



**WBU Online  
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.

**RLGN 5317 VC01~~THE LATTER PROPHETS  
Summer 2018**

**Instructor:** Dr. David W. Howle

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**Class Time and Location:** Online via Blackboard, May 29-August 11, 2018

**Catalog Description:** Intensive examination of the lives and literature of the major and minor prophets of the Hebrew Scripture in relationship to their historical and cultural setting, and application of their message to the church of today.

**Method of Instruction:** Online—printed lectures, video, discussion board, internet links

**Prerequisite/ Co-requisites:** None

**Required Text:**

J. Gordon McConville, *Exploring the Old Testament, Volume 4: A Guide to the Prophets* (IVP Academic) ISBN-13: 978-0830853120.

**Additional Resources:**

*Theological Research and Writing Manual*. WBU School of Religion and Philosophy (available online)

**Course Outcome Competencies:** Students will

- ♣ Demonstrate the ability to relate the prophetic tradition in ancient Israel within the history of that nation and describe the institution of prophecy in relationship to the ancient Near East.
- ♣ Demonstrate a knowledge of the major issues in the criticism and interpretation of the prophetic books.
- ♣ Demonstrate a knowledge of the historical background and message of each of the Old Testament Latter prophets and relate that message to the contemporary world.

**Attendance:**

Participation will be checked each week of class. No student missing more than 25% of the weekly assignments can pass the course. Students who will be unable to participate in the class for more than a week must make every effort to contact the professor in advance.

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 dean. Any student who misses 25 percent or more of the regularly scheduled assignments 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. A student may petition the Academic Council for exceptions to the above stated policies by filing a written request for an appeal to the provost/academic vice president.

### **Academic Honesty (Plagiarism):**

According to the university's academic catalog, "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." University students are expected to conduct themselves according to the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, forgery, or plagiarism. Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one's own work. It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with penalties associated with plagiarism stated in the catalog.

### **Services for the Disabled:**

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.

It is critical to study this syllabus carefully and be sure that you understand the requirements and figure out how you will fit them into your schedule. The various components are explained below. Because online learning requires significant self-discipline, the following is a *suggested approach* to a typical week in The Latter Prophets. Note that Sunday is not included; take the day off!

<b>Days</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Monday-Tuesday	Complete reading assignments (Bible, textbook, lecture)
Wednesday-Thursday	Start responding in weekly discussion board; write journal entries
Friday-Saturday	Complete responses to discussion board; make summary notes

## Course Schedule:

Reading Key:

**EOT:** *Exploring the Old Testament*

**B:** Bible

(Reading of weekly lecture notes is expected)

Assignments key:

**DB:** Discussion board

(Journal entries should be made weekly)

Week	Topic	Reading	Assignment
Week 1 5/29-6/2	Definitions, history of prophetism, types of prophetic literature	<b>EOT:</b> Introduction (pp. xi-xxviii)	<b>DB1</b>
Week 2 6/4-6/9	Literary aspects of prophetic work; eighth-century Israel; Amos, Hosea	<b>EOT:</b> Hosea (ch. 6), Amos (ch. 8) <b>B:</b> Hosea 1-14; Amos 1-9	<b>DB2</b>
Week 3 6/11-6/16	Eighth-century Judah; Micah, Jonah	<b>EOT:</b> Micah (ch. 11), Jonah (ch. 10) <b>B:</b> Micah 1-7; Jonah 1-4	<b>DB3</b>
Week 4 6/18-6/23	Eighth-century Isaiah	<b>EOT:</b> Isaiah (pp. 1-23) <b>B:</b> Isaiah 1-6; 8-9; 11; 27-29	<b>DB4</b>
Week 5 6/25-6/30	Seventh century; Nahum, Zephaniah, Habakkuk	<b>EOT:</b> Nahum (ch. 12), Habakkuk (ch. 13), Zephaniah (ch. 14) <b>B:</b> Nahum 1-3; Habakkuk 1-3; Zephaniah 1-3	<b>DB5</b>  Critical reviews
Week 6 7/2-7/7	Exiled to Babylon; Jeremiah	<b>EOT:</b> Jeremiah (ch. 2) <b>B:</b> Jeremiah 1-3; 7:1-29; 13; 18; 20; 23; 28-29; 31; 36; 52	<b>DB6</b>
Week 7 7/9-7/14	Sixth century; Ezekiel	<b>EOT:</b> Ezekiel (ch. 4) <b>B:</b> Ezekiel 1-5; 8; 10; 15; 18; 23; 34; 37; 43; 47:21-23	<b>DB7</b>
Week 8 7/16-7/21	Deutero-Isaiah	<b>EOT:</b> Isaiah (pp. 23-42) <b>B:</b> Isaiah 40; 42:1-9; 50; 52:13-53:12; 61	<b>DB8</b>
Week 9 7/23-7/28	Undated prophets: Joel, Obadiah	<b>EOT:</b> Joel (ch. 7), Obadiah (ch. 9) <b>B:</b> Joel 1-3; Obadiah	<b>DB9</b> Research paper
Week 10 7/30-8/4	Restoration; Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi	<b>EOT:</b> Haggai (ch. 15), Zechariah (ch. 16), Malachi (ch. 17) <b>B:</b> Haggai 1-2; Zechariah 1-9; Malachi 1-4	<b>DB10</b>
Week 11 8/6-8/11	Apocalyptic; Daniel	<b>EOT:</b> Daniel (ch. 5) <b>B:</b> Daniel 1-3; 6-10; 12	Summary

You may want to print this and keep it in your work area near a calendar. In any event, I recommend that you mark on your calendar the due dates (critical reviews, research paper, and summary) as well as setting deadlines for yourself. For example, you could determine that you will complete your reading of journal articles by June 23, your reading of research paper resources by July 7, and your preparation of an outline for your research paper by July 14. That would give you time to **finish and proofread** your papers.

# Course Requirements

## Discussions 40%

Online discussions require the student to dialog with classmates and the instructor on subjects related to the learning materials for that week. Participation includes both initial posts as well as replies to posts by other participants and must comprise a total of at least five posts per week for full credit. Active participation in an online forum is measured by posting messages which conform to the following guidelines: substantial (relates to the course material), concise (two or three short paragraphs), provocative (encourages others to respond), analytical (expands concepts or connects ideas in new ways), timely (occurs when the topic is under discussion), logical (supports point of view with reasons and evidence), and grammatical (is well written). The topics discussed in the discussion forums will relate to the posted lectures and supplementary readings. Postings are due the Tuesday following the week's discussion. For example, all comments for the Week 3 discussion must be posted by June 19.

## Journal 20%

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 the Latter Prophets. Personal questions, insights, doubts, frustrations, or any other reactions to the materials in this class will be appropriate. This is the least formal assignment of the class. Only the professor will be able to view your journal. For full credit, you will need to post at least ten entries.

## Critical reviews 10%

Each student will write a brief descriptive analysis of five journal articles, 400-650 words per article. For this exercise, you are to (1) clearly describe/summarize the content of the article (no more than fifty percent of your review) and (2) offer a critique of the effectiveness of the article. The articles may be selected from scholarly (peer-reviewed) journals in the Wayland Baptist University library available online. The paper should be type-written, double-spaced, no greater than 12-point font, in Arial, Verdana, Tahoma, or Candara font. Papers should be formatted in Word (.doc or .docx), Rich Text Format (.rtf), or Open Office (.odt) only--no PDFs. This collection of reviews must be submitted by midnight (Central Time) June 30 in order to qualify for full credit.

The student should especially attempt to answer the following basic questions:

1. What is the core topic/issue addressed in the article?
2. What main claim or thesis (or claims/theses) was made by the author? How effectively did the author support the thesis?
3. What are some positive insights offered in the article? How did the author clarify biblical issues?
4. What are some difficulties or poorly communicated ideas presented in the article? Did the author ignore evidence which might have helped?

## Summary 10%

Each student will submit a learning summary at the end of the semester. This document will summarize your learning experiences in this class. I recommend that you make notes each week about the things you are learning in this class. If you keep your notes in a Word (.doc or .docx or .rtf) document, all you will need to do the last week of the term is to edit the notes into a cohesive report. Please note that the emphasis of this report is not a summary of the biblical passages but of what you individually have learned as a result of studying the passages closely.

## Research Paper 25%

Each student will write a research paper, 10-12 pages, typed, double-spaced, sans serif (Verdana, Tahoma, Arial, or Candara) font, 12-point, concerning one of the themes listed below or a student may choose a theme in consultation with the professor. Each student will write up an observation of the ways that the different prophets treat a specific theme. The study should include examples from at least eight prophetic books. Papers should be formatted in Word (.doc or .docx), Rich Text Format (.rtf), or Open Office (.odt) only--no PDFs. The paper is due no later than Saturday, July 28, by midnight CST. Students will submit their papers to the professor via the link in Blackboard.

Ten (10) primary academic sources are required. The Bible, lexicons, one-volume commentaries, and dictionaries are not considered primary sources. Multivolume commentaries (those published after 1950), academic periodicals, and books on the subject of the paper are acceptable as primary sources. Online articles must come from peer-reviewed journals.

For style, the School of Religion and Philosophy has developed a *Theological Research and Writing Manual* (available online). Please do not hesitate to ask the librarians for assistance in finding materials for research papers. Don't wait until the last second.

### Themes:

Select a theme from the list below and inform the professor of your choice the first week of class.

The Day of the Lord	Prophecy as prediction
Repentance	Justice
The futility of trusting human leaders	Idolatry
God's sovereignty	Human responsibility

### 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.

- Procedure for computations of final grade

Assignment	number of items	% per item	% of final grade
Discussion Board	10	4%	40%
Journal	10	2%	20%
Critical reviews	1	10%	10%
Summary	1	10%	10%
Research paper	1	20%	20%
TOTAL			100%

## Goals of assignments

The assignments for this class have various learning objectives consonant with the School of Religion and Philosophy's Course Outcome Competencies (listed above, p. 1). Each will be important for your graduate work and your ministry.

Assignment	Skills	Goals
Discussion Board	written communication; application of knowledge; reading comprehension	Gain appreciation for wide variety of perspectives Apply academic understanding of the OT to contemporary life
Journal	application of knowledge; focus on details; reflection	Express and organize thoughts Apply academic understanding of the prophets to contemporary life
Critical Reviews	reading comprehension; analytical ability; succinct, lucid writing (academic)	Increase confidence in handling scholarly writing Sharpen analytical faculties
Summary	self-awareness; organization of data	Appreciate learning experience Grasp overall knowledge of OT
Research paper	written communication; application of knowledge; focus on details; organization; biblical understanding	Apply academic understanding of the OT to contemporary life Sharpen analytical faculties Gain appreciation for varying perspectives Identify significant issues in OT studies