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**WBU Online 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:

THST5371 Topics in Biblical Studies: Sacred Space & Time in the Old Testament

## TERM:

Summer 2022: May 30-July 23, 2022

## INSTRUCTOR:

Jeff Anderson, Ph.D.

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

Office phone: 907-227-0622

WBU Email: anderson@wbu.edu

## OFFICE HOURS, BUILDING & LOCATION:

This is an online class. You may text, email, or phone me. Zoom appointments can be easily arranged.

## COURSE MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

This is an online class. Assignments are ordinarily given on Mondays and due by Saturday of the same week. Discussion Boards require responses throughout the week.

## CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Research in selected issues in ancient near eastern, Jewish, or Greco-Roman backgrounds; archeology; Old Testament key subjects, critical methods, or exegesis and interpretation; or New Testament key subjects, critical methods, or exegesis and interpretation. Note: May be repeated for credit when subject matter and topic change.

## PREREQUISITE:

RLGN 1301 or RLGN 1302

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND RESOURCE MATERIAL:

Required:

| Title | Editor/Author | Publisher | Ed | Year | ISBN |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Now Go the Shiloh: A Biblical Theology of Sacred Space* | N. Blake Hearson | Broadman and Holman | 1 | 2020 | 978-0-8054-4883-2 |
| *NIV Cultural Backgrounds Bible* | Walton, et. Al. | Zondervan | 1 | 2016 | 978-0-310-43158-9 |
| *Ancient Israel: Its Life and Institutions* | Roland DeVaux | Eerdmans |  | 1997 | 0-8028-4278-X |

## Important Message about Automatic Ebook:

If your course is using an E-textbook, please note that Wayland Baptist University has partnered with VitalSource to bring Inclusive Access, which is a digital copy of the required textbook available on Blackboard. You can access your textbook approximately one week before class begins. The prices are very competitive with the market and in most cases below the standard cost. If your course is using the VitalSource system, once you access the textbook on Blackboard you will be asked if you would like to opt-out. If you choose NOT to use the VitalSource provided textbook version, 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 automatically to your student account. To check the price of the textbook, please locate your required course material in Blackboard or go to your student services financial area.

Please keep in mind that VitalSource has to work with publishers to get your copy so check your Wayland email daily. A link may be provided in just a few hours, or it may take a few days.

For student access:

1. Every Course in Blackboard has a link to eTextbook [Vital Source] embedded in the course menu, with basic instructions.

2. Please encourage use of this textbook. Printed copies will NOT be available through our bookstore. Students can purchase via Amazon or similar vendor but the cost is usually substantially more expensive.

3. Student will “register”, just like you, to access their library, and opt out if desired.

4. They will be able to read and interact with their textbook from that location.

5. Some Cengage textbooks are just eTextbooks and will have direct Vital Source access in the classroom. Ask us if you are not sure.

6. IF your course is a Cengage, or Pearson with “access” to special courseware materials [MyLab, Mindtap with special assignments, accounting, etc.] you will need to set up the links to that in your Blackboard Classroom by Day 1 of the term. Students pay for the textbook and access via VitalSource, and be given a code in most cases, and will need that special link to the special materials you want them to access. WBUonline can assist you with this if you need help.

## OPTIONAL MATERIALS

A number of readings will be provided by the instructor.

## COURSE OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCIES:

Each student will:

1. Define the concepts of sacred/holy, profane/common in their academic context of scholars like Eliade, Japhet, Cline, and others.
2. Describe Israel’s sacred calendar (Sabbath, Annual Festivals, Sabbatical Year/Jubilee), and sacred places (ark, tabernacle, temple).
3. Survey the Bible’s story regarding sacred sites and their archaeological and theological context: Babel, Shechem, Sinai, Gilgal, Shiloh, Bethel, and the Ophel in Jerusalem.
4. Conduct academic research and writing in a graduate context.

## ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:

Students are expected to participate in all required instructional activities in their courses. Online courses are no different in this regard; however, participation must be defined in a different manner. Student “attendance” in an online course is defined as active participation in the course as described in the course syllabus. Instructors in online courses are responsible for providing students with clear instructions for how they are required to participate in the course. Additionally, instructors are responsible for incorporating specific instructional activities within their course and will, at a minimum, have weekly mechanisms for documenting student participation. These mechanisms may include, but are not limited to, participating in a weekly discussion board, submitting/completing assignments in Blackboard, or communicating with the instructor. Students aware of necessary absences must inform the professor with as much advance notice as possible in order to make appropriate arrangements. Any student absent 25 percent or more of the online course, i.e., non-participatory during 2 or more weeks of an 8-week session, may receive an F for that course. Instructors may also file a Report of Unsatisfactory Progress for students with excessive non-participation. Any student who has not actively participated in an online class prior to the census date for any given session is considered 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. Additional attendance and participation 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:

Students are expected to successfully complete the requirements below:

1. Complete a weekly reading guide base on the biblical readings, the textbook readings, and the weekly video lecture/s. Graduate student quizzes will include questions from the additional textbook and assigned readings from the list of sources below.
2. Discuss topics assigned by the instructor on the discussion board weekly. Graduate students will lead two weekly discussion board sessions.
3. Research Project: Write a 12-15 page research paper on a topic listed below. Project due on July 17, 2022. Papers must have a clear research question and thesis. List of possible topics:

Rest and the Seventh Day

Ziggurats/Babel Story

Eden as an Archetype of Sacred Space

Sacred Space vs. Omnipresence of God

Choose as Sacred Site: Shechem, Shiloh, Sinai, Bethel, Gilgal, etc.

Passover

Tabernacle/Tent of Meeting

Is the Tabernacle the same as the Tent of Meeting?

Bodily Secretions and Sacred Space

The Sabbatical Year or the Year of Jubilee

Jacob’s Stairway to Heaven

Tabernacles/Booths

Festival of Weeks

Creation as God’s Temple

Ark of the Covenant

Sheol and the Divine Presence

Jesus and Sacred Space

Jesus and the Sabbath

The Temple and the Church’s Mission

The Presence/Face of God

The Angel of the LORD

Solomon’s Dedication of the Temple and Sacred Space

Jeremiah’s Temple Sermon and Sacred Space

Ezekiel’s New Vision of the Temple

The Tabernacle in the Book of Hebrews

“New” Jerusalem in Revelation

1. Comprehensive Final Exam. The final will cover primarily the lecture material.

A Warning about Style Guide Requirements**:**

WBU’s School of Religion and Philosophy requires a Turabian 9th edition format for all written work. Written submissions that do not conform to this style guide will be penalized severely.

Course Evaluation (Method of Determining Grade): University Grading System

A 90-100: INCOMPLETE\*\*

B 80-89: Cr FOR CREDIT

C 70-79NCr NO CREDIT

D 60-69WP 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 [points and assignments may vary]

Quizzes: 100 points

Research Project: 100 points

Final Exam 100 points Total: 300 points.

## 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 (Week of May 30)

The Sacred and the Profane: Definitions

The Sacred and the Profane: Eliade, Japhet, Clines, etc.

Old Testament Firewalls to Prevent the Ordinary from Invading the Holy

Week Two: (June 6)

The Sacred Calendar: Sabbath, Annual Festivals, Sabbatical Year, Jubilee Year

Week Three: (June 13)

Eden as Archetype of Sacred Space

Divine Presence and Divine Glory in the Book of Exodus

Early Sacred Sites: Babel, Shechem, Beersheba, Sinai

Week Four: (June 20)

The Ark of the Covenant

The Tabernacle

Later Sacred Sites: Gilgal, Shiloh, Bethel, High Places

Week Five: (June 27)

The Temple in Jerusalem in Light of Other Temples in the Ancient Near East

The Theology of Solomon’s Dedication of the Temple

Jeremiah’s Seventy Years/Daniel’s Seventy Weeks of Years

Week Six: (July 4)

The Destruction of Solomon’s Temple and its Historical/Theological Implications

Theology of the “Empty Land”

“The LORD is Here”: Ezekiel’s Vision of a New Temple

Week Seven: (July 11)

Jesus and the Sabbath

Jesus, the New Testament and Sacred Space

Heaven and the New Jerusalem

Week Eight: (July 18)

Final Exam

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Sources

Ahlström. Gösta. “The Travels of the Ark: A Religio-Political Composition.” *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 43 (1984): 141-149.

Anderson, Jeff S. *The Blessing and the Curse: Trajectories in the Theology of the Old Testament.* Eugene: Cascade Books, 2014.

Clines, David J.A. “Sacred Places, Holy Spaces, and Suchlike.” In *On the Way to the Postmodern: Old Testament Essays, 1967-1988.* Vol 2. Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplement Series 293. Edited by David J. A. Clines and Phillip R. Davies. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1998.

Cohn, Robert. *The Shape of Sacred Space: Four Biblical Studies.* Chico, CA: American Academy of Religion, 1981.

Douglas, Mary. *Purity and Danger.* London: Routledge, 1966.

Eliade, Mircea. *The Sacred and the Profane*. San Diego: Hartcourt, 1957.

Gammie, John. *Holiness in Israel.* Minneapolis: Fortress, 1989.

Houtman, A., M. Poorthuis, and J. Schwarz, eds. *Sanctity of Time and Space in Tradition and Modernity.* Jewish and Christian Perspectives Series 1. Leiden: Brill, 1998.

Japhet, Sara. “Some Biblical Concepts of Sacred Place,” In *Sacred Space: Shrine, City, Land.* Ed. Kedar and Werblowsky. New York: New York University Press, 1998.

Kutsko, John. *Between Heaven and Earth: Divine Presence and Absence in the book of Ezekiel*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2000.

Matthews, Victor. “Physical Space, Imagined Space, and ‘Lived Space’ in Ancient Israel.” *Biblical Theology Bulletin* 33 (2003): 12-20.

Routledge, Robin. *Old Testament Theology: A Thematic Approach.* Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 2008.

Schwartz, Joshua. *Sanctify of Time and Space in Tradition and Modernity.* Leiden: Brill, 1998.

Shiner, Larry. “Sacred Space, Profane Space, Human Space.” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 40 (1972): 425-436.

Smith, Mark. “Matters of Space and Time in Exodus and Numbers.” In *Theological Exegesis: Essays in Honor of Brevard S. Childs.* Eds. Chris Seitz and K. Greene-McCreight. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999.

Terrien, Samuel. *The Elusive Presence: The Heart of Biblical Theology*. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1978.