**Wayland Baptist University**

**School of Religion and Philosophy ¤ Virtual Campus**

**RLGN 1301 VC02 Old Testament History**

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.

*Instructor*

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*Catalog Description*

 A survey of the history and literature of the Old Testament with special attention to the institutions, religion, and national life of the Hebrew people.

Prerequisites: None.

*Expanded description*

 The Old Testament (the Jewish Bible) not only contains the history of a distinct people group which has had a worldwide influence far in excess of their numbers, it has a history itself. This collection of writings, brought together over centuries, is diverse, literary, and informative for understanding Western history. An investigative study of the various histories, literary genres, and ideologies available from this source broadens one's grasp of the dominant worldview of the western hemisphere.

*Class time, location, and method of instruction*

This class will meet via Blackboard with weekly assignments from May 29, 2017 through August 12, 2017.

*Resources*

Required text:

*NIV Study Bible*. Zondervan, 2011. ISBN 9780310437321 or 9780310437321

Supplementary materials:

Lectures and website links available through Blackboard site

*Student Learning Outcomes*

The student will be able to

 Demonstrate knowledge of the historical, religious, and social context of the Old Testament world.

 Demonstrate knowledge of some of the critical methods used in Old Testament studies.

 Demonstrate an understanding of the basic content of the Old Testament and its main teachings (theological content).

 Demonstrate knowledge of the canonical process producing a more complete understanding of the Old Testament.

In this class we will approach those outcomes in such a way that, upon completion of this course, you should be able to

 Describe how the following shaped Israel's understanding of the identity of God and the identity of Israel: the covenants with Abraham, Moses, and David; the concept of salvation history; the Exodus and the Exile; the prophetic movement; wisdom literature.

 Analyze the effect of Israel's faith on her history and vice versa.

 Clarify the different perspectives of Israel's priests, prophets, and sages.

 Distinguish the components of Israel's worship and the elements of her theology.  Outline the historical development of the nation and the faith of Israel.

 Describe accurately the more prominent critical methods used in Old Testament studies.

 Outline the canonical process.

*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.

*Learning Activities/ Assessment Methods*

**Lecture and textbook reading**.

Assigned reading as indicated in the schedule must be completed on a weekly basis in order for you to participate meaningfully in discussion board activities and to succeed in the weekly reading quizzes. Discussions of the readings will have a deadline for submitting comments and questions.

**Reading quizzes** (30%).

There will be weekly three-question quizzes dealing with the textbook readings. These will be timed for five minutes, so be sure you have read the materials ahead of time. You will not have sufficient time to go searching for the answers during the quiz. The reading quizzes will be available through Monday midnight (Central Time) following each of the first ten weeks of the term. (For example, the quiz for Week One, May 29-June 3, is due June 3.)

**Discussion board** (30%).

Each week I will post five discussion questions on the discussion board forum dealing with the lectures and the textbook readings. Your participation will be evaluated for relevance, accuracy, and clarity. To receive credit for participation, you will need to post at least three responses to either my questions or comments made by your classmates. Extra points are awarded for additional responses.

**Journal** (15%).

Each student will keep an online journal (blog) in Blackboard. The journal will record **your** observations and questions on the cultural and religious perspectives of Israel's people throughout the historical periods we will examine. For full credit, you will need to post at least fifteen entries.

**Summary** (10%).

At the end of the term, you will submit a four-to-five-page summary of what you have learned in this course. Give attention to historical facts, theological concepts, cultural understanding, literary analysis, and Israelite faith. No footnotes are required. All biblical quotations may be referenced in parenthetical style. For example: "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one" (Deut. 6:4).

**Final exam** (15%).

A final exam will be given during the last week of class. The comprehensive final exam will include questions over materials presented in the lectures and discussed in the discussion board forums. **Please note that the final exam must be proctored**. Each student is responsible for securing the services of a proctor.

*Grading*

Final grade will result from assessment of the assignments as follows:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Assignment | Number of items | Percentage of final score  |
| Discussions | 10 | 30% |
| Journal | 1 | 15% |
| Reading quizzes | 10 | 30% |
| Summary | 1 | 10% |
| Final exam | 1 | 15% |

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 with others, 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, does not advance the progress of the class, improves unremarkably if at all.

F = 0-59 Misses assignments excessively, absent from class involvement, shows no improvement, **plagiarizes**.

I = Incomplete 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 incomplete is changed if the deficiency is made up by midterm of the next regular semester; otherwise, it becomes "F".

Schedule of assignments

NIV = NIV Study Bible; DB = discussion board; Q = quiz

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| **Week/ Date** | **Topic** | **Assignment** | **Tasks** |
| 15/29-6/3 | Intro; OT as Christian Bible; Patriarchs | NIV, pp. xv-xviii, 3-9; Genesis 12-50 | DB 1Q 1 |
| 26/5-10 | History of Israelites between Exodus and entry into Canaan | NIV, pp. 92-95, 197-200; Exodus 1-20; 24; 30; Leviticus 16; Numbers 13-14; 17; 20:1-13; Deuteronomy 6-7; 29-30 | DB 2Q 2 |
| 36/12-17 | Transition from nomadic life to monarchy | NIV, pp. 256-259, 309-313, 350-355; Deuteronomy 20; 31:1-8; 34; Joshua 1-11; 24; Judges 2:6-7:25; 13-16; 1 Samuel 1; 2:11-4:1; 7:2-8:21; 9:1-10:24; 13:1, 19-22; 28; 31 | DB 3Q 3 |
| 46/19-24 | King David | NIV, pp. 402-406, 457-458; 1 Samuel 15-20; 24-27; 29-30; 2 Samuel 1:1-2:11; 3:1-5; 5-7; 11-15; 18:1-19:15 | DB 4Q 4 |
| 56/26-7/1 | Monarchy in decline | NIV, pp. 502-508; 1 Kings 1-5; 8-9; 11-12; 14; 15-19; 2 Kings 6:8-7:20 | DB 5Q 5 |
| 67/3-8 | 8th century: two kingdoms | NIV, pp. 1109-1114; 1440-1443, 1469-1471, 1498-1501; 2 Kings 16-20; Amos 1-9; Isaiah 1; 5-6; 9:2-10:22; 30-32; Micah 1-7 | DB 6Q 6 |
| 77/10-15 | Exile | NIV, pp. 1216-1221, 1320-1323, 1518-1520, 1526-1527, 1334-1338; 2 Kings 18-25; Jeremiah 1; 23:1-32; 24-28; 31; 36-38; 46; Zephaniah 1-3; Habakkuk 1-3; Lamentations 1-5; Ezekiel 1-3; 6; 12; 33; 37 | DB 7Q 7 |
| 87/17-22 | Post-Exile and Restoration period | NIV, pp. 1534-1536, 1541-1543; Isaiah 40:1-41:4; 42:1-4; 44:1-20; 49-55; 61-62; 66; Haggai 1-2; Zechariah 1-8 | DB 8Q 8 |
| 97/24-29 | Persian and Greek periods | NIV, pp. 719-722, 769-771, 1414-1415, 1460, 1486-1487, 1561-1563; Ezra 1; 3-7; 8:21-10:17; Nehemiah 1-2; 4:1-7:3; 8-9; 10:28-39; 13; Obadiah; Joel; Malachi; Esther; Daniel 1-9; Zechariah 9-14 | DB 9Q 9 |
| 107/31-8/5 | Wisdom and other Kethubim | NIV, pp. 391-394, 786-791, 1096-1099, 1490-1493; Ecclesiastes 1:1-3:22; 13; Proverbs 1-3; 8-9; 15-16; 26; 30-31; Job 1-7; 38-42; Ruth; Jonah; Song of Songs | DB 10Q 10 |
| 118/7-12 | OT worldview and worship | NIV, pp. 156-158, 841-851, Genesis 1-11; Leviticus 4-7; Psalms 1; 2; 12; 22-23; 66; 84 | Summary Final exam Journal |