



**Virtual Campus  
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 5303 Old Testament Foundations (VC01)

**TERM:**

Summer 2025, (June 2—July 26)

**INSTRUCTOR:**

Donovan Martin, Ph.D.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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**OFFICE HOURS, BUILDING & LOCATION:**

Per Student Request. This is an online class

**COURSE MEETING TIME & LOCATION: This is an online class**

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

Introduction to the ancient Near Eastern background of the books of the Hebrew Bible, with emphasis on pertinent historical-critical issues, theological interpretation, and contemporary application.

**PREREQUISITE: None**

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND RESOURCE MATERIAL:**

**Required Textbooks:**

Title	Editor/Author	Publisher	Ed	Year	ISBN
NIV Study Bible	Barker, K.	Zondervan		2011	978-0310438922
A Short Introduction to the Hebrew Bible	Collins, John J.	Fortress Press	3rd	2018	978-1506445991

**Important message about Automatic Ebook:** "Wayland Baptist University has partnered with Automatic Ebook, which is a digital copy of the required textbook available on Blackboard, day one of class. The prices are very competitive with the market and in most cases below the standard cost. If your course is using the Automatic Ebook system, once you access the textbook in the classroom it will ask you if you would like to opt-out. If you choose NOT to use the Automatic Ebook, you **MUST opt-out** by the second week of class/census date or you will be charged (and refunds are not available). The price of the textbook will be billed to your student account. To check the price of the textbook, please locate your required course material at The WBU Bookstore. Finally, if you are on financial aid and your lender needs a receipt in order to cover the cost of the textbook, receipts are available from the bookstore."

### OPTIONAL MATERIALS

WBU Library Resources: The Wayland Library (Learning Resource Center) is available to all Wayland students via BlackBoard. Tutorials for accessing library resources are linked from the homepage.

### COURSE OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCIES:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the nature and canon of the Old Testament.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the content and significance of the books of Genesis through Malachi.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the cultural, social, and historical background from Abraham through the Restoration.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the characteristics of Hebrew Poetry, Wisdom Literature, and Prophetic literature.
5. Demonstrate competency in conducting graduate level research, writing, and teaching/oral presentations.

### ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:

Students are expected to participate in all required instructional activities in their courses. Online courses are no different in this regard; however, participation must be defined in a different manner. Student "attendance" in an online course is defined as active participation in the course as described in the course syllabus. Instructors in online courses are responsible for providing students with clear instructions for how they are required to participate in the course. Additionally, instructors are responsible for incorporating specific instructional activities within their course and will, at a minimum, have weekly mechanisms for documenting student participation. These mechanisms may include, but are not limited to, participating in a weekly discussion board, submitting/completing assignments in Blackboard, or communicating with the instructor. 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. Instructors may also file a Report of Unsatisfactory Progress for students with excessive non-participation. 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. To be counted as actively participating, it is not sufficient to log in and view the course. The student must be

submitting work as described in the course syllabus. Additional attendance and participation 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 Baptist University observes a zero tolerance policy regarding academic dishonesty. Per university policy as described in the academic catalog, all cases of academic dishonesty will be reported and second offenses will result in suspension from the university.

#### **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:**

1. Final Examination- The exam will cover materials from the Weekly Lectures and articles in the NIV Study Bible, and specifically referenced materials from the textbook.
2. Weekly Quizzes- Quizzes will come entirely from the textbook. One weekly quiz. Not timed and you may retake it if you do poorly. Open book.
3. Discussion Board: Threads will come from the Biblical Readings
  - a. Students must participate in Discussion Board questions facilitated by the instructor-
  - b. Students must post a 100 word response to the initial thread.
  - c. These questions are reflective in nature, without a "correct" answer. They are intended to encourage thought about the readings and lectures as well as to facilitate dialogue on these topics
  - d. Proper grammar is expected when posting to the Discussion Board. If you need assistance with proper English grammar Wayland provides assistance in the writing lab. Please follow Wayland's guide to online behavior as well. Be respectful of your classmates and their opinions
  - e. Sunday deadline for initial responses to instructor's threads (questions). Students should also engage in robust discussions with their classmates about posts on discussion boards. There is a minimal expectation of two substantive responses to classmates' posts per week. These interactions are due by Sunday of the week following the initial posts. All discussion posts should strive to build community and enhance the learning process.
  - f. The Discussion Boards will remain open until the day before the final exam. This will allow you to make additional responses to threads as we gain a greater understanding to topics. Your initial post is still due the week of the assignment and you'll only receive half credit if you post late.

4. Journal Entry
  - a. Students are expected to compose two journal posts over the course of the term. Journal posts should be at least 400 words in length. Students will journal on specific weeks in response to specific content covered in the course.
5. Research Paper: Each student will complete a 8-10 page research paper on one of the topics listed on blackboard under the Content Folder "Research Suggestions." Paper must follow the Kate L. Turabian. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018. ISBN 978-0-226-43057-7.

GRADING: (All grades will be on a ten-point scale. 90-100 is an A, 80-89 is a B, etc.)

Final: (proctored)	20%
Quizzes:	20%
Discussion Boards:	20%
Journals	20%
Research Paper:	20%

**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

“Collins”= A Short Introduction to the Hebrew Bible

### Week 1:

Due: Student Introductions ; Discussion Board #1 (DB 1); Paper Topic/Passage Selection; Quiz 1

Watch/Read: Lecture 1 - Pentateuch Pt. 1- Introduction-Primeval & Patriarchal History

Read: Collins- Prefaces & Introduction; Chapters 1-4, 29

NIV Articles/Charts: Preface (xi-xiii); Quick Start Guide (xiv); Introduction to the NIV Study Bible (xv-xviii); Ancient texts relating to the Old Testament (xxii-xxiv); Major Covenants of the Old Testament (23); The Tribes of Israel (90);

Bible: Genesis

### Week 2:

Due: Journal Post #1 (JP 1); DB 2; Quiz 2; Exegetical Paper Part 1 (Thesis Statement)

Watch/Read: Lecture 2 Pentateuch Pt. 2

Read: Collins - Chapters 5-8

NIV Articles: Hebrew Calendar & Selected Events (113); Old Testament Sacrifices (164); Old Testament Festivals and Other Sacred Days (188-9);

Bible: Exodus; Leviticus 1-6; Deuteronomy

### Week 3:

Due: DB 3; Quiz 3; Exegetical Paper Part 2 (Outline and Sources)

Watch/Read: Lecture 3- Conquest through Pre-Monarchy

Read: Collins- Chapters 9-11

NIV Articles: Points of Pressure on Israel (363);

Bible: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel

### Week 4:

Due: JP #2, DB 4, Quiz 4; Exegetical Paper Part 3 (Rough Draft)

Watch/Read: Lecture 4 - Monarchy & the United Kingdom

Read: Collins- Chapters 12-13

NIV Articles: David's Family Tree (435); Rulers of the Divided Kingdom of Israel and Judah (544-545); Ancient Near Eastern Deities (552)

Bible: 2 Samuel,

**Week 5:**

Due: DB 5, Quiz 5; Exegetical Paper Part 4 (Corrected Rough Draft)

Watch/Read: Lecture 5 Divided Kingdom Pt. 1

Read: Collins 14-16

NIV Articles: Solomon's Jerusalem (515); The Divided Kingdom (536) Assyrian Campaigns against Israel and Judah (594-5);

Bible: 1-2 Kings,

**Week 6:**

Due: DB 6; Quiz 6; Exegetical Paper Final

Watch/Read: Lecture 6 Divided Kingdom Pt. 2; Prophetic Voices and Exile

Read: Collins- 17-18

NIV Articles: The Divided Kingdom (536); Nebuchadnezzar's Campaigns against Judah (614-5)

Bible: 2 Kings, Ezra, Nehemiah, Isaiah 1-12; Jonah, Micah, Amos 1-5, Hosea 1-3, 11, Jeremiah 1, 7, 12-13, 29-33, Habakkuk

**Week 7:**

Due: DB 7; Quiz 7

Watch/Read: Lecture 7 - Return from Exile; Wisdom Literature & Conclusions

Read: Collins- 20, 21, 23, 26, 27

NIV Articles: Return from Exile (724); Jerusalem of the Returning Exiles (748);  
The Design and Message of the Psalter (852); Messianic Psalms (856);  
Types of Hebrew Parallelism (859) The Wise Man according to Proverbs:  
An Outline (1030);

Bible: Psalms 1-23, Proverbs 1-9, 30-31, Ecclesiastes

**Week 8 Due: Final Exam (proctored)**