



**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 & Number: RLED/RLGN 5114 VC01: Practice of Outward Spiritual Disciplines

Term: Fall 2017 (8/21/2017 – 11/4/2017)

Name of Instructor: Dr. Stephen M. Stookey
Professor of Religion
Director, Online Religion Programs

Office Phone Number and WBU Email Address:

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Office Hours, Building, and Location:

Flores Bible Building, Plainview campus, M - TH 9:00am-4:00pm; F, 9:00-Noon CDT/CST

Class Meeting Time and Location: Virtual Campus

Catalog Description: Introduction to one or more spiritual disciplines oriented toward the external practices of the Christian, practiced within a weekly spiritual formation small group of M.Div. students.

Prerequisites: RLED/RLGN 5354 Spiritual Disciplines and Christian Spirituality

Required Textbook(s) and/or Resource Material

- Hammond, Kim and Darren Cronshaw. 2014. *Sentness: Six Postures of Missional Christians*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.
- The Bible
- Access to WBU Learning Resources: Click on link at left entitled "Wayland Library"; Email Distance Librarian Sally Quiroz (lrcref@wbu.edu) about research assistance, or having books mailed to you.
- Email: All students will need to set up and use their Wayland student email account.

Optional Text/Resource

- Richard J. Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*, HarperCollins, ISBN-10:0060628391; ISBN-13: 978-0060628390

Course Outcome Competencies:

The course is designed to be highly interactive, experiential, contemplative in the exploration of historical and contemporary principles of Spiritual Formation as a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ. As a student involved in this discovery learning process you will be able to:

1. Student will demonstrate knowledge of the outward Christian spiritual disciplines of service.
2. Student will design, develop, and perform the practice of the outward spiritual disciplines of service.
3. Student will prepare an outward Christian spiritual disciplines plan for enhancing spiritual formation within the community of the local church.

Spiritual Exercises: Practical assignments and directed experiences of spiritual disciplines have also been added to provide opportunities to move beyond theoretical understanding to personal spiritual formation.

Attendance Requirements:

1. Student "attendance" in an online course is defined as active participation in the course through discussion boards and submitting weekly assignments on time. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. When a student reaches a number of absences considered by the instructor to be excessive, the instructor will submit a Report of Unsatisfactory Progress to the student's WBU student email account and 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."

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty: Writing is a collaborative art. Working out ideas for your paper with an instructor, writing tutor, classmate, family member, or friend is encouraged not only for this class, but also for other classes that involve writing. Discussion and collaborative brainstorming are good. However, passing off another's writing or ideas as your own is plagiarism. It is unethical, it constitutes Academic Dishonesty (cheating), and it is sufficient grounds both for failure of a course and suspension from the university. For more information, see http://www.wbu.edu/academics/schools/religion_and_philosophy/student_help/documents/StatementonPlagiarismandAcademicDishonesty.pdf

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria:

A. Learning Activity -- Online Discussion – 110 pts (ongoing) slo 1, 2, 3

All students are required to check the discussion group postings frequently and participate consistently in the discussion. Students should expect to read the discussions several times each week and post substantive response at least twice each week. Students who do not post substantive responses at least **twice each** week will not be credited with the 110 points for this assignment.

A discussion guide will be posted online consisting of a series of questions formulated by the professor that will be addressed in the online discussion group. The professor will post the first question to begin the dialogue, and then moderate the discussion to move through the discussion guide questions. Additional questions for discussion will be added as the dialogue unfolds. All students are required to check the discussion group postings frequently and participate consistently in the discussion.

B. Practicing the Disciplines and Reflection (50pts) (slo 1,2,3)

During the term you will be given weekly opportunities to practice some of the spiritual disciplines that were practiced by Jesus and have been affirmed by religious traditions down through the ages. This experiential journey will enable you to participate in the following discipline of Service.

C. Practice of Outward Spiritual Disciplines within a Congregation: A Communal Plan for Service (100 pts) slo 3

Create a Congregational Plan - Drawing clearly and explicitly from these readings, develop a plan for corporate enacting the outward spiritual discipline of service within the context of the local church. (Consider development of a sermon series, a holistic discipleship process; or a ministry season for service individual and corporate).

Course Evaluation (Method of Determining Grade):

Although this one-hour course is a credit/noncredit class, grading within the class will be based on the following scale: Students will have the opportunity to accumulate up to 100 points during the semester. This is how they can be earned:

- o Blackboard Collaborate and Discussion Board Participation = 100 points
- o Weekly Journal = 100 points

To receive credit for the class, the student must earn 140 points or higher (70%). No grades will be given except credit or noncredit.

▪ University Grading System

A 90-100	I Incomplete**
B 80-89	W Withdrawal
C 70-79	WP Withdrawal Passing
D 60-69	WF Withdrawal Failing
F Below 60	

Procedure for computations of final grade

1. Attendance and Participation online	110 pts.	
2. Practicing Disciplines	50 pts.	
3. Congregational Plan for Outward Disciplines	<u>100 pts.</u>	
	Total 260 pts	Potential points

Actual points divided by total potential points = final grade

**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. A grade of "CR" indicates that credit in semester hours was granted but no grade or grade points were recorded.

- 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 Executive Vice President/Provost 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.

**RLGN 5114 Practicing the Outward Spiritual Disciplines
Tentative Schedule**

Week 1

Course Introduction

Week 2

Read: *Celebration of Discipline* Chapter 9

Week 3

Read: Sentness Page 7 – 43

Week 4

Read: Sentness 44 – 65

Week 5

Read: Sentness 66 – 86

Week 6

Sentness 87 – 109

Week 7

Read: Sentness 110 – 131

Week 8

Read: Sentness 132 - 153

Week 9

Read: Sentness 154 – 176

Week 10

Due: A Communal Plan for Service

Week 11

Course Evaluation