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**Virtual 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 5303 Old Testament Foundations (VC01)

## TERM:

Spring 2020 (February 14-May 16) Spring Break: March 16-20

## INSTRUCTOR:

Jeff Anderson, Ph.D.

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

Office phone: 907-227-0622

WBU Email: anderson@wbu.edu

## OFFICE HOURS, BUILDING & LOCATION:

Per Student Request. This is an online class

## COURSE MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

This is an online class

## CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Introduction to the ancient Near Eastern background of the books of the Hebrew Bible, with emphasis on pertinent historical-critical issues, theological interpretation, and contemporary application.

## PREREQUISITE:

None

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND RESOURCE MATERIAL:

**Required Textbooks:**

NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible. ISBN 978-0-310-43158-9.

In an attempt to minimize costs for graduate students, additional required readings will be assigned weekly through resources found in the Wayland Library online through the American Theological Library Association as well as other online sources such as Bible Odyssey, Oxford Biblical Studies Online, etc.

**Recommended Textbooks:** Anderson, Jeff S. *The Old Testament: Its Story and History* (Lulu Press, 2010). This textbook will be made available at no cost via a PDF through the course Blackboard Site

## OPTIONAL MATERIALS

WBU Library Resources: The Wayland Library (Learning Resource Center) is available to all Wayland students via BlackBoard. Tutorials for accessing library resources are linked from the homepage.

## COURSE OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCIES:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the nature and canon of the Old Testament.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the content and significance of the books of Genesis through Malachi.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the cultural, social, and historical background from Abraham through the Restoration.

4. Demonstrate knowledge of the characteristics of Hebrew Poetry, Wisdom Literature, and Prophetic literature.

5. Demonstrate competency in conducting graduate level research, writing, and teaching/oral presentations.

## 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:

1. Examinations: The student's progress will be monitored by two tests. These exams will cover *lecture* material since the last exam. You will find the lecture notes for each week in the textbook. There are also recorded lectures with PowerPoints posted for your review. The final is not comprehensive.

HOW DO I BEST PREPARE FOR THE MID TERM AND FINAL? Go to “Important Docs” and grab the midterm and final study preparation sheets. Keep them with you while doing homework and listening to the lectures and use them to trigger your questions and note taking.

2. Treasure Hunt: Each week (usually, not always) there will be an open book quiz with questions from the Bible, the Anderson text, and other readings. The Hunt/Quiz is due at the end of each week. Simply read the questions, do the research and answer them carefully and submit your answers on Blackboard as instructed in class. All submissions must be carefully proofread.

HOW DO I SUBMIT TREASURE HUNTS? Go to Blackboard’s Weekly Assignments, then “Submit Treasure Hunts Here” then attach an MS WORD file.

3. Discussion Board: There will be an introductory discussion board plus three discussion boards during the course. The discussion board format requires you to post a thread with your name on it that responds to the question. You are also to respond to every student who responds to you and to at least three other students over the course of a week’s time.

1. Research Paper: Each student will complete a 12-15 page research paper on one of the following topics. Paper must follow the Kate L. Turabian. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations,* 9th Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018. ISBN 978-0-226-43057-7. Papers must be from one of the following topics.

The Old Testament Canon

Gilgamesh Epic

Baal and Canaanite Religion

Mari Tablets

Nuzi Tablets

Enuma Elish

The Documentary Hypothesis

Hebron

Shechem

The Exodus from Egypt

The Ten Plagues

Amarna Letters

Midian

Passover

Ark of the Covenant

The Day of Atonement

Code of Hammurabi

Old Testament Covenants

Holy War

The Fall of Jericho

The Philistines

The Nazirite Vow

Tel Dan

Tel Megiddo

The Judges Cycle

The Tribes of Israel

The Ten Commandments

The Shema

The Dead Sea Scrolls

The Name of God

Where is Mt. Sinai?

Clean and Unclean Foods Laws

Sabbatical Year and the Year of Jubilee

The City of David in Archaeology

Form Criticism and Psalms

Redaction Criticism

Canonical Criticism and the Prophets

New Literary Criticism

Hermann Gunkel

The Book of Esther

Darius the Persian

Servant Songs

Rehoboam

Jeroboam I

Ahab, Jezebel

Baal Malqart

Omri /Samaria

Elijah, Elisha

Athaliah

Jeroboam II

Shishak/Shoshenq

The Rebuilding of the Temple

Ahab/Jezebel

Oracles Against the Nations

Megilloth

Laments

Song of Songs

The Mesha Stele

Instruction of Amenope

Babylonian Theodicy

The Babylonian Exile

Elephantine

One of the eighth century prophets

One of the seventh century prophets

One of the exilic prophets

The Assyrian Empire of the Eighth Century

The Fall of the Northern Kingdom

Hezekiah

Manasseh

Josiah

Canaanite Religion

An archaeological site relevant to the period

Nebuchadnezzar

Nineveh

The Destruction of Jerusalem in 586 B.C.

Cyrus

Darius

Diaspora

Zerubbabel

Daniel

Shesh-bazzar

Job

Ecclesiastes

Elephantine Papyri

Prophetic Lawsuit

Parallelism and Hebrew Poetry

Qoheleth

Obelisk of Shalmaneser III

Tel Dan Inscription

Wisdom Literature and Ancient Near East

GRADING: (All grades will be on a ten-point scale. 90-100 is an A, 80-89 is a B, etc.)

Midterm: 100 points

Final: 100 points

Hunts/Quizzes: 100 points

Discussion Boards: 30 points

Research Paper: 100 points

**Include 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: February 24

The Hebrew Scriptures/Old Testament in its Near Eastern Context

Why the Bible is not a Book: Text and Canon of the OT

The Old Testament World

Historical Benchmarks in the History of the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible.

WEEK TWO: March 2

Primeval History and Theology

Genesis 1-11 and Genre

Ancient Near Eastern Creation and Flood Accounts

WEEK THREE: March 9

Ancestral Narratives

Abraham’s Covenants in light of the Ancient Near East

Orality and Textuality: Sources for the Pentatuch

Spring Break: March 16-20

WEEK FOUR: March 23

The Exodus Event

Critical Questions about the Historicity of the Exodus

The Giving of the Law

Legal Codes of the Ancient Near East

WEEK FIVE: March 30

The Wilderness Experience

The Emergence of Israel in Canaan

Critical Questions about the Historicity of the Conquest

Religious and Military Conflicts: Canaanites and Philistines

The Judges Cycle

WEEK SIX: April 6

Midterm Exam

WEEK SEVEN: April 13

Ancient Historiography

Roots of the United Kingdom: Samuel and Saul

The Emergence of the United Kingdom: David and Solomon

Solomon’s Legacy

WEEK EIGHT: April 20

The Divided Kingdoms of Israel and Judah

The Destruction of Israel and Judah

The Monarchy and the Rise of the Hebrew Prophetic Movement

WEEK NINE: April 27

The Prophets of Israel and Judah (continued)

Rich and Poor in Prophetic Rhetoric

WEEK TEN: May 4

The Writings

Hebrew Poetry

Wisdom Literature and Job

Psalms

The Return from Exile and Post-Exilic Historical Literature

How Does the Old Testament End?

Research Papers Due that Saturday

WEEK ELEVEN: May 11

Final Exam