



**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:** RLGN 5352 VC01 New Testament Foundations I

**Term:** Summer 2018

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

**Office Phone Number and WBU Email Address:** 808-366-0121 (mobile call and text),  
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:** New Testament Foundations I is an introduction to the historical and cultural background from the intertestamental period through the first century; the nature and canon of the New Testament; New Testament criticism; and the contents and significance of the Gospels with emphasis on pertinent critical and historical issues, theological interpretation, and contemporary application.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Required Textbook(s) and/or Resource Material:**

Burge, Gary, Lynn Cohick, and Gene Green. 2009. *The New Testament in Antiquity: A Survey of the New Testament within Its Cultural Context*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan. ISBN: 978-0-310-24495-0

*New International Version (NIV) Personal Size Study Bible*. Zondervan Bible Staff. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011. ISBN: 978-0-310-43732-1

**Course Outcome Competencies:**

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the historical and cultural background from the intertestamental period through the end of the first century

2. Demonstrate knowledge the nature and canon of the New Testament
3. Demonstrate knowledge of and ability to use critical methods in New Testament studies
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the content and significance of the canonical Gospels

**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.

New Testament reading journal (10 percent) You will make weekly entries into an online reading journal for the assigned readings. The entry is not a summary of what you read. Instead, the entry should be reflective including your opinion, insights, questions, or other thoughts related to the reading. An “A” entry will be well-written with good content and at least 500 words.

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

Research paper (35 percent) You will write a 10-12-page thesis-driven research paper on a topic related to this course. There will be assignments related to this paper that will help you develop your thesis and conduct your research.

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.

**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, 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.

NTA – *New Testament in Antiquity*; NIV – *NIV Study Bible*

#### WEEK 1

**READING: NTA chapters 1, 2, and 27; NIV “From Malachi to Christ,” “Time Between the Testaments,” and “New Testament Chronology”**

Transmission and canonicity; Intertestamental period

#### WEEK 2

**READING: NTA chapter 3; NIV “Jewish Sects,” “Major Archaeological Finds Relating to the New Testament”**

The world of the New Testament, first century Judaism

Journal entry 1 on the Gospel according to Matthew (NIV)

#### WEEK 3

**READING: NTA chapter 5; NIV “The Gospels and the Early Church,” “The Synoptic Gospels”**

The synoptic problem

Critical issues

#### WEEK 4

##### **READING:**

**Reading: NTA chapter 6; NIV “The Life of Christ”**

Overview of the Gospels

Life of Jesus

#### WEEK 5

**READING NTA chapter 6; NIV “Passion Week; A Harmonistic Overview of Jesus’ Trials,” “Resurrection Appearances,” “Miracles of Jesus,” “Possible Chronology of Jesus’ Ministry,” “A Harmony of the Gospels”**

Life of Jesus

#### WEEK 6

**READING: NTA chapter 7; NIV “Parables of Jesus”**

Teaching of Jesus

#### WEEK 7

**READING: NTA chapter 8; NIV Introduction to Matthew and the Gospel of Matthew**

The Gospel of Matthew

#### WEEK 8

**READING: NTA chapter 9; NIV Introduction to Mark and the Gospel of Mark**

The Gospel of Mark

#### WEEK 9

**READING: NTA chapter 10; NIV Introduction to Luke and the Gospel of Luke**

The Gospel of Luke

#### WEEK 10

**READING: NTA chapter 11; NIV: Introduction to John and the Gospel of John**

The Gospel of John

Research paper due

#### WEEK 11

**READING: NONE**

Final exam

### **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.

### Method of Instruction

Online through Blackboard and the Virtual Campus

### Internet Access

All Virtual Campus students are required to have access to the Internet, an e-mail account, and access to a computer with Microsoft word processing capability. All information exchanges, homework assignments, exams, and other requirements for this course will be conducted via Wayland Baptist University's Blackboard, e-mail/email attachment(s). Use of anti-virus software for computer is highly recommended. If you have not activated your Wayland email account this is a good time to do so. Important announcements and other information can be emailed to your Wayland account directly from Blackboard.