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**Virtual Campus**

**School of Christian Studies**

**UNIVERSITY 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 NUMBER & NAME:

RLGN 1303 Old Testament History for Majors and Minors (AN01)

## TERM:

Summer 2020 (May 25-August 8)

## INSTRUCTOR:

Jeff Anderson, Ph.D.

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

Office phone: 907-227-0622

WBU Email: anderson@wbu.edu

## OFFICE HOURS, BUILDING & LOCATION:

Online

## COURSE MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

Online

## CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Old Testament history with an emphasis on biblical background, canonization, scholarship, nature of the Bible, and content of the thirty0nine books of the Old Testament.

## PREREQUISITE:

None

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND RESOURCE MATERIAL:

**Required Textbooks:**

Required:

*NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2016. ISBN: 978-0-310-43158-9

Anderson, Jeff S. *The Old Testament: Its Story and History* (Lulu Press, 2010). This textbook will be made available at no cost via a PDF through the WBU Blackboard Site.

Additional readings provided through Bible Odyssey, American Theological Library Association journals; Oxford Biblical Studies online, Biblical Archaeologist, and the NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible.

Important message about Automatic Ebook: "Wayland Baptist University has partnered with Automatic Ebook, which is a digital copy of the required textbook available on Blackboard, day one of class. The prices are very competitive with the market and in most cases below the standard cost. If your course is using the Automatic Ebook system, once you access the textbook in the classroom it will ask you if you would like to opt-out. If you choose NOT to use the Automatic Ebook, you MUST opt-out by the second week of class/census date or you will be charged (and refunds are not available). The price of the textbook will be billed to your student account. To check the price of the textbook, please locate your required course material at The WBU Bookstore. Finally, if you are on financial aid and your lender needs a receipt in order to cover the cost of the textbook, receipts are available from the bookstore.”

## OPTIONAL MATERIALS

WBU Library Resources: The Wayland Library (Learning Resource Center) is available to all Wayland students via BlackBoard. Tutorials for accessing library resources are linked from the homepage.

## COURSE OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCIES:

1. Demonstrate a knowledge of the ancient world in which the Old Testament story takes place.

2. Demonstrate knowledge of the nature of the biblical text used for the canonization process.   
3. Demonstrate a knowledge of the history and methodology of the Old Testament biblical scholarship.

4. Demonstrate knowledge of the content of Torah, the Prophets, and the Writings of the Old Testament.

5. Demonstrate ability to do historical and theological research at the collegiate level.

## ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:

As stated in the Wayland Catalog, students enrolled at one of the University’s external campuses should make every effort to attend all class meetings. 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 executive director. Any student who misses 25 percent or more of the regularly scheduled class meetings 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.

## STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM & ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

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.

## 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:

1. Examinations: The student's progress will be monitored by two tests. These exams will cover *lecture* material since the last exam. You will find the lecture notes for each week in the textbook. There are also recorded lectures with PowerPoints posted for your review. Let me say this again, the two exams cover lecture material only. The final is not comprehensive.

HOW DO I BEST PREPARE FOR THE MID TERM AND FINAL? Go to “Important Docs” and grab the midterm and final study preparation sheets. Keep them with you while doing homework and listening to the lectures and use them to trigger your questions and note taking.

2. Treasure Hunt: Each week (usually, not always) there will be an open book quiz with questions from the Bible and the Anderson text. The Hunt/Quiz is due at the end of each week. Simply read the questions, do the research and answer them carefully and submit your answers on Blackboard as instructed in class. All submissions must be carefully proofread.

HOW DO I SUBMIT TREASURE HUNTS? Go to Blackboard’s Weekly Assignments, then “Submit Treasure Hunts Here” then attach an MS WORD file.

3. Discussion Board: There will be an introductory discussion board and three discussion boards during the class. The discussion board format requires you to post a thread with your name on it that responds to the question. You are also to respond to every student who responds to you and to at least three other students.

4. Research Project: Students will create a research project of 5-7 pages on an approved historical or theological topic. Papers will follow the Turabian Manual of Style, 9th edition. Due August 1. Possible topics include:

Canaanite Religion

The Philistines

Merneptah Stele

Enuma Elish

Gilgamesh Epic

The Assyrian Destruction of Samaria

The Babylonian Destruction of Jerusalem

Megiddo

The Temple of Solomon

Tel Dan Stele

Circumcision

Ancient Historiography

Slavery and Slaveholders in Antiquity

The Dead Sea Scrolls

The Name of God

Passover

Feast of Booths/Tabernacles

Tabernacle

Edom/Edomites

Jericho

Shechem

Wisdom Literature

Metals and Mining in the Levant

Behemoth and Leviathan

Honor and Shame

Ain Dara

Sacred Space

Prophetic use of Allegory

Prophecies Against Foreign Nations

Writing Materials in the Ancient World

The Septuagint

Laments

The Dead Sea

GRADING: (All grades will be on a ten-point scale. 90-100 is an A, 80-89 is a B, etc.)

Mid Term: 100 points

Final: 100 points

Treasure Hunts: 70 points

Discussion Board 30 points

Research Project 100 points

**Include Grade Appeal Statement**: “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/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.”

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

WEEK ONE: May 25

The Nature of the Hebrew Scriptures/Old Testament

Text and Canon of the OT

The Old Testament World

The Authority of the OT

Historical Overview of Ancient Israel.

Required: No required readings

Recommended: Anderson i-xiv, 1-20

WEEK TWO: June 1

Primeval History

Bible: Read Genesis 1-11

Recommended: Anderson 21-43

Turn in your Treasure Hunt before class.

WEEK THREE: June 8

Ancestral History

Bible: Read Genesis 12-50

Recommended: Anderson 44-48

Turn in your Treasure Hunt before class time

WEEK FOUR: June 15

The Exodus

The Giving of the Law

Bible: Read Exodus 1-24, Leviticus 17-26.

Deuteronomy 12-26

Recommended: Anderson 49-80

Turn in your Treasure Hunt before class

WEEK FIVE: June 22

Wandering in the Wilderness

Conquest and Settlement

Judges

Bible: Read Numbers 10-14, Deuteronomy 1-

4, Joshua 1-7, Judges 2-7, 13-16

Recommended: Anderson 81-138

Turn in your Treasure Hunt before class

WEEK SIX: June 29

Instructions will be found on announcements in Blackboard. Please note that the reading is heavy for next week, so get a start this week.

Online Mid Term Exam

No treasure Hunt

WEEK SEVEN: July 6

Roots of the United Kingdom: Samuel and Saul

The United Kingdom: David and Solomon

Bible: Read 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel 5-19, 1 Kings 1-11

Recommended: Anderson 139-158

Turn in your Treasure Hunt before class

WEEK EIGHT: July 13

The Divided Kingdom

Israel to 722 BCE

Judah to 586 BCE

The Prophets

Bible: Read Amos and Hosea

Recommended: Anderson 159-186

Turn in your Treasure Hunt before class

WEEK NINE: July 20

The Prophets (continued)

Origin and Nature of Hebrew Prophetic Movement

Eighth Century Prophets

Seventh Century Prophets

Prophets of Exile and Post-exile

Bible: Read Isaiah 1-11, 40-55; Jeremiah

1-10, 30-33

Recommended: Anderson 187-210

Turn in your Treasure Hunt before class

WEEK TEN: July 27

The Writings

Wisdom Literature

Psalms/Megilloth

Bible: Read Job 1-3, 42; Psalm 1, 23, 51, 119,

150; Ecclesiastes,

Recommended: Anderson 211-223

Turn in your Treasure Hunt before class

Research Project Due: August 1

WEEK ELEVEN: August 3

Final Exam