The Wayland flame and Univeristy logo.

# WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

# WBU ONLINE

# 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.

# THST/PHIL3300 VC01

# BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

# COURSE SYLLABUS

**SPRING 2 2024**

# Mar 25-May 18

## Instructor: Dr. Randolph R. Rogers, Ph.D.

## Instructor information:

* **University Phone: 806-291-1167 (*email is a much more reliable contact method*)**
* **Email:** [**randy.rogers@wbu.edu**](mailto:randy.rogers@wbu.edu)
* **Office hours in Plainview, TX: (times are subject to change every semester)**
  + M 8:00-8:45; 10:00-11:00 AM; 1:30-4:00 PM
  + T 8:00-9:15; 1:00-3:00 PM
  + W 8:00-8:45; 1:30-4:00
  + TH 8:00-9:15
  + Thursday afternoon and Friday, by appointment
  + All Emails will be answered within 48 hours—usually much faster within office hours.
* **Office Location**: Flores Bible Building, Office Suite. Wayland Baptist University. 1900 W. 7th. Plainview, TX 79072

# Class Meeting Time:

* Since this is an online class, class meeting times will be observed by regular and timely participation in online activities every week.
* There are specific due dates per assignments.

# Catalog Description:

THEO 3300. Biblical Interpretation (PHIL3300) - the science of biblical exegesis and interpretation.

# Prerequisite.

RLGN1301, RLGN 1302 (Old and New Testament History Courses)

# Required Texts

**NOTE:** This textbook is an Automatic eBook already in the classroom – click on the menu link for information. Should you wish to purchase a print copy remember to opt out by xxx date.

| **TITLE** | **EDITOR/AUTHOR** | **PUBLISHER** | **ED** | **YEAR** | **ISBN#** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Grasping God’s Word* | J. Scott Duvall and  J. Daniel Hays | Zondervan | 4th Edition | 2020 | 9780310109174 |

**Graduate Reading: There will be articles provided through Blackboard for graduate level reading. These articles will supplement the basic text book.**

# Recommended Texts and Access for Words studies

* A biblical concordance

| **TITLE** | **EDITOR/AUTHOR** | **PUBLISHER** | **ED** | **YEAR** | **ISBN#** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Nave’s Topical Bible* | Orville Nave | Hendrickson | Any edition | N/A | 9780917006029, as one example |

| **TITLE** | **EDITOR/AUTHOR** | **PUBLISHER** | **ED** | **YEAR** | **ISBN#** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance* | James Strong | Nelson | Any edition or version | N/A | 9781418541682 as one example |

| **TITLE** | **EDITOR/AUTHOR** | **PUBLISHER** | **ED** | **YEAR** | **ISBN#** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Vines Expository Dictionary* | W. E. Vine | Nelson | Any version or edition | N/A | 9780785250531 as one example |

* Access to a biblical tools website will be beneficial. The Websites listed here a for general use
  + [Bible Study Tools](https://www.biblestudytools.com/concordances/)
  + [Blue Letter Bible](https://www.blueletterbible.org/)
  + [Bible Hub](https://biblehub.com/)
  + [Biblegateway.com](https://www.biblegateway.com/) (good for searching other versions of the Bible)
  + Logos Bible Software

# Course Outcome Competencies: Students will:

* Demonstrate knowledge of the general rules of biblical interpretation leading to a proclamation of the biblical text that is both responsible and defensible.
* Demonstrate knowledge of the history of interpretation and the effect on biblical interpretation.
* Demonstrate knowledge of genres of the biblical text, tools used in interpretation, and scholarly criticism necessary for responsible exegesis of the biblical text.
* Demonstrate ability to use basic reading strategies in order to read, retain, and interpret the Scripture.
* Demonstrate the ability to write 1) a critical evaluation of a biblical text and 2) a written text book AND present their findings to the class.

# Attendance Requirements

* As an online class, your attendance will be determined by weekly login to the class website and consistent participation in assignments.
* You are required to log in to class each week and meet specific deadlines. Skipping scheduled weekly assignments will be considered as an “absence” for that particular week.
* The Division's "no cut" policy allows no unexcused absences.
* No student missing morethan 25% of the class meetings (including both excused and unexcused absences) can pass the course. Thus, if you miss 3 weeks of weekly assignments and quizzes, you will fail this class.

## Statement on Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty

1. [Link to Statement on Academic Integrity](https://www.wbu.edu/academics/writing-center/Academic%20Integrity%20Statement%20Pol%208.4.1%20Attch%20Oct%2020222.pdf)
2. Wayland Baptist University observes a ZERO TOLERANCE policy regarding Academic Dishonesty.
3. Any suspected instance of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will first be evaluated by the instructor and discussed individually with the student.
4. If the instructor determines that a student’s actions constitute Academic Dishonesty, the case will be filed with the school dean (as determined by course prefix) and reported to the university executive vice president/provost, as per university policy. ALL CASES OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY WILL RE REPORTED.
5. Per university policy as described in the Wayland Academic Catalog, second offenses WILL RESULT IN SUSPENSION FROM THE UNIVERSITY.
6. In this course, the first instance of Academic Dishonesty may also result in a zero on the assignment.

# 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 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

*FOR FURTHER DETAILS, PLEASE CHECK* [*BLACKBOARD*](http://WWW.WBU.BLACKBOARD.COM) *ON THE MAIN MENU, UNDER THE TAB <<COURSE INFO/SYLLABUS>>.*

1. **Sectional Work**:
   1. The class will be divided into sections that cover specific themes. There will be 4 sections as follows:
      * Section 1: Week 1. The Interpretive Journey. Mar 25-Apr 7
      * Section 2: Weeks 2-3. Reading Scripture. Apr 8-21
      * Section 3: Weeks 4-5. Letters, Law, and Narrative. Apr 22-May 5
      * Section 4: Weeks 6-8. The Old Testament. May 6-18
        + Thanksgiving break (Nov 20-26)
   2. General assignments for each sections
      * Check and respond to emails, announcements, messages, and discussion boards each week;
      * Read any assigned textbook material in syllabus and make appropriate notes;
      * Complete written assignments each week. Due dates will be posted in class schedule.
      * Respond with posts on assigned discussion boards as assigned;
      * Complete any quizzes (video or written)
      * Take mini-test for each section before the end of the section.
      * All due dates and times will be listed according to Central Standard Time (CST).
2. **Research Project**
   1. Each student will exegete a passage from Ephesians (per the choice of the professor). The passage or passages will be listed in the Blackboard assignments.
   2. The student will be analyzing the chosen passage in the following ways as a part of the project. Use the following bullet points as organizational headings for your paper
      * Reading the text. Select 5 translations of your passage. Read them and note similarities and differences. (GGW 1-1)
      * Initial understanding of the text. Describe your initial response to the meaning, significance, and application of your passage. (Reader Response, GGW, 10-1)
      * Grammatical observations. Make as many observations about your passage (GGW, Chapter 4) as you can
      * Word study. Do a word study on a key term from your passage (GGW, Chapter 9)
      * Background work
        + Use commentaries and concordances
        + Gather as much information as you can about the city of Ephesus (GGW, Chapter 6)
        + What is the historical background of the letter to the Ephesians (authorship, date of writing, circumstance for writing the letter)?
        + Study the surrounding context of your passage (GGW Chapter 8; 14:1)
      * Exegetical analysis of the text
        + Step 1: What does this passage mean to the original audience? (Chapter 2).
        + Step 2: What differences do you see between the original audience and your modern audience?
        + Step 3: What are the key principles or truths in the passage?
        + Step 4: Do these key principles fit in with the rest of scripture?
        + Are there any parallel passages or concepts in other Biblical books? Write down the passages and explain the connections
      * Write your own “version” of the passage. Use contemporary language where possible. (From Chapter 1 assignment)
      * Write a teaching or preaching outline based on the key principles
      * Application
        + Observe how the principles in the text address the original situation.
        + Identify a parallel situation in your world.
        + Make your applications specific by creating real-world scenarios or by contemporizing
3. **Tests**: Each section will contain one mini-test. There will be a total of 4 mini-tests, one per section. The last mini-test will count as the Final Exam.
4. **Discussion** **Board**
   1. Discussion Board: Each section there will be an assigned reading for the next class period. This may include both text book material and actual biblical readings. Each student will be required to read that material and report on the content in the appropriate discussion board forum.
   2. Word requirements or minimums will be listed for each post. If none is listed, then there is not a minimum requirement.
   3. For more details, see online instructions.
5. **Written Assignments**: The professor has provided weekly reading assignments from the text book.
   1. The assignments are to be typed and turned in at the beginning of the specified class. YOU MUST SUBMIT YOUR PAPER VIA BLACKBOARD UNDER *READING ASSIGNMENTS SUBMISSIONS*. These links will be available under each sectional assignment page.
   2. There are 16 total reading assignments. Due dates are posted in the class schedule.
   3. Late assignments will not be accepted. They will be counted as a -0-.
   4. The assignments are to be typed. Spacing (single-spaced), fonts (Times New Roman, Arial, or Calibri: size 12), and margins (1 inch on all sides) are to be followed with each assignment.
   5. Note the format mentioned in the assignment. If the assignment requires listing, then list. If a paragraph description is needed, then write a paragraph. Follow the instructions accurately and thoroughly. Since the assignment is open book, there will be no excuses for any missing information.
   6. There is no page limit. However, you will be graded on thoroughness and accuracy in your answer.

## Course Evaluation (Method of Determining Grade)

### University Grading System

A 90-100 I INCOMPLETE\*\*

B 80-89 Cr FOR CREDIT

C 70-79 NCr NO CREDIT

D 60-69 WP 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.

### Computation of final grade for undergrads

Assignment

Research paper: 20 points

Reading Assignments/Discussion Boards 44 points

Mini-Tests: 36 points

**TOTAL 100 points**

# Student Grade Protection and Appeals

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 Executive Vice President/Provost 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 CLASS SCHEDULE

* Section 1. Week 1. The Interpretive Journey.
  + Week 1. Mar 25-Apr 7. Assignments
    - Introductory Discussion Board
    - Syllabus Quiz
    - Read GGW (Grasping God’s Word) Chapter 1-2.
    - Written Assignments. Due by Thursday.
      * Assignment 1-1.
    - Project Assignment
      * Choose a passage from Ephesians for assignment. Submit to professor for approval
      * Following Assignment 1-1, Read passage from Ephesians in 5 different Versions.
        + Note similarities and differences in each of the different versions.
        + Be creative: write out your own version of the passage based on your multiple readings of the passage.
    - Week 1 Review Quiz. (Optional)
    - Sectional test 1
* Section 2: Weeks 2-3. Reading Scripture. Apr 8-21
  + Week 2.
    - Assignments
      * Read GGW, Chapters 3-5
      * Written Assignments.
        + Assignment 3-2
        + Assignment 5-2
      * Week 2 Review Quiz
      * Project assignment
        + Project Description: describe what you hope to find in your research
        + Provide a clear purpose statement for your paper
      * Week 3 Project assignment
        + Provide a brief description of what you hope to find in your study of your passage.
        + List 30 observations from your passage
        + What key grammatical concepts do you see in this passage?
  + Week 3.
    - Assignments
      * Read GGW, Chapter 9-13.
      * Written Assignments.
        + Assignment 9-2
        + Assignment 10-1
        + Assignment 10-2
      * Week 3 Review Quiz
      * Project assignment
        + Locate at least 3 key terms from your passage that you need to analyze in your project
        + Use a concordance (online or physical book) or bible dictionary and take a deeper look at your key terms in your chosen passage. Jot down some ideas concerning the use of the term by the author of your passage—and the wider use of the term in rest of the Bible
* Section 3: Weeks 4-5. Letters, Law, and Narrative. Apr 22-May 5
  + Week 4. Letters and the Law
    - Assignments
      * Read GGW, Chapters 14, 19
      * Written Assignments
        + Assignment 14-1
        + Assignment 19-5
      * Week 4 Review Quiz
      * Project assignment
        + Provide a bibliography list for your project/paper, with proper form (Turabian)
  + Week 5. Biblical Narratives
    - Assignments
      * Read GGW, Chapter 15, 16, 18
      * Written Assignments
        + Assignment 15-1
        + Assignment 18-2
      * Week 5 Review Quiz
      * Project assignment
        + Take your passage through the Step 1 of the Interpretive Journey. Write your general impressions. Use what sources you have to fill in the historical and literary background (what the passage meant to the original readers).
* Section 4: Prophecy, Poetry, Proverbs, Apocalyptic. May 6-18
  + Week 6. Prophecy and Apocalyptic
    - Assignments
      * Complete Sectional Test 3 by Wednesday
      * Read *GGW*, Chapter 17, 21
      * Written Assignments
        + Assignment 21-1
      * Week 6 Review Quiz
      * Project assignment
        + Take your passage through Step 2 of the Interpretive Journey. Write your general impressions. Use what sources you have to fill in the historical and literary background (what the passage meant to the original readers).
  + Weeks 7. Poetry and Proverbs.
    - Assignments
      * Read *GGW*, Chapter 20, 22
      * Written Assignments
        + Assignment 20-2
        + Assignment 22-1
      * Week 7 Review Quiz
      * Project assignment
        + Take your passage through the steps 3-5 steps of the Interpretive Journey. Write your general impressions. Use what sources you have to find principles of meaning and application.
      * Write out the key principles you have discovered
  + Week 8. Dec 4-9
    - Assignments
      * Project assignment Submission
        + Prepare your assignment for final submission
        + Don’t forget to state how do these principles connect with your modern audience
        + Include a completed teaching outline
      * Section Test 4 (Final Exam)