



**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:** RLG1301 - OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY

**Term:** Summer 2016

**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:**

A survey of the history and literature of the Old Testament with special attention to the institutions, religion, and national life of the Hebrew people. This course is required for any student planning to complete a degree with Wayland. As an online course, this class will depend on email, discussion board, and online reading and journaling for the interaction which normally occurs in a traditional classroom.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Required Textbook(s) and/or Resource Material:**

- *The NIV Study Bible*. Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2011. ISBN: 0310437334  
*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 for official university communications

- 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)
- Technical support: 24/7 via phone and chat; see login page of Blackboard

#### Optional Materials:

- Blackboard Mobile App  
Limited version of Blackboard for mobile devices--Apple App Store or Google Play
- 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 to read the assigned passages  
NIV Live app – dramatized reading; well produced; read along text available with audio;  
Genesis downloads for free; \$19.99 for access to entire Bible (or \$49.99 for multiple platforms/devices)  
Bible Gateway app – free NIV audio and text within the app; 3 options available—  
dramatized and two readers  
Biblegateway.com website – online version of B, with free NIV text (if textbook not available) and three audio options  
Other options exist for websites and app

#### Course Outcome Competencies:

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:

- 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. This includes readings from the textbook and online lecture notes/videos. These readings will enable students to participate in the weekly discussion boards as well as complete the weekly quizzes.
- Examinations. Two exams will be given. Each exam is final over the material covered. Questions will be true/false, multiple choice, multiple answer, matching, fill in the blank, and short answer/listing. The exams will cover material from the lectures, rather than the readings. All class lectures, however, presuppose knowledge of the assigned reading as background for understanding the lectures.

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. **Please contact the professor as early as possible if you do not understand what a proctor is or how to procure one.**

[http://www.wbu.edu/academics/online\\_programs/proctor/proctorrequest.htm](http://www.wbu.edu/academics/online_programs/proctor/proctorrequest.htm)

- There will be quizzes each week covering the assigned readings. These quizzes will contain five questions and will test the student’s comprehension of the weekly reading. These will be timed (there will not be time to look up the answers). The quizzes should be taken by midnight Central on Sunday each week.
- Most weeks 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. These postings should also be completed by midnight Central on Sunday each week.
- Responsive Essays: Each student will be required to turn in a responsive essay each week (excepting exam weeks). **Each essay should be at least 350 words** reflecting on the issues raised during the discussions or on questions surrounding the biblical material focused upon that week, and should not in any way repeat the topic given in the Discussion Forum for that week. The essays must demonstrate that the student has

grappled with the various issues represented in the topics covered that week. The essays need to be typed. They are due by midnight of Sunday, each week. A deduction of 1 point/day will be assessed for late work. Each individual essay is worth 10 points.

**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 either the notes or other issues that the student is curious about in the biblical text. 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 not related to biblical matters may be asked either in this forum or through e-mail.
- Chat Sessions  
Throughout the semester, the professor may set up chat sessions for interaction and discussion. Chat participation is optional, and will not affect one's grade.

**Course Evaluation (Method of Determining Grade):**

Weekly Essays	22%
Weekly Quizzes	18%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Discussion Board Participation	20%

University Grading System

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
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 are from Textbook...the student is expected to read the Introductory discussions of every book of the Old Testament in the order and at the time they are covered in class; the biblical text itself as noted on the schedule; and any notes, maps, charts, and the like associated with the required readings. The reading should be done before the lectures are watched on video. The provided outlines will help direct focus for the class**

May 23 - 29	Why Study the Old Testament, Methods of Interpreting the Old Testament. Key points in interpreting the Old Testament. Archaeology and the Bible. Old Testament Formation and Function Reading: NIV Study – Ancient Texts Relating to the Old Testament, Old Testament Chronology
May 30 – June 5	Pre-History Texts Reading: Genesis 1-11
June 6 - 12	The Ancestors Reading: Genesis 12-50
June 13 – 19	The Law and the Exodus Reading: Exod 1-12; 13-14; 18-20; 25-40; Lev 1-7; 11-19; Num 1; 20-24; Deut 6 - 9; 20-23; 34
June 20 – 26	The Conquest and Settlement Reading: Josh 1-12; 22-24; Judges 1-21; Ruth 1-4
June 27 – July 3	<b>(Exam 1: Introduction – Ruth)</b> The United Monarchy Reading: 1 Samuel 1-17; 28; 2 Samuel 1-7; 11-12; 1 Kings 1-11
July 5 - 10	The Divided Monarchy and Return from Exile Reading: 1 Kings 12-14; 17-19; 22; 2 Kings 1-3; 17-20; 23-25; 2 Chron 33-35; Ezra 1, 6; Neh 1-2; 8-10; Esther 1-4; 8-9

- July 11 - 17                   8<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Century Prophets  
Reading: Amos 1-2; 7-9; Hosea 1-3; Micah 4:1-6:8; Isaiah 1-12; 14; Zeph 3;  
Nah 1; Hab 3
- July 18 – 24                   6<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Century Prophets  
Jer 1; 7; 11:18-23; 12:1-6; 15:10-21; 17:12-18; 18:18-23; 20:7-18; 26;  
Ezek 1-5; 8-11; 43; 48; Isa 42:1-4; 49:1-6; 50:4-9; 52:13 - 53:12; Hag 1:1-2:9;  
Zech 1-2; Mal 1-4
- July 25 – 31                   Remaining Prophets and Wisdom  
Dan 1-6; 9; Jon 1-4; Joel 1-3; Prov 1-3; 8-9; 15-16; 26; 31:10-31; Eccl 1-3;  
12; Job 1-5; 18-19; 29-33; 36; 38-42
- August 1 - 7                   **(Exam 2: Samuel – Malachi)**  
The Psalms, Song of Songs  
Pss 1-2; 8; 22-23; 44; 51; 66; 73; 121; 139; 148; Song of Songs 1-2

**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.