

**WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY**

**VIRTUAL CAMPUS**

**SCHOOL OF RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY**

**Wayland Baptist University Mission Statement**

Wayland Baptist University exists to education students in an academically challenging, learning-focused and distinctively Christian environment for professional success and service to God and humankind.

**Course and Number (PHIL/RLGN 4323) (VC01)**

***BASIC CHRISTIAN ETHICS***

**Fall 2017**

**Instructor:**  J. Jeffrey Tillman--[**Curriculum Vitae**](http://www.wbuwf.com/online/Courses/JAMES%2520JEFFREY%2520TILLMAN.doc)

**Instructor** **Information**

* **Phone:** 940-855-4322
* **Email:** james.tillman@wayland.wbu.edu
* **Office Hours:** 3:00-6:00 PM M-Th
* **Office Location:** 426 5th Ave., suite 7, Sheppard AFB, TX 76311

**Class Time and Location:** Virtual Campus

**Catalog Description:** introduction to principles of Christian ethics and their application to the problems of contemporary society

**Prerequisite:** RLGN 1301 or RLGN 1303, and RLGN 1302 or RLGN 1304

**Required Textbooks and Resources**

Boulton, Kennedy, and Verhey, *From Christ to the World: Introductory Readings in Christian Ethics*,

**Course Outcome Competencies:**

1. Identify the major biblical themes and theological doctrines informing Christian ethics.

2. Identify the major philosophical ethical theories informing Christian ethics.

3. Apply the major theological doctrines and major philosophical theories to contemporary ethical issues to frame distinctively Christian ethical responses.

**Attendance Requirements**

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in an online class prior to the census date for any given term is considered a "no-show" and will be administratively withdrawn from the class without record.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.

**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 education 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:**

All assignments are due by 11:59 PM Saturday of the week they are assigned. All uploaded documents, including the paper, should be submitted as word document files and in Turabian format.

Chapter Quizzes: There will be 11 quizzes over the course of the term. Each will be over the assigned reading for that week. They will each be worth 10 points, and will consist of 4 questions. These quizzes are non-proctored, and will be available on Blackboard, but there will be a 30 minute time limit on the quiz. The quizzes will be available on Monday of the week they are due, and then close by 11:59 PM on Saturday of the week they are due. I will reopen the quizzes only under exceptional circumstances.

Chapter Question Blogs: Each week there is a dedicated Discussion Question Blog on Blackboard covering the assigned chapter for the week. An assignment list will be posted in the Announcements on Blackboard during the first week indicating which students should answer which questions, one from each assigned chapter. Each question should have an answer of at least 300 words, but many questions will require more words for complete credit, and may require follow up submissions in response to comments that I make on the blog. The text of the question being answered should appear before the answer. These answers/responses should be posted by the Wednesday of each week at 6 PM C.S.T. By Saturday at 11:59 P.M. C.S.T. each student should submit at least a 100 word response to another student’s response. These should be critical comments regarding the other student’s success or failure in addressing the assigned question in terms of the reading, not merely statements of agreement or disagreement or personal reflection. These critical comments should be posted both to the other student’s blog as well as to your own blog, as a new blog entry (so that your response is on the same blog page that I use in posting your grade). (See this link for an example of how to post the response to the other student to your own blog: [copyandpaste example](http://www.wbuwf.com/online/Courses/PHIL4319/Exampleofcutand%20paste.htm).) Each group of posts and responses is worth 20 points.

Research Project: This project is a written analysis of an ethical issue. The student should gather relevant research material, not only theological, but also historical, sociological, and philosophical, and address the importance and complexity of the issue. Specific attention should be given to why this particular issue promotes disagreement, what Christian resources are available for addressing the issue, and what possible directions lie open for resolving, abating, or living with the issue as a society and/or a community of faith. This assignment should be at least 15 pages in length and prepared in Turabian style according to the instructions and examples at these links: : [Link](http://old.wbu.edu/academics/schools/religion_and_philosophy/student_help/Digest_003.pdf) 1 and [Link 2](http://old.wbu.edu/academics/academic_resources/writing_center/resources/documents/RLGNSampleUndergraduatePaper1.pdf) This assignment will be graded on the basis of quality of research, quality and accuracy of presentation, and the sophistication of analysis involved. [See this link for criteria by which to identify quality sources](http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/research/skill26.htm). The specific topic should be submitted to the designated discussion board by the second class period. This is worth 5 points. A working bibliography and paper outline should be uploaded to the designated discussion board by the fourth class meeting and is worth 10 points. A completed draft of the paper should be submitted by the seventh class meeting and is worth 50 points. The final draft is due the last class period and is worth 100 points. The student should carefully view the professor’s comments on each of the successive assignment submissions in order to make progress in preparing a high quality paper.

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

Chapter Quizzes—10 points times 11 110 points

Chapter Question Discussion Blog—20 points times 11 220 points

Research Project

 Paper Topic -5 points

 Working bibliography and outline-10 points

 First Draft—50 points

 Final Draft—100 points

 Total points for research project 165 points

Total points for course 495 points

**As per the University Grading System listed below, points earned in the course will result in the following final grades:**

A—445-495; B—396-444; C—346-395; D—297-345; F—0-296

* **University Grading System**

 Symbol Percentage

 A 90-100

 B 80-89

 C 70-79

 D 60-69

 F Below 60

 Other symbols used for grading include:

 CR Credit Satisfactory, but without qualitative grading.

 NCR No Credit Unsatisfactory, but without qualitative grading.

 I\*\* Incomplete May be given to a student who is passing, but has not completed a term paper, examination, or other required for work reasons beyond the student’s control.

 IP In progress Assigned to a course indicating that at the conclusion of a term the course will still be in progress.

 X No grade No grade has been submitted by the instructor. The course grade which will replace the X must be submitted within 30 days from the beginning of the next full term.

 W Withdrawal Course dropped or withdrawal from the University.

 WP Withdraw passing Course dropped or withdrawal from the University after deadline to withdraw with a W and prior deadline to withdraw with a WP or WF.

 WF Withdraw failing Course dropped or withdrawal from the University after deadline to withdraw with a W and prior to deadline to withdraw with a WP or WF.

\*\*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.

**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 associates with plagiarism stated in the catalog on page 88.

**Course Outline and Calendar**

|  |
| --- |
| **All assignments are due no later than Saturday at 11:59 PM C.S.T. of the week that they are listed as due.** |
| Dates | **Boulton Readings** | Assignments Due |
| **Week 1 – August 21-26** | Chapter 1 | Chapter 1 Question Discussion BlogChapter 1 Quiz |
| **Week 2 – August 27- September 2** | Chapter 2 | Chapter 2 Question Discussion BlogChapter 2 QuizResearch topic due |
| **Week 3 – September 3-9** | Chapter 3 | Chapter3 Question Discussion BlogChapter 3 Quiz |
| **Week 4- September 10-16** | Chapter 4 | Chapter 4 Question Discussion BlogChapter 4 QuizWorking Bibliography and outline due |
| **Week 5 – September 17-23** | Chapter 6 | Chapter 6 Question Discussion BlogChapter 6 Quiz |
| **Week 6 – September 24-30** | Chapter 7 | Chapter 7 Question Discussion BlogChapter 7 Quiz |
| **Week 7- October 1-7** | Chapter 8 | Chapter 8 Question Discussion BlogChapter 8 Quiz |
| **Week 8 – October 8-14** | Chapter 10 | Chapter 10 Question Discussion BlogChapter 10 QuizDraft of Research Paper due |
| **Week 9 – October 15-21** | Chapter 11 | Chapter 11 Question Discussion BlogChapter 11 Quiz |
| **Week 10 October 22-28** | Chapter 12 | Chapter 12 Question Discussion BlogChapter 12 Quiz |
| **Week 11 – October 29-November 4** | Chapter 13 | Chapter 13 Question Discussion BlogChapter 13 QuizResearch Paper Due |