



**WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY  
VIRTUAL CAMPUS  
SCHOOL OF RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY**

**Mission:** Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning focused and distinctly Christian environment for professional success and service to God and humankind.

**COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE:**

RLGN 1302 VC04 New Testament History

**TERM AND DATES:**

Summer 2019 May 27 – August 10, 2019

**NAME OF INSTRUCTOR:**

Rev. Damon L. Pearce, MCM, MDIV

**INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Instructor may be contacted at any time via email at [damon.pearce@wayland.wbu.edu](mailto:damon.pearce@wayland.wbu.edu).

Office Hours are Monday – Thursday, 9 am – 4 pm MST at (575) 762-4727.

Mobile number in case of emergencies is (806) 392-1191.

Instant Messaging is available through Blackboard IM, which may be downloaded through the Tools section.

**CLASS MEETING TIMES AND LOCATION:**

Asynchronous interaction with specific deadlines through the Virtual Campus Blackboard website.

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

An introductory survey of the historical literature with special attention to the background and origins of Christian beliefs and practices, and to the life of Jesus Christ and the early Christian community.

**PREREQUISITES:**

None.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND RESOURCE MATERIALS:**

1. *The NIV Cultural Backgrounds Studies Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2016.
  - a. Book and ISBN available at the [WBU Bookstore](#).

- b. NOTE: Due to the unique features of *The NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible* assigned in readings, other translations and other study Bibles are NOT ACCEPTABLE substitutes for class preparation. Use of a different text may impact performance in class.
  - c. Note: If you use the e-book version, pagination will not be the same as what is listed in Blackboard for the physical text. You will have to use the Table of Contents at the front of the text, and/or the list of articles at the back of the text to find assigned readings. (These are determined by the e-publishers and not the text publisher, so Kindle, iBook, Nook and other formats are all different.)
2. **Walter A. Elwell and Robert W. Yarbrough. *Encountering the New Testament: Historical and Theological Survey, Third Edition.* Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2013.**
- a. Book and ISBN available at the [WBU Bookstore](#).
3. **Internet Equipped Computer**
- a. Must conform to the minimum recommended settings identified by WBUonline.
  - b. Should use compatible browser and have correct settings as recommend by Blackboard.
  - c. Must utilized WBU student email account for official university communications.
4. **WBU Blackboard Course Management Software**
- a. [www.wbu.blackboard.com](http://www.wbu.blackboard.com)
  - b. Login username: WBU Students ID (Nine digit number, usually 3-5 zeros at beginning).
  - c. Login password: The first three letter of first name then the first three letters of last name (unless you have used Blackboard previously and have changed your password).
  - d. Technical Support: 24/7 via phone, chat, ticket requests; see links on Blackboard login page.

## OPTIONAL MATERIALS

### 1. Blackboard Mobile App:

- a. Bb Student by Blackboard – Apple App Store or Google Play.

## COURSE OUTCOME COMPETENCIES:

Students will:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the historical, geographical, religious and social context of the New Testament World.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of some of the critical methods used in New Testament Studies.
3. Demonstrate and understanding of the basic content of the New Testament and its main teachings (theological content).
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the canonical process producing a more complete understanding of the compilation of the New Testament.

## ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Attendance for online courses is defined fully in the university catalog.
2. Students are expected to participate in all required instructional activities in their courses.
3. Student “attendance” in an online course is defined as active participation in the course as described in the course syllabus.
4. Students aware of necessary absences must inform the instructor with as much advance notice as possible in order to make appropriate arrangements.

5. Any student absent 25 percent or more of the online course, i.e., non-participatory during three or more weeks of an 11 week term, may receive a grade of F for that course.
6. Any students who has not actively participated in an online class prior to the census date for any given term is considered to be a “no-show” and will be administratively withdrawn from the class without record. To be counted as actively participating, it is not sufficient to log in and view the course. The student must be submitting work as described in the course syllabus.
7. When a student reaches a number of absences considered by the instructor to be excessive, the instructor will submit a Report of Unsatisfactory Progress to the student’s WBU student email account, and to the appropriate University personnel.

#### **PLAGARISM AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY STATEMENT:**

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. A full statement of this policy is available in the Academic Catalog.

#### **DISABILITY STATEMENT:**

In compliance with the Americans with Disability 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 of the university. The Director of Counseling, Career and Disability 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 ASSIGNMENTS/REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Blackboard Scavenger Hunt: The hunt is designed to help familiarize you with the essential features of Blackboard. **Complete this by Wednesday of the first week of class. One point will be deducted each day for late submissions.**
2. Assigned Readings: Weekly reading assignments are listed in the course schedule from the Elwell Text and the Bible. These should be completed as early as possible in the week to ensure time to complete other assignments which depend on the readings.
3. Weekly Reading Quizzes: These will be drawn from each week’s readings in the Elwell text as well as the assignment Bible passages for the week.
4. Discussion Boards: Students are expected to respond to topics assigned by the instructor in a thoughtful, academic manner. These questions are reflective in nature and are intended to encourage thought about the readings as well as stimulate discussion on these topics. **The deadline for initial posts on teach topic is Sunday.**
  - a. Students should also engage in robust discussions with their classmates about posts on discussion boards. This is a minimal expectation of two substantive responses per week. These interactions are due by **Wednesday of the week following the initial posts.** All discussion posts should strive to build community and enhance the learning process.
  - b. Note: Because the university classroom is a place designed for the free exchange of ideas, we will frequently encounter the opinions or ideas of others which may seem to use to be novel, and occasionally even outlandish. We should show RESPECT for one another in all circumstances. Part of the learning experience will be the opportunity to hear other opinions and/or interpretations of the

assigned readings. Therefore, we should show respect for one another by exhibiting patience and courtesy. Persistent belligerence toward another's views will **lower your Discussion Board grade.**

5. Blackboard Collaborate Sessions: Periodically during the quarter rather than interacting through a Discussion Board assignment we will be meeting together through a Blackboard Collaborate Session. These sessions will occur 7 – 8 pm Central Time on Tuesday of the weeks they are included. Instructions for accessing the Collaborate function in Blackboard will be included in that week's assignments. The sessions will be recorded, and those who do not participate live will be required to view the recording during the week of the session.
6. Cultural Backgrounds Journal: Each week you will read an assigned article regarding the historical background of the New Testament from *The Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible* and post a reflective journal entry discussing how the reading helped you better understand the culture of the New Testament and/or the assigned readings. Details will be included in each week's Assignment Folder
7. Examinations: There will be THREE examinations, one per completed unit of study. There is no comprehensive final examination. Questions will be multiple choice, true/false, matching and short answer/fill in the blank. The examinations will cover materials from both the readings from the Elwell Text as well as the Bible, from Discussion board conversations, Collaborate sessions and the Reading Quizzes. NOTE: Exam Three will be proctored. The student is responsible for securing an approved proctor following the WBUonline process. If you have access to a WBU testing site these do not require advance approval from WBUonline staff. Online remote proctoring is an option if your time or location hinders you from utilizing an approved testing venue.

## **GRADING CRITERIA:**

### **1. University Grading Scale:**

90 – 100	A
80 – 89	B
70 – 79	C
60 – 69	D
Below 60	F

### **2. Procedure Used for Computation of Final Grade:**

a. Blackboard Scavenger Hunt:	5%
b. Reading Quizzes:	10%
c. Weekly Discussion Boards:	15%
d. Blackboard Collaborate Sessions:	15%
e. Cultural Backgrounds Journal	10%
f. Major Examinations:	45%

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.

## **COURSE CONTENT AND SCHEDULE:**

Week Beginning May 27:

- Elwell Chapters 1-2
- Scripture Readings: Matthew 1-13, Mark 1-6, Luke 3-12

Week Beginning June 3:

- Elwell Chapters 3-5
- Matthew 14-20, Mark 7-10, Luke 5-19, John 1-5
- Blackboard Collaborate Session: Tuesday, June 4, 7 – 8 pm Central.

Week Beginning June 10:

- Elwell Chapters 6-9.
- Luke Matthew 20-28, Mark 11-16, Luke 20-24, John 5-12

Week Beginning June 17:

- Elwell Chapters 10-12
- John 13 - 20
- **Exam One – Not Proctored**

Week Beginning June 24:

- Elwell Chapters 13-14
- Acts 1-12

Week Beginning July 1:

- Elwell Chapters 15-16
- Acts 13-28.
- Blackboard Collaborate Session: Tuesday, July 2, 7 – 8 pm Central.

Week Beginning July 8:

- Elwell Chapters 17-18
- Romans
- **Exam Two – Not Proctored**

Week Beginning July 15:

- Elwell Chapters 19-20
- I Corinthians 1-16, Galatians 1-6

Week Beginning July 22:

- Elwell Chapter 21-22
- I Thessalonians 1-5, II Thessalonians 1-3, I Timothy 1-6, II Timothy 1-4

Week Beginning July 29:

- Elwell Chapter 23-24
- Hebrews 1-13, Revelation

- Blackboard Collaborate Session Tuesday, July 30, 7 - 8 pm Central.

Week Beginning August 5:

- **Exam Three - Proctored**

Note: This syllabus is a plan for the course. The instructor reserves the right to modify this plan as circumstances direct.