WBUonline 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 1301 VC01 Old Testament History

TERM & DATES:
Summer 2023 May 29-July 22, 2023

INSTRUCTOR:
Dr. J. M. Givens Jr.
Professor of Theological Studies, Director of Online Christian Studies Programs

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Office phone: 806.291.1166 (assistant 806.291.1160)

WBU Email: jgivens@wbu.edu

Mobile phone: 806.292.3957 (prefer to reserve this for emergency situations, which is not defined as last minute work based on student preference . . . plan ahead on assignments)

OFFICE HOURS, BUILDING & LOCATION:
Flores Bible Building office suite

Office Hours will be posted in the Instructor Info section of Blackboard

COURSE MEETING TIME & LOCATION:
Asynchronous interaction with specific deadlines managed through Blackboard

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:
An introductory survey of the historical literature with special attention to the institutions, religion, and national life of the Hebrew people.

PREREQUISITE:
None

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND RESOURCE MATERIAL:

Title	Editor/Author	Publisher	Year	ISBN
NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible	Walton/Keener	Zondervan	2016	9780310431589

NOTE: Due to 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.

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 front of text and/or list of articles at back of text to find assigned readings. (These are determined by the e-publishers and not the text publisher, so the version in Blackboard, Kindle, iBook, Nook, etc. are all different.)

NOTE: There is an Automatic eBook already in the Blackboard classroom – click on the menu link for information. In the Course Info section are explanations about the pros and cons of eBook and printed text. Should you wish to purchase a print copy remember to opt out by the date listed in Blackboard.

INTERNET EQUIPPED COMPUTER

1. Must conform to minimum recommended settings identified by WBUonline
2. Should use compatible browser and have correct settings as recommended by Blackboard
3. Must utilize WBU student email account for official university communications

WBU BLACKBOARD COURSE MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

1. Blackboard website URL
2. Login username: WBU student id (9 digit number, usually 3-5 zeros at beginning)
3. Login password: first three letters of first name + first three letters of last name (unless you have used Blackboard previously and have changed your password)
4. Technical support: 24/7 via phone, chat, ticket requests; see links on Blackboard login page

OPTIONAL MATERIALS

Blackboard Mobile App

Bb Student by Blackboard—Apple App Store or Google Play (only use as needed; many assignments are not displayed correctly in the app, so you will not see all instructions)

Internet or App for Audio-Mobile NIV texts

While textbook is required for additional readings, students may also access/download one of the following web-based or app-based texts of the NIV for assisting with the reading of the assigned Bible passages (apps in iTunes App Store or Google Play)

1. Bible Gateway app and website– free NIV audio and text within the app; 3 options available—dramatized and two readers

2. Other options exist for websites and apps, but remember these only provide the NIV text and not the additional reading assignments from the *NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible*

COURSE OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCIES:
Students will –

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

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:

- Attendance for online courses is defined fully in the university catalog.
- Students are expected to participate in all required instructional activities in their courses.
- Student "attendance" in an online course is defined as active participation in the course as described in the course syllabus (completing weekly assignments).
- 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 term, may receive an F for that course.
- 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.
- A student with excessive non-participation may also have a Predict Report filed with student's WBU email and appropriate administrative personnel.

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. *Blackboard Scavenger Hunt*. The hunt is designed to help familiarize you with the essential features of Blackboard. **Complete by Wednesday of Week 1 (3rd day of class). 1 point** will be deducted each day for **late submissions**.

2. *Assigned Readings*. Weekly reading assignments are listed in the schedule. These should be completed toward the beginning of the week as much as possible to ensure time to complete other assignments which depend on the readings.

3. *Lectures*. Students will read lectures each week, including biblical texts as referenced in the lectures. Reading the lectures without the Bible will create limited understanding of lecture discussions.

4. *Reading Quizzes*. There are weekly reading quizzes over the assigned readings. You may retake quizzes, both during and after the week assigned, until you are happy with your grade. (The highest grade applies to grade.) Unless excused, there will be a late penalty if there is no attempt on the quiz until after the assigned due date.

5. *Discussion Boards*. Students are expected to respond to weekly topics assigned by the instructor in a thoughtful, academic manner. These questions are reflective in nature and intended to encourage thought about the readings and lectures as well as to facilitate dialogue on these topics. **Sunday deadline for initial responses.**

   Students should 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.

   ***Note*:** Because the university classroom is a place designed for the free exchange of ideas, we will frequently encounter the opinions of others which may seem novel and, occasionally, outlandish. We should show <u>respect</u> 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 of another's views will **lower** your **class participation grade**.

6. *Cultural Backgrounds Journal.* Each week, you will read at least two articles regarding the historical background of the Old Testament from the textbook and post a reflective journal entry for each that discusses how the reading helps you better understand the culture of the Old Testament and/or the assigned readings. Detailed instructions are posted in the Course Info section of Blackboard.

7. *Final Exam*. The final exam is comprehensive. Questions will be multiple choice, true/false, matching, and short answer/fill in the blank. The exams will cover material from the video

lectures and assigned readings. The exam is closed book, closed notes. It may be difficult if you do not study and prepare for it throughout the term.

Note*:** The exam will be **proctored** (monitored). The student is responsible to secure an approved proctor following WBUonline process. (WBU testing sites do not require WBUonline staff approval.) ***Online remote proctoring is an option if time or location hinders other approved testing venues. This should be completed early in the term. The exam is closed book and closed notes, so please prepare accordingly.

Practice Quizzes: **The final exam is difficult** if you have not prepared throughout the course of the term. Each week, the reading quiz questions are *related to actual questions* that will be on the exam. (The content is the same, although the question itself may appear in a different form on the exam.) **This is why it is helpful to take reading quizzes often. Not only will it raise your quiz grade but it will prepare you for the exam.** You can also review the quiz questions without retaking the quiz by viewing it in the Gradecenter after you have completed at least one instantiation of the quiz. In addition, you will be provided a **list of potential short answer questions** that will be on the exam. If students do not know the answer to a quiz question or short answer quest, they can find it by opening the corresponding lecture, finding that section, and reviewing the material again. Some of the short answer questions will be extra credit questions on the exam, so prepare for all the questions.

1. *Community Development (extra credit)*. It is important in this class to create a learning community to encourage active learning and enhance the online experience. As stated above, students should engage in **robust discussions** with their classmates about posts on discussion boards. If a student's grade is on the border between two grades, overall interaction with classmates and instructor will be evaluated. In addition to responding to classmates' posts on weekly assigned discussion topics, there is a weekly thread entitled "anything else?" where students can ask questions about issues in the reading they didn't find addressed in the lectures or topics they would like to discuss about the readings/lectures. There are also a number of non-point discussion boards (prayer requests, study halls for quizzes) intended to encourage community. Other means to develop community that will be considered for borderline grades are the amount of content posted to students' introduction, additional journal articles beyond the minimum assigned, and how frequently the reading quizzes were completed.

GRADING CRITERIA

1. **University Grading Scale**

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	below 60

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

a.	Bb Scavenger Hunt	5%
b.	Weekly Quizzes:	25%
c.	Weekly Disc Boards:	25%
d.	Cultural Backgrounds Journal:	20%
e.	Final Exam:	25%

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.

COURSE CONTENT & OUTLINE

All reading assignments should be completed **PRIOR** to other assignments for the week. **Abbreviations** are located on p. xv of *The NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible*. **Please read in order assigned.**

Example of format of class; specific assignments will be posted weekly in Blackboard.

1. Introductions and Primeval History
2. The Hebrew Patriarchs
3. The Exodus, Sinai, and the Wilderness
4. The Conquest, the Judges, and the Transition to Monarchy
5. The Age of Glory (David and Solomon),The Divided Kingdoms, and the Fall of Israel
6. The Fall of Judah, the Babylonian Exile, and the Restoration to the Land
7. Emergence of Judaism, Postexilic Developments, Hebrew Wisdom Literature
8. Final Exam

OBSERVATION AND INVITATION

This is an academic class which will explore the historical background and literary features of the Old Testament. *The Christian belief about the Bible, however, is that it is intended to speak God's word to the reader about her or his own life circumstances*. Therefore, if you ever have **questions** about how the Bible readings apply to your own life **or wish to talk** about your personal, spiritual life in a format other than the classroom, I would be happy to visit with you by email, instant messaging, or phone.

CONFESSIONAL STATEMENT

It is the instructor's belief that the Bible is written *exactly* the way God intended for it to be written. Further, the instructor holds to the Baptist view of religious liberty for all—including his students. (In case you were not aware, the Baptists of Virginia played a significant role in the establishment of religious freedom in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.)

The liberty I contend for, is more than toleration. The very idea of toleration, is despicable; it supposes that some have a pre-eminence above the rest, to grant indulgence; whereas, all should be equally free, Jews, Turks [i.e., Muslims], Pagans and Christians. Test oaths and established creeds should be avoided as the worst of evils.

—Virginia Baptist and First Amendment advocate John Leland;
quoted in *Baptist Ways* by Bill Leonard [2003], pp. 130-31)