The Wayland flame and Univeristy logo.

# WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

# WBU ONLINE

# SCHOOL OF RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY

## Wayland Baptist 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.

# THST/PHIL5300 VC01

# BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

# COURSE SYLLABUS

# WINTER 2019

# NOV 11--FEB 15

## Instructor: Dr. Randolph R. Rogers, Ph.D.

## Instructor information:

* **University Phone: 806-291-1167 (*email is a much more reliable contact method*)**
* **Email:** [**randy.rogers@wbu.edu**](mailto:randy.rogers@wbu.edu)
* **Office hours in Plainview, TX: (times are subject to change every semester)**
  + M 8:00-8:45; 10:00-11:00 AM; 3:00-4:00 PM
  + T 8:00-9:15; 1:00-3:00 PM
  + W 8:00-8:45; 10:00-10:30 AM
  + TH 8:00-9:15; 1:00-3:00 PM
  + Friday, by appointment
  + All Emails will be answered within 48 hours—usually much faster within office hours.
* **Office Location**: Flores Bible Building, Office Suite. Wayland Baptist University. 1900 W. 7th. Plainview, TX 79072

# Class Meeting Time:

* Since this is an online class, class meeting times will be observed by regular and timely participation in online activities every week.
* There are specific due dates per assignments.

# Catalog Description:

THEO 5300. Biblical Interpretation (PHIL5300) - the science of biblical exegesis and interpretation.

# Prerequisite.

RLGN1301, RLGN 1302 OR RLGN1303, RLGN1304 (Old and New Testament History Courses) or THST 5303 Old Testament Foundations and THST 5304 New Testament Foundations

# Required Texts

J. Scott Duvall and J. Daniel Hays. *Grasping God’s Word*. 3rd Edition. Zondervan. 2012. ISBN. 9780310492573.

Corley, Bruce, S. Lemke, and G. Lovejoy, Editors.  *Biblical Hermeneutics: A Comprehensive Introduction to Interpreting Scripture.* 2d Edition. Broadman and Holman, 2002.

# Recommended Texts and Access for Words studies

* A biblical concordance
  + Nave’s Topical Concordance
  + Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance
  + Vines Expository Dictionary
* Access to a biblical study website
  + [Bible Study Tools](https://www.biblestudytools.com/concordances/)
  + [Blue Letter Bible](https://www.blueletterbible.org/)
  + [Bible Hub](https://biblehub.com/)
  + Logos Bible Software

# Course Outcome Competencies: Students will:

* Demonstrate knowledge of the general rules of biblical interpretation leading to a proclamation of the biblical text that is both responsible and defensible.
* Demonstrate knowledge of the history of interpretation and the effect on biblical interpretation.
* Demonstrate knowledge of genres of the biblical text, tools used in interpretation, and scholarly criticism necessary for responsible exegesis of the biblical text.
* Demonstrate ability to use basic reading strategies in order to read, retain, and interpret the Scripture.
* Demonstrate the ability to write 1) a critical evaluation of a biblical text and 2) a written text book AND present their findings to the class.

# Attendance Requirements

* As an online class, your attendance will be determined by weekly login to the class website and consistent participation in assignments.
* You are required to log in to class each week and meet specific deadlines. Skipping scheduled weekly assignments will be considered as an “absence” for that particular week.
* The Division's "no cut" policy allows no unexcused absences.
* No student missing morethan 25% of the class meetings (including both excused and unexcused absences) can pass the course. Thus, if you miss 3 weeks of weekly assignments and quizzes, you will fail this class.

# Statement on Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty

1. Wayland Baptist University observes a ZERO TOLERANCE policy regarding Academic Dishonesty.
2. Any suspected instance of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will first be evaluated by the instructor and discussed individually with the student.
3. If the instructor determines that a student’s actions constitute Academic Dishonesty, the case will be filed with the school dean (as determined by course prefix) and reported to the university executive vice president/provost, as per university policy. ALL CASES OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY WILL RE REPORTED.
4. Per university policy as described in the Wayland Academic Catalog, second offenses WILL RESULT IN SUSPENSION FROM THE UNIVERSITY.
5. In this course, the first instance of Academic Dishonesty may also result in a zero on the assignment.

# 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 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

*FOR FURTHER DETAILS, PLEASE CHECK* [*BLACKBOARD*](http://WWW.WBU.BLACKBOARD.COM) *ON THE MAIN MENU, UNDER THE TAB <<COURSE INFO/SYLLABUS>>.*

1. **Sectional Work**:
   1. The class will be divided into sections, usually in 2 week intervals. There will be 6 sections as follows:
      * Section 1: Week 1-2. Nov 11-24
      * Section 2: Weeks 3-4. Dec 2-15
      * Section 3: Weeks 5-6. Dec 16-22; Christmas break; Jan 6-12
      * Section 4: Weeks 7-8. Jan 13-26
      * Section 5. Weeks 9-10. Jan 27-Feb 9
      * Section 6. Week 11. Feb 10-15
   2. General assignments for each sections
      * Check and respond to emails, announcements, messages, and discussion boards each week;
      * Read any assigned textbook material in syllabus and make appropriate notes;
      * Complete written assignments during the first week of each section. Due dates will be posted in class schedule.
      * During the second week, respond with posts on assigned discussion boards;
      * Complete all other assignments (tests, reading reports, book reviews, etc) as assigned in syllabus.
      * All due dates and times will be listed according to Central Standard Time (CST).
2. **Research Paper**
   1. Each student will choose a passage to exegete, with approval by the professor who will provide a list of exegetical topics.
   2. The specific path to this exegesis will be outlined in an attachment on Blackboard.
   3. This is a formal paper (i.e. Turabian form) and will require the following elements.
      * Title page
      * Table of Contents
      * Introduction and purpose statement
      * Body of paper, analysis of text with proper headings and footnotes
      * Conclusion
      * Bibliography page
   4. The emphasis is on in-depth historical, literary, and theological analysis of terms and ideas found in the student’s chosen text.
   5. Due Dates on the Research Paper
      * Topic, End of Week 2
      * Project Description and purpose statement: End of Week 3
      * Working Bibliography. End of Week 5
      * Final Draft due. End of Week 10
3. **Book Review**
   1. Each Master’s level student will be required to present and critical evaluation of a written text as assigned by the professor.
   2. Each evaluation will be typed and submitted to the professor AND presented via video to the class as a teaching component.
4. **Tests**: Each section will contain one mini-test. There will be a total of 6 mini-tests, one per section. The last mini-test will count as the Final Exam.
5. **Discussion** **Board**
   1. Discussion Board: Each section there will be an assigned reading for the next class period. This may include both text book material and actual biblical readings. Each student will be required to read that material and report on the content in the appropriate discussion board forum.
6. **Written Assignments**: The professor has provided weekly reading assignments from the text book.
   1. The assignments are to be typed and turned in at the beginning of the specified class. YOU MUST SUBMIT YOUR PAPER VIA BLACKBOARD UNDER *READING ASSIGNMENTS SUBMISSIONS*.
   2. There are 10 total reading assignments. Due dates are posted in the class schedule.
   3. You may drop your ONE (1) lowest grade.
   4. Late assignments will not be accepted. They will be counted as a -0-.
   5. The assignments are to be typed. Spacing (single-spaced), fonts (Times New Roman, Arial, or Calibri: size 12), and margins (1 inch on all sides) are to be followed with each assignment.
   6. Note the format mentioned in the assignment. If the assignment requires listing, then list. If a paragraph description is needed, then write a paragraph. Follow the instructions accurately and thoroughly. Since the assignment is open book, there will be no excuses for any missing information.
   7. There is no page limit. However, you will be graded on thoroughness and accuracy in your answer.

## Course Evaluation (Method of Determining Grade)

### 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 for undergrads

Assignment

Research Project: 20 points

Reading Assignments/class participation 38 points

Mini-Tests: 42 points

**TOTAL 100 points**

# Student Grade Protection and Appeals

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 Executive Vice President/Provost to the 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 CLASS SCHEDULE

* Section 1: Class Introduction. The Interpretive Journey
  + Week 1. Nov. 11-17. Assignments
    - Introductory Discussion Board. Due by Nov 17.
    - Read GGW (Grasping God’s Word) Chapter 1-3.
      * Written Assignments. Assignment 1-1. Assignment 2-1. Assignment 3-1
    - Read Corley, Biblical Hermeneutics (BH), Chapters 1-3
      * Written Assignments. Assignment 1-1. Assignment 2-1. Assignment 3-1. Due Nov 17.
  + Week 2 Nov 18-24. The Interpretive Journey. Assignments
    - Read BH, Chapters 4-7
      * Written assignment: posted on Blackboard. Due by Friday, Nov. 22
    - Discussion Board Comments. Due by Friday, Nov 22
    - Mini-Test 1. Due by Sunday
    - Topic for Project due by Sunday.
* Section 2: Topic: How to Read the Bible. Word Studies
  + Week 3. Dec 2-8. Assignments
    - Read GGW, Chapters 4-5.
      * Written Assignments. 4-1, 5-1. Due by Friday, Dec 6.
    - Read BH, Chapters 8-11
      * Written assignment posted on Blackboard, Due Friday, Dec 6
    - Project description. Due by Sunday
  + Week 4. Dec 9-15. Assignments
    - Read GGW, Chapter 9-13.
      * Written Assignments. 9-1, 10-1. Due by Friday, Dec. 13
    - Read BH, Chapters 12-14
      * Written Assignment on Blackboard
    - Respond to Discussion Board by Due Friday, Dec 13
    - Complete Mini-test 2 by Sunday
* Section 3: OT Narrative, OT Law and OT Poetry
  + Weeks 5. Dec. 16-22 Assignments
    - Read GGW, Chapter 18-19.
      * Written Assignment: Assignment 18-2, 19-2, 20-1. Due by Friday
    - Read BH, Chapters 17 and 18
      * Written assignment posted on Blackboard
    - Project bibliography due Sunday
  + Week 6. Jan 6-12
    - Read BH, Chapter 24-25
    - Discussion Board. As assigned
    - Mini-Test 3. Due by Sunday
* Section 4: OT Prophets and OT Wisdom Literature
  + Weeks 7. Jan 13-19. Assignments
    - Read GGW. Chapters 21-22.
      * Written Assignment. 21-1; 22-1. Due by Friday, Jan 17.
    - Read BH, Chapter, 19-20
  + Week 8. Jan 20-26. Assignments
    - Discussion Board. Due as assigned.
    - Mini-Test 4. Due by Sunday
* Section 5. NT Letters and the Gospels.
  + Week 9. Jan 27-Feb 2. Assignments
    - Read GGW, Chapters 14-15.
      * Written Assignment. 14-1; 15-1. Due Friday,
    - Read BH, Chapters 21-22
      * Written Assignment on Blackboard, Due Friday
  + Week 10. Feb 3-9. Assignments
    - Read BH, Chapter 26-28
      * Written assignment on Blackboard, due by Friday
    - Discussion Board. Due as assigned
    - Mini-Test 5. Due by Sunday
    - Research Project due Sunday.
* Section 6. The Book of Revelation
  + - Week 11. Feb 10-15. Assignments
    - Reading. GGW. Chapter 17.
    - Written Assignment. 17-1. Due by Feb 15
    - Read BH, Chapter 23
    - Written Assignment on Blackboard. Due by Feb 15
    - Discussion Board. Due by Feb 15
    - Mini-Test 6. Due by Feb 15

# Statement on Civility

# (Approved by the Administration Cabinet on July 1, 2013)

In keeping with Wayland’s mission as a Christian higher education institution, Wayland Baptist University strives to demonstrate civility and Christ-like character in a positive manner where courtesy and respect are afforded to all persons at all times. Members of the University’s student and non-student community can expect Christ’s example to be modeled consistently by trustees, administrators, faculty, staff, and students in order to foster an environment for education and work, contribute to leadership development, and glorify God. While on any campus, attending any event, participating in any course, or engaging in any communication, Wayland trustees, administration, faculty, staff, students, and guests can all have the expectation of civility from one another. (Genesis 1:27; Deuteronomy 5:1-21; Micah 6:8; Matthew 22:36-40; Mark 9:34-35; Luke 10:29-37; John 13:34-35; Romans 12:9-21, 13: 7-10, 15:7; Galatians 3:26-28; Ephesians 2:8-9, 4:1-3, 22-29; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 3:12-17; 1 Timothy 4:12; James 2:1-4; 1 Peter 2:21)