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**WBU Online 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 4313 VC01 The Writings

## TERM:

Spring, 2023 Session 2 (March 27-May 20, 2023)

## INSTRUCTOR:

Jeff Anderson, Ph.D.

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

Office phone: 907-227-0622

WBU Email: anderson@wbu.edu

## OFFICE HOURS, BUILDING & LOCATION:

This an online class. You may text, email, or phone me. Zoom and Collaborate appointments can be easily arranged.

## COURSE MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

This is an online class

## CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Esther, Daniel, 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah.

## PREREQUISITE:

RLGN 1301 or RLGN 1303 and 1302 or RLGN 1304

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND RESOURCE MATERIAL:

Required:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Title | Editor/Author | Publisher | Ed | Year | ISBN |
| Exploring the Old Testament: Psalms and Wisdom | Ernest Lucas | IVP | 1 | 2003 | 978-08308-5311-3 |
| NIV Cultural Backgrounds Bible | Walton | Zondervan |  | 2016 | 978-0-310-43158-9 |

## Important Message about Automatic Ebook:

If your course is using an E-textbook, please note that Wayland Baptist University has partnered with VitalSource to bring Inclusive Access, which is a digital copy of the required textbook available on Blackboard. You can access your textbook approximately one week before class begins. The prices are very competitive with the market and in most cases below the standard cost. If your course is using the VitalSource system, once you access the textbook on Blackboard you will be asked if you would like to opt-out. If you choose NOT to use the VitalSource provided textbook version, you MUST opt-out by the second week of class/census date or you will be charged (and refunds are not available). The price of the textbook will be billed automatically to your student account. To check the price of the textbook, please locate your required course material in Blackboard or go to your student services financial area.

Please keep in mind that VitalSource has to work with publishers to get your copy so check your Wayland email daily. A link may be provided in just a few hours, or it may take a few days.

For student access:

1. Every Course in Blackboard has a link to eTextbook [Vital Source] embedded in the course menu, with basic instructions.

2. Please encourage use of this textbook. Printed copies will NOT be available through our bookstore. Students can purchase via Amazon or similar vendor but the cost is usually substantially more expensive.

3. Student will “register”, just like you, to access their library, and opt out if desired.

4. They will be able to read and interact with their textbook from that location.

5. Some Cengage textbooks are just eTextbooks and will have direct Vital Source access in the classroom. Ask us if you are not sure.

6. IF your course is a Cengage, or Pearson with “access” to special courseware materials [MyLab, Mindtap with special assignments, accounting, etc.] you will need to set up the links to that in your Blackboard Classroom by Day 1 of the term. Students pay for the textbook and access via VitalSource, and be given a code in most cases, and will need that special link to the special materials you want them to access. WBUonline can assist you with this if you need help.

## OPTIONAL MATERIALS

Will be provided by the instructor.

## COURSE OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCIES:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the content and theology of the books of the Bible that are included in the third division of the Hebrew Bible known as The Writings and to relate the message of the books to the contemporary world
2. Demonstrate understanding of and be able to define the nature of wisdom in ancient Israel as well as the ancient Near East
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the major issues in the criticism and interpretation of the Writings

## 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:

Students are expected to successfully complete the requirements below:

1. Biblical Readings with quiz. Undergraduate and graduate students will have separate quizzes.
2. Textbook Readings with quiz. Undergraduate and graduate students will have separate quizzes.
3. Research Project: Write a 7 to 10 page exegetical or topical research paper on a topic that is approved by the instructor.
4. Comprehensive Final Exam

A Warning about Style Guide Requirements**:**

WBU’s School of Religion and Philosophy requires a Turabian 9th edition format for all written work. Written submissions that do not conform to this style guide will be penalized severely.

Research Paper Topics:

1. Job’s “Friends” and their Contribution to the Message of Job
2. The Role of the Elihu Speeches (Job 32-37) in the Book of Job
3. Will Job Curse God? Verbal Pronouncements in Job
4. The Theme of Work in Proverbs and Ecclesiastes
5. God’s Response to Job in Job 38–42 and the Message of the Book of Job
6. The Messianic Psalms: How do the psalms speak of the future Messiah?
7. The Davidic King in the Psalms: the role of the king and Israel's theology of Kingship
8. Should Christians Pray the Imprecatory Psalms?
9. Wisdom and Folly (as Women) in the Book of Proverbs
10. Reward and Retribution in the Book of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes
11. Daniel and the Literary Features of Apocalyptic Literature
12. The 70 Weeks of Daniel: Survey of the Interpretive Views
13. Why isn’t Daniel among the prophets?
14. Daniel 11 and the Significance of Antiochus Epiphanes in Biblical Prophecy
15. Imagery of Eating and Drinking in the Song of Songs
16. The Return from Exile: Tensions between the Believing Communities
17. The Role of Laments in the Church today
18. Ezra as Statesman and Lawgiver
19. Should Esther be in the Bible?
20. Wisdom Literature in the Ancient Near East and the Bible
21. The Theme of Blessing in the Book of Ruth
22. The Book of Chronicles’ Fascination with David
23. Qumran’s Cave 11 Psalm Scroll
24. Ruth, Esther, Ezra-Nehemiah and Gender

Course Evaluation (Method of Determining Grade): University Grading System

A 90-100: INCOMPLETE\*\*

B 80-89: Cr FOR CREDIT

C 70-79NCr NO CREDIT

D 60-69WP 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 [points and assignments may vary]

Quizzes: 100 points

Research Project: 100 points

Final Exam 100

Total: 300 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/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 of March 27

Introduction to the Writings

Psalms

Read Psalms 1-74; Lucas 1-66

Week of April 3

Psalms (continued)

Introduction to Wisdom Literature

Read Psalms 75-150; Lucas 67-90

Week of April 10

Job

Read Job, Lucas 117-144

Week of April 17

Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs

Read Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs; Lucas 91-116, 145-187.

Week of April 24

Ruth

Lamentations

Esther

Read Ruth and Lamentations, Lucas 188-202.

Week of May 1

Historical Overview of the Exilic and Post Exilic Periods

Ezra/Nehemiah

Chronicles

Read Ezra/Nehemiah and Chronicles. Other readings will be assigned.

Week of May 8

Daniel

Read the Book of Daniel. Other readings will be assigned.

Week of May 15

Final Examination

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

None