



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

Wayland 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 Title and Number: RLGN 5318 THE WRITINGS

Term: Fall 2017

Name of Instructor: Dr. Timothy M. Pierce

Office Phone Number and WBU Email Address:

- Phone Numbers: (W) 817-571-7884
- Email address: timothy.pierce@wayland.wbu.edu

Office Hours, Building, and Location:

- Cell Phone 682-560-9767
- Fax: 817-571-1015
- The student is free to e-mail me at any time. I will accept phone calls on my cell phone Mon 2 – 10 pm CST; Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat 8am – 10pm CST; Wed 8am – 5pm CST;

Class Meeting Time and Location: Online class, weekly interaction required as noted below

Catalog Description:

Intensive examination of the history of the Jewish people during the period of the Writings division of the Hebrew Scripture and of the literature of this division.

Prerequisites: RLGN 1301, RLGN 1302

Required Textbook(s) and/or Resource Material:

- Ernest C. Lucas, *Exploring the Old Testament: A Guide to the Psalms & Wisdom Literature (Exploring the Bible)* (Downer's Grove, ILL: IVP Academic, 2016). **[LUC]**
- *The NIV Study Bible. Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2011. [NIV]*
Due to unique features of The NIV Study Bible assigned in readings and referenced in class discussions, other translations and other study Bibles are NOT ACCEPTABLE substitutes for class preparation. Use of a different text may impact performance in class.
- Internet Equipped Computer - Must conform to minimum recommended settings identified on the Blackboard login page. Must utilize WBU student email account
- WBU Blackboard Course Management Software
Blackboard website URL: <https://wbu.blackboard.com>
Login username: WBU student id (9 digit number, usually 3-5 zeros at beginning)
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)

Optional Materials:

- Blackboard Mobile App
Limited version of Blackboard for mobile devices--Apple App Store or Google Play

Course Outcome Competencies:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the historical, religious, and social context of the Old Testament world in general and the Writings specifically.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of some of the critical methods used in Old Testament studies.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the basic content of the Writings and its main teachings (theological content).
4. Demonstrate a knowledge of the historical background and message of each of books of the Writings and relate that message to the contemporary world

Attendance Requirements:

- Student "attendance" in an online course is defined as active participation in the course as described in the course requirements. 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 3 or more weeks of an 11 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 term is considered a "no-show" and will be administratively withdrawn from the class without record. It is not enough to simply log in and view course content to be counted as actively participating. The student must be submitting work as described in the course requirements.
- Excessive absences, but still below the maximum allowable to receive credit, may result in a warning from the professor in the form of a Report of Unsatisfactory Progress to the student's WBU student email account. This report will also be submitted to appropriate university personnel.

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." (This statement is required on all university syllabi.)

Course Requirements:

- Students are expected to complete all of the weekly readings as outlined in the course schedule. The student is expected to read the Introductory discussions of every book of the Writings in the order and at the time they are covered in class; the biblical text itself as noted on the schedule below; and any notes, maps, charts, and the like associated with the required readings..
- **Examinations:** There will be two exams given. Questions will be multiple choice, multiple answer, matching, fill in the blank, and short answer/listing. The exams will primarily cover material from the lectures; however, there may be questions from the reading of those places where the stated opinion of the author differs from that of the

professor. This is to insure that the student is recognizing distinctions and reading the material.

Note: The two exams will be proctored. The student is responsible to secure an approved proctor following the procedures defined by the Virtual Campus. Remote proctoring is available through Examity, but should be used only as a last resort. **Please contact the professor as early as possible if you do not understand what a proctor is or how to procure one.**

- **Discussion Board:** Each week a new forum will be established in Discussion Board room of the “class.” These forums will include a question offered by the professor dealing with some interpretative or practical issue related to the text being discussed that week. You are expected to respond to each other’s assessments and answers; however, anyone demonstrating a less than proper attitude in responding will hurt his or her participation grade. Please remember that when writing, words often come across more harshly than they would in speaking. Responses should reflect the student’s perspective on the issues presented and will be evaluated for relevance, clarity, and critical thinking. The standard for evaluation will be 1 unique contribution and 2 responses to other students each week. The professor will post a closing response in the forum at the end of the week. Any contributions by students made after this response WILL NOT count toward their discussion board participation grade.
- **Exegetical Research Paper.**
 - The student will write an exegetical paper on a passage of the student’s choosing.
 - The passage must fall within the books under discussion in the class – The Writings
 - The passage must be approved by the professor
 - Suggestions from the professor on potential passages will be offered if requested.
 - The Research Paper is due **February 12**, by Midnight.
 - See Paper Evaluation Form below for more expectations on form and content.
 - **MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.**
 - If you do not meet the minimum requirements for the paper, the professor will not grade your paper and you will receive a “0” for the project.
 - 8-12 pages long, not including Table of Contents and Bibliography.
 - At least 8 of the sources must be used in your paper and properly footnoted with bibliography. Three of the sources must be periodicals (scholarly journals). The professor must approve any articles used from the internet unless it is published material.
 - There is an academic level of Bibliography that is expected. The professor will gladly provide suggestions when you have selected a passage.
 - You must follow the proper form found in Wayland’s Style Guide: http://www.wbu.edu/academics/schools/religion_and_philosophy/student_help/documents/styleGuide.pdf
 - Footnotes are the required form of citation

- The Paper should have the following subtitles:
 - Title Page
 - Table of Contents
 - Introduction
 - Critical Questions (Authorship, Unity, etc...)
 - Historical Context (date, significant historical elements surrounding the writings of the text; location and recipients of the text)
 - Literary Context (purpose of the whole prophetic book and the passage within that whole; genre of the writing and the specific passage)
 - Exegetical Content (What the text means – key words, syntactical observations, etc...)
 - Application (Key Truths, Modern Application)
 - Conclusion
 - Bibliography

Other Information:

- Video Lectures
The professor will post video lectures each week. A link will be posted where the student can go and watch the lectures. Exam questions will draw upon these lectures.
- Asking Questions
Undoubtedly, throughout the semester questions will arise concerning assignments or other logistical issues. Such questions are welcomed and encouraged. *In order to prevent the repetition of having to answer the same question from various students and in order to allow other students to benefit from the questions, it is requested that any question that the student asks be posted in the Discussion Forum area under Forum 1: Questions from Students. I would respectfully ask that other students not respond to questions asked here, although other questions may be asked based on answers offered.* Questions of a biblical nature should be asked in the “Questions to Professor” assignment or via email.

Course Evaluation (Method of Determining Grade):

Exam 1 (January 15 -21)	25%
Exam 2 (February 12 – 17)	25%
Exegetical Research Paper (Due Feb 12)	30%
Discussion Board Participation (Weekly)	20%

University Grading System

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

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. The Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals

Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.

Academic Honesty (Plagiarism)

University students are expected to conduct themselves according to the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, forgery, or plagiarism. Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one's own work. It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with penalties associated with plagiarism stated in the catalog.

Course Outline and Calendar (Reading Assignments (both Textbook and Biblical) are in Bold – Due at the BEGINNING of the Week in which they are listed. There is a lot of reading, so read whenever you can)

November 13-19 What are the Writings?
General Observations, Special Concerns, Place in Israel's history and culture
LUC, 67 - 78

November 20 – 26 No Class Requirements, Thanksgiving Break

Nov 27 – Dec 3 Introduction to the Psalms
Types of Psalms, Purpose of Psalms
NIV, Introduction to the book of Psalms; LUC, 1 -33

December 4 – 10 Psalms – Five Representative Types
Psalms 8, 44, 22, 2, and 34

December 11 – 17 The Theology of the Psalms and Special Problems
God in the Psalms, Life after Death, Imprecations
LUC, 52 – 66; Psalms 82, 23, 137

Dec 18 – Dec 30 No Class Requirements, Christmas Break

January 1 – 7 Introduction to Wisdom Texts
Types of Wisdom, the nature of Wisdom texts
LUC, 79-89

January 8 – 14 Proverbs
**LUC, 91 – 114; NIV, Introduction to the book of Proverbs;
Proverbs 1 – 3, 8 – 9, 15 – 16, 26, 31:10 – 31**

January 15 -21 TEST 1 (Introductory Material through Proverbs)
Ecclesiastes
**LUC, 145 – 171; NIV, Introduction to the book of Ecclesiastes
Ecclesiastes 1 – 3, 12**

January 22 – 28 Job
**LUC, 117 – 143; NIV, Introduction to the book of Job
Job 1 – 5, 18 – 19, 29 – 33, 36, 38 – 42**

- January 29 – Feb 4 The Megilloth – Ruth, Song of Songs, Esther, Lamentations
LUC, 175 – 187, 192 – 199
NIV, Introductions to the books of Ruth, Song of Songs, Esther, and Lamentations
Esther 1 – 4, 8 – 9; Ruth 1 – 4; Song of Songs 1 – 2; Lamentations 1
- February 5 – 11 Historical Books – Ezra, Nehemiah, 1 – 2 Chronicles
NIV, Introductions to the books of Ezra, Nehemiah, 1 – 2 Chronicles
2 Chron 33 – 35; Ezra 1, 6; Neh 1 – 2, 8 – 10
- February 12 – 17 TEST 2 (Ecclesiastes through Daniel)
Daniel
NIV, Introduction to the book of Daniel
Dan 1 – 6; 9

Instructor's perspective:

As one who is firmly committed to historic Baptist beliefs, I fully affirm the Bible as the believer's sole authority in matters of faith and practice. As an instructor in a Baptist university, I am committed to the academic exploration of the biblical texts. I do not ask that any student agree with any particular position concerning issues presented in class, including my own. I simply ask that students openly and honestly consider the various arguments in developing their own informed perspective. The message of the Bible is Truth and Truth invites us to raise questions knowing that Truth will remain unchanged while personal opinion or tradition may require revision.

PAPER EVALUATION FORM:

Student Name: _____

(✓ equals problem area)

Form: (15%)

Grade: _____

Errors: _____ typographical; _____ spelling; _____ grammatical;
_____ Wayland Style Guide not followed; _____ Use of parenthetical notes.

Omissions: _____ title page; _____ contents page; _____ bibliography

Notes for Improvement:

Organization: (15%)

Grade: _____

_____ weak outline; _____ lack consistency; _____ lack balance

_____ weak introduction; _____ weak conclusion/application

_____ too long; _____ too short; _____ need better development

Notes for Improvement

Content: (50%)

Grade: _____

_____ failure to follow directions concerning assignment

_____ lack critical insight/depth

_____ lack balance in critique (content vs. evaluation)

_____ important material not discussed

_____ incoherent arguments

_____ lack of research, hurt presentation

_____ difficult to follow (conclusions fail to follow insights)

Notes for Improvement:

Depth of Understanding/Use of Sources: (20%)

Grade: _____

_____ limited/minimal number used

_____ misrepresented/misunderstood sources

_____ lack variety of opinions

_____ lack variety of types of sources

_____ lack evidence of thorough reading

_____ lack scholarly insight in sources (too devotional)

_____ used outdated sources

_____ over-reliance on one source

Notes for Improvement:

Strengths of Paper: