

**WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY**

**VIRTUAL CAMPUS**

**SCHOOL OF RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY**

**Wayland 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 Title and Number:** PHIL/RLGN4314 VC01 Biblical Interpetation

**Term:** Summer 2017

**Name of Instructor:** Dr. Matt Sanders

**Office Phone Number and WBU Email Address:** 808-366-0121, matthew.sanders@wayland.wbu.edu

**Office Hours, Building, and Location:** No office hours. By appointment only. Unless it is an emergency, contact me via email then text and finally telephone if necessary. I live in Hawaii. Be mindful of the time difference should you need to call.

**Class Meeting Time and Location:** Virtual campus

**Catalog Description:** The science of biblical exegesis and interpretation

**Prerequisites:** RLGN 1301 Old Testament History, RLGN 1302 New Testament History, and RLGN 0001 Each student must enroll in **RLGN 0001 Theological Research and Writing Lab.** This lab helps students write an acceptable research paper. The lab utilizes a writing manual produced by the Division of Religion and Philosophy. Students in this course must register and receive credit for the lab during the VC Summer 2017 term. Students who already received credit for the lab or are current students in the lab for another course are not required to take the lab in this course.

**Required Textbook(s) and/or Resource Material:** Fee, Gordon and Douglas Stuart. 2003. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth.* 3rd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. Corley, Bruce, Steve Lemke, and Grant Lovejoy. 2002. *Biblical Hermeneutics: A Comprehensive Introduction to Interpreting Scripture.* 2nd ed. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

The professor might also add other sources throughout the semester.

**Course Outcome Competencies:**

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the general rules of biblical interpretation leading to a proclamation of the biblical text that is both responsible and defensible

2. Demonstrate knowledge of the history of interpretation and the effect on biblical interpretation

3. Demonstrate knowledge of the genres of the biblical text, tools used in interpretation, and scholarly criticism necessary for responsible exegesis of the biblical text

4. Explain the nature and authority of biblical literature and the need for interpretation

5. Describe the task of the biblical interpreter

6. Understand and apply the principles and methods of biblical interpretation

**Attendance Requirements:** Because this is an online course, attendance means to participate in the course activities in a timely manner. Failure to participate in a timely manner could mean that you will be dropped from the course.

**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:**

Reading reports (5 percent) Keeping up with the reading is very important. Before the end of the week that the reading is assigned, go to the “Content” section on Blackboard and access the appropriate reading report. In the report, indicate the percentage of the reading that you have completed.

Reading quizzes (20 percent) You will complete a quiz based on the week’s reading. The quiz will be timed, approximately 1 minute per question. You should complete the reading before taking the quiz. You are allowed to use your book and notes, but there is not enough time to look up every answer.

Exegetical Paper (25 percent) You will write a 12 to 15-page exegetical paper utilizing the principles taught in this class. The paper will be on a passage of Scripture from the Old or New Testament.

Discussion board (10 percent) Discussion questions based on the reading assignments will be posted online throughout the semester. You will need to respond to each of these questions and reply to classmates’ input. Your responses will be evaluated based on relevancy, accuracy, and clarity.

Exams (40 percent) You will have two exams for this course. Each will cover about half of the course and each will be worth 20% of your grade. These are proctored exams. Instructions will be posted on Blackboard during the course. Study guides will also be posted.

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.

**Grading**

The following scale of points will determine your final grade:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A = 90 - 100 | Exhibits excellent scholarship, takes initiative in exploring studies, motivates others in cooperative efforts, improves consistently. |
| B = 80 - 89 | Exhibits accurate scholarship, benefits class with achievements, works effectively in groups, improves noticeably. |
| C = 70 - 79 | Completes most assignments, contributes to discussions, exhibits some interest in studies, improves somewhat. |
| D = 60 - 69 | Does not meet most assignments, exhibits indifference to studies, slows the progress of the class, improves unremarkably if at all. |
| F = 0 - 59 | Misses class excessively, detracts from class progress, shows no improvement, fails to do assignments, plagiarizes. |

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.

**Course Outline**

Reading is an important part of the learning process. It will provide you greater context for understanding Scripture, raise questions for further study, help you participate in online discussions, help you when reviewing for quizzes, and create a resource for future ministry. Reading assignments might include lecture notes on the topics listed in the text. You may read and work ahead. The assignments are typically posted Sunday at midnight and due a week later by 11:59 p.m.

WEEK 1 – Intro to hermeneutics

**READING: Fee 11-53; 265-75; Corley 2-53; 176-241; 433-473**

The role of interpretation in communication, the authority of the Bible, interpretive challenges, general principles of interpretation, interpretive tools, interpretive methods

WEEK 2

**READING: Reading: Fee 55-88; Corley 331-346; 356-86**

Interpreting the NT Epistles

## WEEK 3

**READING**: **Fee 89-106; Corley 260-279; 398-431**

Interpreting OT Narratives

## WEEK 4

**READING**: **Fee 107-125; Corley 328-329; 56-130**

Interpreting Acts

## WEEK 5

**READING**: **Corley 131-174; 387-397**

History of Interpreting the Bible

**Midterm exam**

## WEEK 6

**READING: Fee 127-162; Corley 316-328**

Interpreting the Gospels and Parables

WEEK 7

**READING: Fee 163-180; Corley 244-259**

Interpreting the Law

## WEEK 8

**READING: Fee 181-204; Corley 301-315**

Interpreting the Prophets

## WEEK 9

**READING: Fee 205-248; Corley 280-300**

Interpreting Psalms and Wisdom Literature

## WEEK 10

**READING: Fee 249-264; Corley 347-354**

Interpreting Apocalyptic Literature

**Exegetical paper due**

## WEEK 11

**Final Exam due**

# EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES

## Academic Honesty

Any student who submits work as part of the requirements for a course thereby asserts that the student personally has done that work and that it has not been submitted for credit in any other course without permission. Unless credit is explicitly given to sources, the student is asserting that the words and/or the thoughts are the student's own original work. Falling short of these standards is academic dishonesty. In submitting an exam, the student is also affirming that he or she has complied with the conditions of the exam.

Academic dishonesty will result in at minimum a report made to the university and the student receiving no credit for the assignment or exam.

## Respect

Because the university classroom is designed for the free exchange of ideas, students are encouraged to be honest in expressing their views. Other students are likewise encouraged to share contrary views, but everyone should do so in a spirit of compassion and consideration.

Rights

Under FERPA, you have rights to see your education records upon request. Please see the WBU catalog for specific instructions.

This syllabus is a plan for the course and subject to change. As instructor, I reserve the right to alter the course material to more effectively achieve the course objectives and to alter the course requirements to more accurately assess student progress and performance.