outcome Competencies:**

**Students will:**

* demonstrate knowledge of the nature and canon of the Old Testament.
* demonstrate knowledge of the content and significance of the books of Genesis through I Kings 11 (I Chronicles).
* demonstrate knowledge of the cultural, social, and historical background from Abraham to Solomon

###### Attendance Requirements:

Any student who does not participate in the weekly student discussion on Discussion Board will be considered absent for that week.

Any student who does not send questions to the professor each week is considered absent for that week.

**Two absences constitute a failing grade.** In other words, any student who misses more than two weeks on the Discussion Board or misses sending questions to the professor will be given an “F” for the course. This requirement is a policy of the School of Religion and Philosophy.

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 education 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:

Personal Introduction (see page 6 of the syllabus)

Questions to the professor each week (see page 5 of the syllabus)

Reading of lectures assigned each week (see pages 7 and 8 of the syllabus)

Reading of biblical text assigned each week (see pages 7 and 8 of the syllabus)

Participation in Discussion Board each week (see page 6 of the syllabus)

Research Paper (see page 6 of the syllabus)

Three Exams (see page 5 of the syllabus)

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

##### University Grading System

Symbol Percentage

A 90-100

B 80-89

C 70-79

D 60-69

F Below 60

Other symbols used for grading include:

CR Credit Satisfactory, but without qualitative grading.

NCR No Credit Unsatisfactory, but without qualitative

grading.

I\*\* Incomplete May be given to a student who is passing, but has not completed a term paper, examination, or other required for **work reasons beyond the student’s control.**

IP In progress Assigned to a course indicating that at the conclusion of a term the course will still be in progress.

X No grade No grade has been submitted by the instructor. The course grade which will replace the X must be submitted within 30 days from the beginning of the next full term.

W Withdrawal Course dropped or withdrawal from the

University.

WP Withdraw passing Course dropped or withdrawal from the University after deadline to withdraw with a W and prior deadline to withdraw with a WP or WF.

WF Withdraw failing Course dropped or withdrawal from the University after deadline to withdraw with a W and prior to deadline to withdraw with a WP or WF.

\*\*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.

**NOTE WELL: Failure to complete the research paper because of “not getting around to it” is not an acceptable excuse.**

**Procedure for computations of final grade:**

Exam I 20%

Exam II 20%

Exam III 20%

Written Assignment 20%

Discussion Board 10%

Questions to Professor 10%

**NOTE WELL: Each student will be given 10 points for each Discussion Board required responses and each set of questions sent to the professor each week. In other words, by the completion of the class, IF the student has completed all requirements for the Discussion Board and the Questions to the professor, the student will receive 100 points in each category. Five points (5) are deducted each week failure to address the subject, shortness of responses, failure to follow directions, or incomplete submissions.**

**Tentative Schedule:**

**Date Assignment**

February 24 Introduction and the

Doctrine of Revelation

March 3 Canon, Archaeology, Geography

**March 10-14 Spring Break**

March 17 Creation

March 224 Patriarchs

**March 26-28—Wednesday through Friday Exam I (Weeks 1-3)**

March 31 Exodus, Leviticus

April 7 Numbers, Deuteronomy

April 14 Deuteronomistic History,

Conquest, and Joshua

April 21 Judges and Ruth

**April 21 Paper Due**

**April 23-25—Wednesday through Friday Exam II (Weeks 4-7)**

April 28 United Kingdom and the Samuels

May 5 Solomon, I Kings 1-11 and I Chronicles

**May 12-14—Monday through Wednesday Final Exam (Weeks 8-10)**

**NOTE WELL: Wednesday through Friday, March 26-28 Exam I**

**Wednesday through Friday, April 23-25 Exam II**

**Monday through Wednesday, May 12-14 Final Exam**

Exams are given over a three day period to accommodate the students in

Different time zones and who have to adjust work schedules. However, once

the exam is opened, the student will have to finish the exam in the two hours

allotted for the exam.

**Very important—Note Well:**

Each student is responsible for securing a proctor for the exams. The exams will be posted on the proctor’s site by Virtual Campus and accessed **ONLY** by the proctor.  **The proctor must be approved by the Virtual Campus Office.** Submit request for approval on the proctor form secured from the Virtual Campus. If the student is on or near one of WBU campuses then approval is not needed but an appointment to take the exam must be made at that campus. **However, note well, the student is responsible for making an appointment with the proctor to take the exam during the allotted time frame.**  Again, three days are allotted to take the exam to try to accommodate everyone and the different time zones. Once the student begins the exam, it must be finished at that time.

**Set up your proctors NOW. Do not wait until the week before the exam. The proctor site is** [**http://www.wbu.edu/academics/online programs/proctor/proctorrequest.htm**](http://www.wbu.edu/academics/online%20programs/proctor/proctorrequest.htm) **.**

The exams are about one-half objective (multiple choice and fill in the blank) and about one-half short essay. Each exam is final over the material covered. The final is not comprehensive.

Reviews for the exams are available under "Exam Review." The review for Exam I is available immediately. The review for Exam II will be made available immediately after Exam I is complete. The review for the Final Exam will be made available immediately after Exam II is complete.

**Suggestion:** Access the reviews and find the answers as the weekly

assignments are read.

**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 associates with plagiarism stated in the 2013-2014 catalog on**

**pages 91-92.**

**Questions to Professor:**

Each week the student will email the professor at [ratcliff@wbu.edu](mailto:ratcliff@wbu.edu) two or more questions concerning the lecture notes or the biblical reading or both. These questions must be emailed by the deadline of 11:55 P.M. CST on each Sunday night. Failure to submit questions will constitute an absence for that week and a “0” as a grade. The professor will reply to the questions. **PLEASE NOTE,** that if the student does not receive a reply within a week, contact the professor because she did not receive the questions. **This contact is the student's responsibility. Questions cannot be made up once the due week is past.**

**Discussion Board:**

Each week the professor will post a question on the Discussion Board. Each student is required to respond at least three times (3) with a substantial reply (though a student may respond more than three times) to the question. The discussion question will appear each Monday and will disappear the following Sunday at 11:55 P.M. CST. **Once the forum closes there will be no opportunity to participate.** Failure to participate will constitute an absence and a “0”.

**NOTE WELL: The forum will not be reopened. The forum is for student discussion. The professor may or may not comment but will read each response each week.**

**Due Dates for Questions and Discussion Board:**

Sunday, March 2 11:55 P.M. CST

Sunday, March 9 11:55 P.M. CST

Sunday, March 23 11:55 P.M. CST

Sunday, March 30 11:55 P.M. CST

Sunday, April 6 11:55 P.M. CST

Sunday, April 13 11:55 P.M. CST

Sunday, April 20 11:55 P.M. CST

Sunday, April 27 11:55 P.M. CST

Sunday, May 4 11:55 P.M. CST

Sunday, May 11 11:55 P.M. CST

**Written Assignment:**

Each student will write a research paper, 12-15 pages, typed, double spaced, New

Times Roman, 10-12font, concerning one of the difficult text listed on the last page of

the syllabus. **NOTEWELL:** The paper is due no later than **Monday, April 21** by midnight CST. The student may email the paper to the professor. Remember that the cover page, the Table of Contents, the body of the paper, and the bibliography must be emailed in separate attachments to avoid formatting problems. However, if the student prefers to mail the paper, it must be postmarked by **Monday, April 21**. Mail the paper to the address in the syllabus.

The paper will be graded by the rubric posted in your class under “rubric.”

**Note Well: The paper is not an exegesis of a biblical text but a research paper on issues found within the selected text. See pages 9 and**

**10 of the syllabus for suggested difficult texts.**

**Student Introductions:**

Each student is to send the professor an introduction by EMAIL at [ratcliff@wbu.edu](mailto:ratcliff@wbu.edu) . The introduction is to include something about the student, his/her major, classification, family, and other important information. **The introduction is due the first week of class.**

**NOTE WELL: All communication with the professor must be sent to the professor’s email address.** [**ratcliff@wbu.edu**](mailto:ratcliff@wbu.edu) **.**

**Professor’s Perspective:**

This course is being taught by a Baptist professor at a Baptist university. The student should realize that the course will reflect the instructor’s point of view on issues related to biblical interpretation. The professor does not demand that the student agree with her understanding, but that the student reflect on and consider the various understandings of the Bible which will be presented in this course. Because this is a university class, major scholarly opinions on important issues will be presented. The student is encouraged to determine his/her own **informed** (meaning that he/she can express the why of the opinion) viewpoint. However, the student will be awarded a grade on the basis of academic achievement, mastery of the material, and ability to articulate his/her knowledge of the subject.

**Reading Schedule**

February 24 Lecture 1

Introduction and the Doctrine of

Revelation

Learning Bible, pp. 1-32

March 3 Lecture 2

Canon, Archaeology, and Geography

**March 10-14 Spring Break**

March 17 Lecture 3

Creation The book of Genesis, Chapters 1-11

March 24 Lecture 4

The Patriarchs

The book of Genesis, Chapters 12-50

March 31 Lecture 5

The Exodus and the Law

The book of Exodus

The book of Leviticus

April 7 Lecture 6

The Wilderness Wandering

The book of Numbers

The book of Deuteronomy

April 14 Lecture 7

The Deuteronomic History and the Conquest

The book of Joshua

April 21 Lecture 8

The book of Judges

The book of Ruth

April 28 Lecture 9

The United Kingdom

The book of I Samuel

The book of II Samuel

May 5 Lecture 10

The United Kingdom—Saul, David, and

Solomon

The book of I Kings, Chapters 1-11

I Chronicles

**DIFFICULT TEXTS**

**Research Papers**

**The student will select one of the following difficult biblical texts. The text will be the basis for the required written assignment. The student is to research possible interpretations of the text. After discussing the possible interpretations, the student will argue for one of the interpretations careful to give reasons why a particular interpretation is given.**

Genesis 1:26ff (What does the “image of God” means?)

Genesis 3:14-19 (How have the punishments of humankind been interpreted?)

Genesis 6:1-5 (Who are the “daughters of men” and the “sons of God” and what did

they produce?)

Genesis 38:11ff (Tamar and Judah—right or wrong?)

Exodus 9:12 (hardening the heart of pharaoh—Did God really?)

Joshua 7 (Achan’s sin and punishment—Why did everyone suffer?)

Judges 3:12 (Ehud—What is the point of the story?)

Judges 10:6ff (Jephthah’s daughter—Did he really kill her and why did God not forbid it?)

Judges 19 (the Levite and his concubine—What is the point?)

I Samuel 16:1-3 (anointing of David—Did God have Samuel lie?)

Psalm 137 (What about the violence of the psalm?)

Genesis 2:17 (Why did God put the trees there and why did Adam and Eve not drop dead?)

Genesis 14:18-19 (Who exactly was Melchizedek?)

Genesis 22 (Test of Abraham—Why would God ask such a thing of Abraham?)

Exodus 21:23-25; Leviticus 24:19-20; Deuteronomy 19-21 (the laws of *lex talionis* [eye for

an eye, tooth for a tooth, etc.])

Numbers 22:20-22 (Balaam—Why was God angry if God commanded Balaam to go?)

Deuteronomy 21:18-21 (stoning of the rebellious son)

I Samuel 15:18ff (God ordered the death of all Amalekites)

II Samuel 6:6-7 (What did Uzzah do that was so wrong?)

Exodus 4:24-26 (What is going on here?)

Deuteronomy 20:10-20 (God commands killing)

**NOTE: You may choose another piece of Scripture but you must receive approval from the professor.**

**NOTE WELL: After having read the syllabus, please contact the professor with any questions or for needs of clarity.**