



**WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY  
VIRTUAL CAMPUS  
SCHOOL OF RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY**

**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:** RLGN 4317 LATTER PROPHETS

**Term:** Spring 2018

**Name of Instructor:** Dr. Timothy M. Pierce

**Office Phone Number and WBU Email Address:**

- Phone Numbers: (W) 817-571-7884
- Email address: [timothy.pierce@wayland.wbu.edu](mailto:timothy.pierce@wayland.wbu.edu)

**Office Hours, Building, and Location:**

- Cell Phone 682-560-9767
- Fax: 817-571-1015
- The student is free to e-mail me at any time. I will accept phone calls on my cell phone Mon 2 – 10 pm CST; Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat 8am – 10pm CST; Wed 8am – 5pm CST;

**Class Meeting Time and Location:** Online class, weekly interaction required as noted below

**Catalog Description:**

Intensive examination of the lives and literature of the major and minor prophets of the Hebrew Scripture in relationship to their historical and cultural setting and application of their message to the church of today.

Prerequisites: RLGN 1301, RLGN 1302

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

- *The Bible (The Student is expected to read through the prophets this semester!)*
- J. Daniel Hays, *The Message of the Prophets: A Survey of the Prophetic and Apocalyptic Books of the Old Testament*, ed. Tremper Longman III (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010).
- C. Hassel Bullock, *An Introduction to the Old Testament Prophetic Books*, Updated Edition (Chicago: Moody Press, 2007).
- Internet Equipped Computer - Must conform to minimum recommended settings identified on the Blackboard login page. Must utilize WBU student email account
- WBU Blackboard Course Management Software  
Blackboard website URL: <https://wbu.blackboard.com>  
Login username: WBU student id (9 digit number, usually 3-5 zeros at beginning)  
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)
- Technical support: 24/7 via phone and chat; see login page of Blackboard

Optional Materials:

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

**Course Outcome Competencies:**

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the historical, religious, and social context of the Old Testament world in general and the Latter Prophets specifically.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of some of the critical methods used in Old Testament studies.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the basic content of the Latter Prophets and its main teachings (theological content).
4. Demonstrate a knowledge of the historical background and message of each of the Old Testament Latter prophets and relate that message to the contemporary world

**Attendance Requirements:**

- Student "attendance" in an online course is defined as active participation in the course as described in the course requirements. 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 3 or more weeks of an 11 week term, may receive an F for that course.
- 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. It is not enough to simply log in and view course content to be counted as actively participating. The student must be submitting work as described in the course requirements.
- Excessive absences, but still below the maximum allowable to receive credit, may result in a warning from the professor in the form of a Report of Unsatisfactory Progress to the student's WBU student email account. This report will also be submitted 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." (This statement is required on all university syllabi.)

**Course Requirements:**

- Students are expected to complete all of the weekly readings as outlined in the course schedule. The student is expected to read every book of the Prophets in the order and at the time they are covered in class.
- **Examinations:** There will be two exams given. Questions will be multiple choice, multiple answer, matching, fill in the blank, and short answer/listing. The exams will primarily cover material from the lectures; however, there may be questions from the reading of those places where the stated opinion of the author differs from that of the professor. This is to insure that the student is recognizing distinctions and reading the material.

Note: The two exams will be proctored. The student is responsible to secure an approved proctor following the procedures defined by the Virtual Campus. Remote proctoring is available through Examity, but should be used only as a last resort. **Please contact the professor as early as possible if you do not understand what a proctor is or how to procure one.**

- **Discussion Board:** Each week a new forum will be established in Discussion Board room of the “class.” These forums will include a question offered by the professor dealing with some interpretative or practical issue related to the text being discussed that week. You are expected to respond to each other’s assessments and answers; however, anyone demonstrating a less than proper attitude in responding will hurt his or her participation grade. Please remember that when writing, words often come across more harshly than they would in speaking. Responses should reflect the student’s perspective on the issues presented and will be evaluated for relevance, clarity, and critical thinking. The standard for evaluation will be 1 unique contribution and 2 responses to other students each week. The professor will post a closing response in the forum at the end of the week. Any contributions by students made after this response WILL NOT count toward their discussion board participation grade.
- **Exegetical Research Paper.**
  - The student will write an exegetical paper on a passage of the student’s choosing.
    - The passage must fall within the books under discussion in the class – The Writings
    - The passage must be approved by the professor
    - Suggestions from the professor on potential passages will be offered if requested.
  - The Research Paper is due **May 13**, by Midnight.
  - See Paper Evaluation Form below for more expectations on form and content.
  - **MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.**
    - If you do not meet the minimum requirements for the paper, the professor will not grade your paper and you will receive a “0” for the project.
      - 8-12 pages long, not including Table of Contents and Bibliography.
      - At least 8 of the sources must be used in your paper and properly footnoted with bibliography. Three of the sources must be periodicals (scholarly journals). The professor must approve any articles used from the internet unless it is published material.
      - There is an academic level of Bibliography that is expected. The professor will gladly provide suggestions when you have selected a passage.
      - You must follow the proper form found in Wayland’s Style Guide:  
<https://www.wbu.edu/academics/schools/school-of-religion-and-philosophy/documents/SRPWritingStyleGuide2016.pdf>
      - Footnotes are the required form of citation

- The Paper should have the following subtitles:
  - Title Page
  - Table of Contents
  - Introduction
  - Critical Questions (Authorship, Unity, etc...)
  - Historical Context (date, significant historical elements surrounding the writings of the text; location and recipients of the text)
  - Literary Context (purpose of the whole prophetic book and the passage within that whole; genre of the writing and the specific passage)
  - Exegetical Content (What the text means – key words, syntactical observations, etc...)
  - Application (Key Truths, Modern Application)
  - Conclusion
  - Bibliography

#### Other Information:

- Video Lectures  
The professor will post video lectures each week. A link will be posted where the student can go and watch the lectures. Exam questions will draw upon these lectures.
- Asking Questions  
Undoubtedly, throughout the semester questions will arise concerning assignments or other logistical issues. Such questions are welcomed and encouraged. *In order to prevent the repetition of having to answer the same question from various students and in order to allow other students to benefit from the questions, it is requested that any question that the student asks be posted in the Discussion Forum area under Forum 1: Questions from Students. I would respectfully ask that other students not respond to questions asked here, although other questions may be asked based on answers offered.*
- Chat Sessions  
Throughout the semester, the professor **may** set up chat sessions for interaction and discussion. Chat participation is optional, and will not affect one's grade.

### Course Evaluation (Method of Determining Grade):

Exam 1 (January 15 -21)	25%
Exam 2 (February 12 – 17)	25%
Exegetical Research Paper (Due May 13)	30%
Discussion Board Participation (Weekly)	20%

### University Grading System

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

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. The Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.

### 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.

**Course Outline and Calendar (Reading Assignments are in Bold – Due at the BEGINNING of the Week in which they are listed. Since the reading amount picks up dramatically once we get to the prophetic message [March 25] it is recommended you read ahead if possible)**

February 26 – March 4      *What is a Prophet (The Office of the Prophet)*

**(Hays 21-32; Bullock, 13-46)**

Hebrew words for Prophet

The Origin of the Prophetic Office

The Purpose of the Prophetic Office

March 5 – 11      *How do we read the Prophets (Interpreting the Prophets)*

**(Hays 45-60)**

Common Mistakes made in Interpreting the Prophets

Prophetic idioms and methods

Key forms in Prophetic materials

Oracles Against Foreign Nations

The New Testament interpretation of the Prophetic Corpus

The Unity of the Bible

Interpretation in the Apostolic Era

Promise and Fulfillment

**March 12 – 18 NO ASSIGNMENTS – SPRING BREAK**

March 19 – 25                      *The Times and Themes of the Prophets*  
**(Hays 33 – 44, 61 – 91)**  
Historical overview of the Eras of the Prophets  
Theological Perspectives of the Various Eras  
Theological Perspectives of the Various Eras  
Theological Perspectives of the Individual Prophets  
Key Theological Concepts of the Prophets  
    Multiple Messages, One God and People  
    Old Testament Prophets and Jesus (The Messiah)  
        Christ as the culmination of all that is expressed  
        Messianic Expectations  
            Passages that relate to a Kingly Messiah  
            Passages that relate to a Priestly Messiah  
            Passages that relate to a Prophetic Messiah  
    Predictions of One from God  
    Eschatological Considerations

March 25 – April 1    **Test 1** – What is a Prophet through Times and Themes of the Prophets  
*The Message and Lives of the Prophets*  
Amos, Hosea  
**(Hays 285 – 296,; Bullock 64 – 124)**

April 2 – 8  
Micah, Isaiah 1-39  
**(Hays 95 – 120, 309 – 318; Bullock 125 – 181)**

April 9 - 15  
Jeremiah, Zephaniah, Nahum, Habakkuk  
**(Hays 145 – 198, 319 – 341; Bullock 197 – 273)**

April 16 – 22  
Ezekiel, Isaiah 40-66  
**(Hays 121 – 144, 199 – 231; Bullock 181 – 195, 274 – 307)**

April 23 – 29  
Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi  
**(Hays 343 – 365; Bullock 362 – 389, 403 – 413)**

April 30 – May 6  
Jonah, Obadiah, Joel  
**(Hays 275 – 283, 297 – 307; Bullock 47 – 63, 308 – 318, 390 – 402)**

May 7 – 13  
Daniel  
**(Hays 233 – 255; Bullock 335 – 361)**

May 14 - 19                      **Test 2** – The Message and Lives of the Prophets  
Old Testament Prophets and Christian Ministry

**Instructor's perspective:**

As one who is firmly committed to historic Baptist beliefs, I fully affirm the Bible as the believer's sole authority in matters of faith and practice. As an instructor in a Baptist university, I am committed to the academic exploration of the biblical texts. I do not ask that any student agree with any particular position concerning issues presented in class, including my own. I simply ask that students openly and honestly consider the various arguments in developing their own informed perspective. The message of the Bible is Truth and Truth invites us to raise questions knowing that Truth will remain unchanged while personal opinion or tradition may require revision.

**PAPER EVALUATION FORM:**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(✓ equals problem area)

Form: (15%)

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Errors: \_\_\_\_\_ typographical; \_\_\_\_\_ spelling; \_\_\_\_\_ grammatical;  
\_\_\_\_\_ Wayland Style Guide not followed; \_\_\_\_\_ Use of parenthetical notes.

Omissions: \_\_\_\_\_ title page; \_\_\_\_\_ contents page; \_\_\_\_\_ bibliography

Notes for Improvement:

Organization: (15%)

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ weak outline; \_\_\_\_\_ lack consistency; \_\_\_\_\_ lack balance

\_\_\_\_\_ weak introduction; \_\_\_\_\_ weak conclusion/application

\_\_\_\_\_ too long; \_\_\_\_\_ too short; \_\_\_\_\_ need better development

Notes for Improvement

Content: (50%)

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ failure to follow directions concerning assignment

\_\_\_\_\_ lack critical insight/depth

\_\_\_\_\_ lack balance in critique (content vs. evaluation)

\_\_\_\_\_ important material not discussed

\_\_\_\_\_ incoherent arguments

\_\_\_\_\_ lack of research, hurt presentation

\_\_\_\_\_ difficult to follow (conclusions fail to follow insights)

Notes for Improvement:

Depth of Understanding/Use of Sources: (20%)

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ limited/minimal number used

\_\_\_\_\_ misrepresented/misunderstood sources

\_\_\_\_\_ lack variety of opinions

\_\_\_\_\_ lack variety of types of sources

\_\_\_\_\_ lack evidence of thorough reading

\_\_\_\_\_ lack scholarly insight in sources (too devotional)

\_\_\_\_\_ used outdated sources

\_\_\_\_\_ over-reliance on one source

Notes for Improvement:

Strengths of Paper: