**WBU Flame Logo

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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:

**THST5314.VC01: Old Testament Theology**

**TERM:**

**Summer - 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:**

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.

**PREREQUISITE:**

None

**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 |
| *Old Testament Theology: A Thematic Approach* | Robin Routledge | IVP Academic | 1st | 2012 | 9780830884148 |
| 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

4. Produce a research project that shows critical analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of a cultural, historical, or theological topic in the Old Testament Theology

**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.
* **Thematic Research Paper**.
* Each student will complete a paper examining either a topic within the theme of Old Testament or exegeting a passage centered on a key theme or issue. Besides the normal expectations for such a paper, it must also include a discussion of the New Testament contributions to understanding either the topic or the involved passage.
* The Research Paper is due the Sunday before the final week, by Midnight..
* 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 content and will be graded as follows:
* Clarity and style of writing, spelling, and grammar (10% of grade)
  + The following issues will hurt the grade:
    - Typographical, spelling, grammatical errors
    - Omissions of title page, contents page, bibliography
* Adherence to Turabian (10% of grade);
  + The following issues will hurt the grade:
    - Wayland Style Guide not followed
    - Use of parenthetical notes.
* Identification of exegetical goals and/or a thesis (10% of grade);
* Analysis of literary, historical, and theological contexts (18% of grade);
* Analysis of key terms, themes, and language components (26% of grade);
  + The following issues will hurt the above grades:
    - 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)
* Application to personal life or contemporary church (11% of grade);
* Interaction with secondary sources (range and quality) (15% of grade).
  + The following issues will hurt the 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

**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

Research 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**:

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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

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

WEEK 8

Remnant and the Age to Come

**FINAL EXAM**