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**WBUonline 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 and Name:**

**RLGN 1301 VC03 Old Testament History**

**Term and Dates:**

**Spring 2 2023 March 27-May 20, 2023**

**Instructor:**

**Dr. Barry A. Stricker**

**Contact Information:**

**WBU email: barry.stricker@wayland.wbu.edu**

**Mobile phone : 989.464.1462**

**Office Hours:**

The instructor will not be onsite this semester. Please contact the instructor by email if you need to set up a time to talk.

**Class Meeting Time and Location**:

Asynchronous interaction with specific assignments and deadlines managed through Blackboard.

**Catalog Description:**

An introductory survey of the historical literature with special attention to the institutions, religion, and national life of the Hebrew people.

**Prerequisite:**

None

**Required Textbook and Resources**:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Title** | **Editor/Author** | **Publisher** | **Ed** | **Year** | **ISBN** |
| *The Bible:**An Introduction* | Jerry L. Sumney | Fortress Press | 3rd | 2021 | 978-1-5064-6678-1978-1-5064-6679-1 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

**This course includes an Automatic eBook.  Opt out date is the 8th day of class (second Monday of the session). Click on the menu link for more details. If you prefer purchasing a print copy of the book, remember to opt out of the eBook by the 8th day of class.**

**The student will need access to a copy of the Old Testament. Acceptable versions include the New Revised Standard Version or the New International Version. If you want to use a different version of the Old Testament, please ask the instructor for permission.**

**Internet Equipped Computer:**

1. Must conform to minimum recommended settings identified by WBUonline
2. Should use compatible browser and have correct settings as recommended by Blackboard
3. Must utilize WBU student email account for official university communications

 **WBU Blackboard Course Management Software:**

1. Login username: WBU student id (9-digit number, usually 3-5 zeroes at beginning)
2. 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)
3. Technical support: 24/7 via phone, chat, ticket requests; see link on Blackboard login page

**Optional Materials:**

None

**Course Outcome Competencies**:

Students will:

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

**Attendance Requirements**:

1. Attendance for online courses is defined fully in the university catalog.
2. Students are expected to participate in all required instructional activities in their courses.
3. Student “attendance” in an online course is defined as active participation in the course as described in the course syllabus (completing weekly assignments).
4. Students aware of necessary absences must inform the professor with as much advance notice as possible in order to make appropriate arrangements.
5. Any student absent 25 percent or more of the online course, i.e., non-participatory during 2 or more weeks of an 8-week term, may receive a failing grade for that course.
6. Any student who has not actively participated in an online course prior to the census date for any given session is considered a “no-show” and will be administratively withdrawn from the course 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.
7. A student with excessive non-participation may also have a Predict Report filed with student’s WBU email and appropriate administrative personnel.

**Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty**:

<http://catalog.wbu.edu/content.php?catoid=7&navoid=446>

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:**

**RLGN 1301 is an asynchronous online course. Students will encounter the material and engage with others in the class through Blackboard. Learning activities will include the following:**

1. **Introductory Essay. Due on Wednesday of the first week of class (March 29). Total value of this assignment is 5 points. (1 point will be deducted each day for late submissions.) Details will be shared on Blackboard.**
2. **Material for each week will include these items:**
	1. **A preview of the week. Prepared by your instructor, this document will introduce the topics for that week’s study. This should be your starting point each week. The preview will explain what we will be studying that week, and it will also provide helpful background information. This preview will also provide specific information about assignments and due dates for that week’s work.**
	2. **Reading from the textbook. Students will be responsible for reading and understanding assigned sections from the text. Specific reading assignments will be provided in the weekly preview document.**
	3. **Reading from the Old Testament. Beginning with the second week, students will be expected to read an assigned section of the Old Testament. The instructor will provide the specific reading each week. After completing the reading, the student will submit a brief response to questions provided by the instructor.**
	4. **Quizzes. After completing the reading, students will complete a weekly quiz. Students may use personal notes completing the quizzes. Questions for the quizzes may come from the weekly preview document, the reading from the textbook, and the assigned reading from the Old Testament.**
	5. **Discussion Boards. Students are expected to engage in a thoughtful, academic manner in weekly Blackboard discussions on topics assigned by the instructor. These questions will be reflective in nature. The discussions are intended to encourage thought and dialogue. Due dates for initial discussion posts and follow-up responses will be provided each week.**

**Students will be expected to engage in robust and meaningful discussions with their classmates. The number of posts and responses will be specified each week. While late submissions will be displayed in the discussion stream, late submissions will receive no credit. In every discussion post, students 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 likely encounter the opinions of others which may seem novel and, occasionally, outlandish. In this classroom experience, we will show respect for one another in all circumstances. Our learning experience includes the opportunity to hear other opinions and/or interpretations of the assigned reading. Therefore, we should show respect for one another by exhibiting patience and courtesy.**

1. **Final examination. The final examination is comprehensive. Questions may be multiple choice, true/false, matching, short answer, fill in the blank, or short essay. The final examination will cover material from the weekly preview documents, the textbook reading, class discussions, and assigned readings from the Old Testament. The exam is closed book, closed notes. Students are encouraged to prepare for the final examination throughout the term.**

**Note: The final examination will be proctored (monitored). Students are responsible for securing an approved proctor following WBUonline process. (WBU testing sites do not require WBUonline staff approval.) Online remote proctoring is an option, if time or location hinders other approved testing venues.**

**Grading Criteria:**

**University Grading Scale**

**A 90-100**

**B 80-89**

**C 70-79**

**D 60-69**

**F below 60**

 **Procedure Used for Computation of Final Grade (Assignments and Point Values)**

 **Introductory Essay 5 points**

 **Responses to Old Testament Readings 12 points (2 points X 6 readings)**

 **Weekly quizzes 35 points (5 points X 7 quizzes)**

 **Weekly discussions 28 points (4 points X 7 discussions)**

 **Final examination 20 points**

 **Possible Points to Earn Each Week**

 **Week One (Introductory Essay, Quiz, Discussion): 14 points**

 **Week Two (OT Reading, Quiz, Discussion): 11 points**

 **Week Three (OT Reading, Quiz, Discussion): 11 points**

 **Week Four (OT Reading, Quiz, Discussion): 11 points**

 **Week Five (OT Reading, Quiz, Discussion): 11 points**

 **Week Six (OT Reading, Quiz, Discussion): 11 points**

 **Week Seven (OT Reading, Quiz, Discussion): 11 points**

 **Week Eight (Final Examination): 20 points**

 **Total Possible Points: 100 points**

**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 to the 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**:

 Specific assignments will be posted each week on Blackboard.

Week One: The Origin and History of the Hebrew Bible

Week Two: The Pentateuch, Part 1: Genesis

Week Three: The Pentateuch, Part 2: Exodus through Deuteronomy

Week Four: The Israelites Tell Their Story: Interpretations of National Disasters

Week Five: “Thus Says the Lord”: Israel’s Prophetic Tradition

Week Six: An Alternative Worldview: Israel’s Wisdom Literature and Esther

Week Seven: Israel’s Response to God: The Psalms and the Song of Solomon

Week Eight: Conclusions and Final Examination

**Personal Words from the Instructor:**

This is an academic class which will explore the historical background and literary features of the Old Testament. *The Christian belief about the Bible, however, is that the Bible conveys the word of God to the reader about life and faith.* Because that’s true, I am always happy to talk with you about your experience as you encounter the story of God through the Old Testament. If you ever want to talk about your spiritual life outside of a classroom setting, I would be happy to visit with you by email or phone.

It is my conviction that the Bible we have is the Bible that God wants us to have. Further, I am committed to the Baptist view of religious liberty of all – including students! I hope that, especially during this term, you will feel free to express your thoughts, share your insights, and ask your questions. It is my intention to create a safe, thoughtful, and respectful environment where we can learn and share together.

I am very happy to have you in this class! Welcome to RLGN 1301!