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**VIRTUAL CAMPUS**

**School of Christian Studies**

**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.

# COURSE NUMBER & NAME:

**THST4314.VC01: Old Testament Theology**

**TERM:**

**Spring 2 - 2025**

**INSTRUCTOR:**

**Dr. Timothy M. Pierce**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Office Phone and Email: 806-291-1165;

Cell Phone: 903-263-7216

**OFFICE HOURS, BUILDING, AND LOCATION:**

Flores Bible Building office suite

The student is free to e-mail me at any time. I will accept phone calls on my cell phone Mon - Fri 8am – 10 pm CST, though I may have to call back if I am in class or a meeting

**CLASS MEETING TIME AND LOCATION**:

Online class, weekly interaction required as noted below

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

Major theological concepts in the Old Testament.

**PREREQUISITE:**

Prerequisite(s): RLGN 1301 and RLGN 1302

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND RESOURCES**:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Title** | **Editor/Author** | **Publisher** | **Ed** | **Year** | **ISBN** |
| *Old Testament Theology for Christians : From Ancient Context to Enduring Belief* | John Walton | IVP Academic | 1st | 2017 | 9780830889044 |
| Bible | A modern translation of the Bible such as the New International Version (NIV), New American Standard (NASB), New Revised Standard (NRSV), Christian Standard Bible (CSB), or English Standard Version (ESV) is preferable. |

**This course includes an Automatic eBook.  Opt out date is the 8th day of class (second Monday of the session).  Click on the menu link for more details.**

**OPTIONAL MATERIALS:**

Will be distributed by professor

**COURSE OUTCOME COMPETENCIES**:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the development of the discipline of Old Testament theology and identify major contemporary theologies of the Old Testament

2. Demonstrate knowledge of the major theological Old Testament concepts of God, humankind, sin, salvation, and other theological issues

3. Demonstrate how the development of Old Testament theology has influenced the church’s interpretation of Scripture

**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:**

Please click on this link to [WBU’s Statement on Academic Integrity](https://www.wbu.edu/academics/writing-center/Academic%20Integrity%20Statement%20Pol%208.4.1%20Attch%20Oct%2020222.pdf) to understand policies concerning plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. All work must be the work of the student. In addition to normal means of plagiarism, the following policy concerning AI generated works also applies:

No use of any generative AI tools permitted.

* + - 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.
		- All assignments must be fully created, designed, and prepared by the student(s).
		- Any work that uses generative AI will be treated as plagiarism.

**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 Disability Services Coordinator and Academic Coach serves as the coordinator of students with disabilities and must be contacted concerning accommodation requests (office (806) 291-1057. Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.”**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING CRITERIA:**

* 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.
* **Examination:** There will be one Final Exam given. 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 and possibly the readings. All class lectures, however, presuppose knowledge of the assigned reading as background for understanding the lectures.

This exam will be online the last week of the term.

* **Bible and Textbook Reading Guides.** Open book reading guides cover material assigned in the Bible, the textbooks, or other assigned sources. Graduate students at times will be required to use journal articles and other academic sources in their reading guide responses each week.
* **Discussion Board:** 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 CST on Sunday each week. The student is expected to do **at leas**t 1 original post and 2 responsive posts each week.
* **Analysis Paper:** The student will write a short analysis paper (4-6 pages) addressing the issue of the proper method of using Old Testament theology in the Christian church. The paper is due the Sunday before the final week (25% of Grade)

The essay should include each of the following:

(1) A discussion of three critical issues (matters of debate within the scholarly world) encountered within the lectures for the semester, including a discussion of the various viewpoints on the issue outlined in class or discovered from other sources

(2) The position of the textbook(s) on the matters. If the issue was not mentioned in the textbooks, this should be noted.

(3) The student’s conclusions about the matters

The discussions should include interaction with the textbook on the issues raised, but no further research is necessary.

The grade will be determined according to the degree of interaction demonstrated with each of the three issues. It will not be enough to simply list the options as presented in class. The student must interject his or her own insights and scholarly opinions into the paper in order to achieve a high grade.

The papers must be typed, and the grade will be affected by glaring grammatical problems. No Turabian formatting is necessary.

**COURSE EVALUATION (METHOD OF DETERMINING GRADE):**

University Grading System

 A 90-100:

 B 80-89:

 C 70-79NCr

 D 60-69WP

 F BELOW 60

• Procedure for computations of final grade [points and assignments may vary]

 Reading Guides: 25% of Final Grade

 Analysis Paper: 30% of Final Grade

 Discussion Board 15% of Final Grade

 Final Exam 30% of Final Grade

**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 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.**

**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.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**:

WEEK 1

 Course Introduction

 Formation of the Old Testament

WEEK 2

Function of the Old Testament

 The Old Testament in Dialogue with Its Original Culture

Authority of the Old Testament in Christianity

Issues to which it speaks and does not speak

Old Testament Relationship to the New Testament

 Misconceptions about the Old Testament in General

WEEK 3

Interpretation of the Old Testament

 General Principles of Interpretation

 Interpreting the Various Sections of the Old Testament

WEEK 4

Theological Foundations of the Old Testament

 The Nature of God

 The Nature of Man

WEEK 5

Creation and Providence

WEEK 6

 Revelation and Relationship

Covenant and Election

WEEK 7

Wisdom and Ethics

**Analysis Paper Due at the end of the Week**

WEEK 8

Remnant and the Age to Come

**FINAL EXAM**