**WBU Flame Logo

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**VIRTUAL CAMPUS**

**School of Christian Studies**

**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.

**COURSE NUMBER & NAME:**

THST4311: Former Prophets

**TERM:**

SPRING 2 (March 25 – May 18, 2024)

**INSTRUCTOR:**

Dr. Timothy M. Pierce

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Office Phone and Email: 806-291-1165;

Cell Phone 903-263-7216

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;

**OFFICE HOURS, BUILDING, AND LOCATION:**

Flores Bible Building office suite

The student is free to e-mail me at any time. I will accept phone calls on my cell phone Mon - Fri 8am – 10 pm CST, though I may have to call back if I am in class or a meeting

**CLASS MEETING TIME AND LOCATION**:

Online class, weekly interaction required as noted below

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

Intensive examination of Hebrew history from the conquest of Canaan to the fall of Jerusalem and exegetical analysis of the books of Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings, including historical and cultural issues, key themes, and interpretive issues.

**PREREQUISITE:**

Prerequisite(s): RLGN 1301 and RLGN 1302

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND RESOURCES**: (Fill in from approved textbook list, with ISBN.)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Title** | **Editor/Author** | **Publisher** | **Ed** | **Year** | **ISBN** |
| *Reading the Historical Books: A Student's Guide to Engaging the Biblical Text* | Patricia Dutcher-Walls | Baker Academic | 1st | 2014 | Print ISBN 9780801048654,  eText ISBN 9781441244789, |
| *Handbook on the Historical Books* | Victor P. Hamilton | Baker Academic | 1st | 2008 | Print ISBN 9780801036149,  eText ISBN 9781441205698, |
| *The Bible* | A modern translation of the Bible such as the New International Version (NIV), New American Standard (NASB), New Revised Standard (NRSV), Christian Standard Bible (CSB), or English Standard Version (ESV) is preferable. | | | | |

**This course includes Automatic eBooks.  Opt out date is the 8th day of class (second Monday of the session).  Click on the menu link for more details.**

**OPTIONAL MATERIALS:**

Will be distributed by professor

**COURSE OUTCOME COMPETENCIES**:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the history of scholarship and major issues in criticism and interpretation concerning the Former Prophets

2. Demonstrate the ability to relate the historical traditions in ancient Israel within the context of similar traditions in ancient Near East

3. Demonstrate knowledge of the content and significance of the writings found in the Former Prophets that leads to the application of the message of the books to the contemporary world

4. Produce a research project that shows critical analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of a cultural, historical, or theological topic in the Former Prophets.

**ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS**: As stated in the Wayland Catalog, students enrolled at one of the University’s external campuses should make every effort to attend all class meetings. All absences must be explained to the instructor, who will then determine whether the omitted work may be made up. When a student reaches that number of absences considered by the instructor to be excessive, the instructor will so advise the student and file an unsatisfactory progress report with the campus executive director. Any student who misses 25 percent or more of the regularly scheduled class meetings may receive a grade of F in the course. Additional attendance policies for each course, as defined by the instructor in the course syllabus, are considered a part of the University’s attendance policy.

[Link to Statement on Academic Integrity](https://www.wbu.edu/faculty-and-staff/policies-and-procedures-private/01_documents_march272020/8_4_1%20Attachment%20A%20-%20Statement%20on%20Academic%20Integrity.pdf)

**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 Disability Services Coordinator and Academic Coach serves as the coordinator of students with disabilities and must be contacted concerning accommodation requests (office (806) 291-1057. Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.”**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING CRITERIA:**

#### Students are expected to complete all of the weekly readings as outlined in the course schedule. This includes readings from the textbook and online lecture notes/videos. These readings will enable students to participate in the weekly discussion boards as well as complete the weekly quizzes.

* **Examination:** There will be one Final Exam given. Questions will be true/false, multiple choice, multiple answer, matching, fill in the blank, and short answer/listing. The exams will cover material from the lectures, rather than the readings. All class lectures, however, presuppose knowledge of the assigned reading as background for understanding the lectures.

This exam will be online the last week of the term. No texts, no notes, no books. Exam is timed.

* **Bible and Textbook Reading Guides:** Undergraduate and graduate students will have separate reading guide quiz questions. Open book reading guides cover material assigned in the Bible, the textbooks, or other assigned sources. Graduate students will be required to use journal articles and other academic sources in their reading guide responses each week. Undergraduate and graduate students will have separate reading guide quiz questions.
* **Discussion Board:** Most weeks 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. These postings should also be completed by midnight CST on Sunday each week. The student is expected to do **at leas**t 1 original post and 2 responsive posts each week.
* **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 – Joshua, Judges, Samuel or Kings
  + 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 11**, 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:

<http://www.wbu.edu/academics/schools/religion_and_philosophy/student_help/documents/styleGuide.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
* Means of Evaluation

Form: (15%)

Issues such as:

Typographical, spelling, grammatical errors

Wayland Style Guide not followed

Use of parenthetical notes.

Omissions of title page, contents page, bibliography

Organization: (15%)

Issues such as:

weak outline, lack of consistency, lack of balance

too long, too short, need better development of ideas

Content: (50%)

Issues such as:

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)

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

**Issues such as:**

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

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.

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

A 90-100

B 80-89

C 70-79

D 60-69

F BELOW 60

• Procedure for computations of final grade [points and assignments may vary]

Reading Guides: 25% of Final Grade

Research Paper: 30% of Final Grade

Discussion Board 15% of Final Grade

Final Exam 30% of Final Grade

**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.**

**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.** Questions of a biblical nature should be asked in the “Questions to Professor” assignment or via email.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**:

**Reading Assignments - Dutcher Wallis (DW); Hamilton (H)**

Week One (March 25): Introduction to the Former Prophets

**DW – Chap 1, pages 1 – 36**

Week Two (April 1): Joshua

**DW – Chap 2, pages 37 – 68**

**H – Joshua, pages 15 – 96**

Week Three (April 8): Judges

**DW – Chap 3, pages 69 – 102**

**H – Judges, pages 97 – 186**

Week Four (April15): 1 Samuel

**DW – Chap 4, pages 103 – 132**

**H – 1 Samuel, pages 211 – 296**

Week Five (April 22): 2 Samuel

**DW – Chap 5, pages 133 – 162**

**H – 2 Samuel, pages 297 – 378**

Week Six (April 29): 1 Kings

**DW – Conclusion, pages 163 – 172**

**H – 1 Kings 1 – 11, pages 379 – 414**

Week Seven (May 6): 2 Kings (Research Paper Due on April 30th)

**H – 1 Kings 12 – 2 Kings 25, pages 415 - 476**

Week Eight (May13): Final Exam