



WBU-Online
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:

THST_PHIL 5300 Biblical Interpretation

TERM:

Summer 2026

INSTRUCTOR:

Dr. Andrew Marquez

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Course Messages or WBU Email: andrew.marquez@wbu.edu

OFFICE HOURS, BUILDING & LOCATION:

By appointment

COURSE MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

Asynchronous interaction with specific deadlines; Virtual Campus Blackboard website.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Research in the principles and methods of biblical exegesis and interpretation with an emphasis on the problem of communicating the biblical message in the modern world.

PREREQUISITE:

None

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND RESOURCE MATERIAL:

1. Köstenberger, Andreas J., and Richard Duane Patterson. 2021. *Invitation to Biblical Interpretation: Exploring the Hermeneutical Triad of History, Literature, and Theology*. 2nd Ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications. 978-0825446764.
2. Vanhoozer, Kevin J. 2024. *Mere Christian Hermeneutics: Transfiguring What It Means to Read the Bible Theologically*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan.

COURSE OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCIES:

Students will –

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the general rules of Biblical interpretation leading to a proclamation of the Biblical text that is both responsible and defensible
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the history of interpretation and the effect on Biblical interpretation
3. Demonstrate knowledge of genres of the biblical text, tools used in interpretation, and scholarly criticism necessary for responsible exegesis of the Biblical text.
4. Demonstrate competency in conducting graduate level research in the field of Hermeneutics.

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 proudly adheres to high standards of intellectual, moral, ethical, and spiritual values. Convinced that self-discipline is more desirable than outside force and that the truly educated person must pursue what is right under all circumstances, Wayland entrusts each student with the solemn obligation of preserving these standards.

No use of any generative AI tools permitted. a) Students are required to create and produce all work themselves or with assigned group members. Any work submitted that has used an AI generative tool like ChatGPT will be in immediate violation of the academic integrity policies for the course and WBU. b) All assignments must be fully created, designed, and prepared by the student(s). [Statement on Academic Integrity.](#)

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:

Class Attendance/Participation

Weighting: 8%

Possible Points: 80

Due to the scope of material to be covered in this course, learners are expected to attend and participate throughout the semester. Participation points are not guaranteed. To gain points, learners must engage in the instructional activities of the course. Since facilitating the learning experience is partially dependent on peer interaction, absence from activities will result in the loss of participation points. *It is important to note that not all assignments are weighted equally with regard to possible participation points to be gained.*

Discussion Posts

Weighting: 12% (3% per Discussion Board)

Possible Points: 120 (30 points per Board)

Students are expected to engage 4 discussion boards throughout the course. The discussion questions are reflective in nature, without a “correct” answer. Sunday deadline for initial responses to instructor’s threads (questions). ***There is an expectation of two substantive responses to classmates’ posts per week.*** These interactions are due by week’s end following the week of initial posts.

Weekly Reading Quizzes/Reviews

Weighting: 14% (2% per Review)

Possible Points: 140 (20 points per Review)

The Köstenberger text will reinforce the lecture content for the course. Students are required to complete 7 weekly reading quizzes or reviews on assigned chapters from the textbook. Each review must summarize and evaluate assigned readings in 1-2 pages. Turabian style is required.

Vanhoozer Chapter Presentations

Weighting: 18%

Possible Points: 180 (30 points per Review)

Students must conduct six formal summaries from assigned chapters of the Vanhoozer text. Each summary will contain between 400-600 words and be submitted as a PowerPoint presentation with notes. Presentations must have 5-10 slides designed to facilitate teaching of the chapter.

Research Paper

Weighting: 24%

Possible Points: 240

Students will write an hermeneutics paper between 12-15 pages of text, excluding cover page, table of contents, appendices, and bibliography. The paper must follow the guidelines stipulated in the WBU School of Christian Studies’ Style Guide. Specific details of the paper will be distributed on the first day of class.

Exams

Weighting: 24% (12% per Exam)

Possible Points: 240 (120 points per Exam)

Students will be required to take two exams. These exams will focus on material covered in the class lectures and reinforced in the required reading. The exams will divide the lectures in half and are not comprehensive.

UNIVERSITY GRADING SYSTEM

A 90-100	I INCOMPLETE**
B 80-89	Cr FOR CREDIT
C 70-79	NCr NO CREDIT
D 60-69	WP 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.

COMPUTATION OF FINAL GRADE:

Attendance/participation:	80 points	8%
Discussion Posts	120 points	12%
Reading Reviews/Quizzes:	140 points	14%
Vanhoozer Presentations:	180 points	18%
Research Paper:	240 points	24%
<u>Exams:</u>	<u>240 points</u>	<u>240%</u>
Total Possible Score:	1000 points	100%

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 1:** Due: *IVI (Invitation to Biblical Interpretation)* Quiz 1; Discussion Board # 1; (DB 1)
Paper Passage Selection
Read: Köstenberger – Chapter 1
Read: Vanhoozer – Introduction – Part 1
Read/Watch: Lectures 1-2
- Week 2:** Due: *IVI* Quiz 2; *MCH (Mere Christian Hermeneutics)* Pres. 1; Exegetical Paper Part 1
Read: Köstenberger – Chapter 2
Read: Vanhoozer – Choose 1 chapter from chapters 1, 2, or 3
Read/Watch: Lectures 3-4
- Week 3:** Due: *IVI* Quiz 3; DB2; *MCH* Presentation 2; Exegetical Paper Part 2
Read: Köstenberger – Choose 1 from chapters 3 or 4
Read: Vanhoozer – Chapters 4
Read/Watch: Lectures 5-6
- Week 4:** Due: *IVI* Quiz 4; *MCH* Presentation 3; Exegetical Paper Part 3; Exam 1
Read: Köstenberger – Choose 1 from chapters 5, 6, 7, or 8
Read: Vanhoozer – Chapters 5
Read/Watch: Lectures 7-8
- Week 5:** Due: *IVI* Quiz 5; DB 3; *MCH* Presentation 4; Exegetical Paper Part 4
Read: Köstenberger – Choose 1 from chapters 9, 10, or 11
Read: Vanhoozer – Choose 1 chapter from chapters 6 or 7
Read/Watch: Lectures 9-11
- Week 6:** Due: *IVI* Quiz 6; *MCH* Presentation 5; Exegetical Final Parts 1-5
Read: Köstenberger – Choose 1 from chapters 12 or 13
Read: Vanhoozer – Choose 1 chapter from chapters 8 or 9
Read/Watch: Lectures 12, 13, and 14
- Week 7:** Due: *IVI* Quiz 7; DB4; *MCH* Presentation 6
Read: Köstenberger – Choose 1 from chapters 14 or 15
Read/Watch: Lectures 15-16
- Week 8:** Due: Exam 2