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Clovis/CAFB 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:**

MNST 5301 VC01 Spiritual Formation

**TERM:**

Fall 1, 2021

**INSTRUCTOR:**

Dr. Gary Mitchell

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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**COURSE MEETING TIME & LOCATION:**

Meeting day & time: Asynchronous, Virtual Campus

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

Introduction to specific habits and practices which encourage a vibrant Christian life and implementation of discipleship programs in the local church.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND RESOURCE MATERIAL:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **TITLE** | **AUTHOR** | **PUBLISHER** | **ED** | **YEAR** | **ISBN#** |
| The Believer’s Prayer Manual  | Gary Mitchell  | Redemption Press  |   | 2019 | 9781632328731 |
| Celebration of Discipline | Richard Foster | HarperCollins |  | 1998 | 9780060628391 |
| Principles of Spiritual Growth | Miles J. Stanford | Back to the Bible |  | 1982 | 9780847407392 |
| Prayer Journal Resource Materials | Gary Mitchell | WBU Bookstore |  | 2020 | n/a |

* *The Holy Bible*
* **Access to WBU Learning Resources:** Click on link at left entitled "Wayland Library"; Email Distance Librarian Sally Quiroz (lrcref@wbu.edu) about having books mailed to you.
* **Internet links:** See "Web Resources" tab.
* **Class message board:** See “Announcements” and "Discussion Board" tab.
* **Email:** All students will need to set up and use their Wayland student email account.

**COURSE OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCIES:** Students will be able to

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the traditional Christian disciplines.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the value of personal and congregational spiritual formation.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the various avenues for enhancing spiritual formation.

4. Demonstrate a better understanding of the spiritual growth disciplines of the Christian faith as well as the historical, biblical background and practical principles of prayer. Exams will be the chief instrument of measuring this competency.

5. Exhibit a comprehension of the biblical material that addresses issues of spiritual growth, prayer, and ministry involvement.

6. Critically evaluate a classic writing dealing with the principles and concepts of Christian spiritual growth.

In this course, your accomplishment of those outcomes will be assessed in the following ways. Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:

* Demonstrate an understanding of the principles and concepts discussed by the authors and the biblical materials by completing course projects related to spiritual disciplines.
* Evaluate and critique the principles and concepts of spiritual growth by doing an analytical review of a classic book on spiritual growth.
* Analyze the life and character of an outstanding Christian (or biblical) personality through the writing of a research paper.
* Deepen your own spiritual pilgrimage by developing a personal prayer journal.
* Apply biblical teachings and spiritual growth principles to your life through the personal projects and the research paper you select and complete.

**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:**

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. The course will be composed of class lectures, reading assignments, personal projects, outside research, films/videos and discussion during the semester.

2. **Reading Assignments:** Students will read chapters as listed in the schedule of readings and tests. Assigned textbook/Lecture Note readings as indicated in the schedule must be completed on a weekly basis in order for you to participate meaningfully in discussion board activities. Active participation in an online forum is measured by posting at least **four substantial comments** per forum. Comments may be replies to posted questions or to the responses of other students. Participation in discussion board forums will count for 25 points of the final grade.

3. **Tests:** There will be three major examinations, including the final, to be given at the end of each major section of material. The tests will not be cumulative, but will only cover the previous section of material.

4. **Written Assignments:** Students will turn in a 10-20 page (double-spaced), biographical research paper on a deeply spiritual Christian personality. The paper must include a minimum of five sources. References must be cited (in Turabian style). A title page and a bibliography are required but are not counted as part of the 7-10 pages. The paper will consist of three parts: biblical background/personal history of the personality; major contributions/significance or principles demonstrated by the personality; and personal application of the personality to writer's life. Late papers will be accepted, but may be penalized by a lower grade than what might have been given. **Due September 19**

5. **Book Review Critique:** Students will turn in a 3-5 page (double-spaced) evaluation and analysis of the book, *Principles of Spiritual Growth,* by Miles J. Stanford. The review will consist of a summary of the book’s contents, followed by an analysis of how beneficial the book and its principles are to a Christian’s spiritual growth. **Due September 5**

6. **Personal Prayer Journal:** Students will develop his or her own personal prayer journal, based primarily on materials received from the instructor via Wayland’s University Bookstore, but the student can also personalize the journal according to his or her spiritual insights and personal pilgrimage. **Due September 26**

7. **Personal Spiritual Discipline Projects:** Students will be given a choice of doing up to four personal and/or class projects, each worth up to 25 points, including: (1) developing a set Bible reading schedule and following it; (2) carrying out at least three extended prayer times of at least one hour in length (with one being two hours or more); (3) carrying out a three-day fast for a specified purpose; (4) developing a plan for discipling another fellow believer; (5) developing a plan and conducting that plan to share one's faith with another person who doesn't know Christ as Savior; (6) doing at least two inductive Bible studies; (7) maintaining a quiet time at least four times a week during the semester; (8) writing a three-page paper (not including its title page and bibliography page) on a Christian hero of the faith or about a specific spiritual growth principle or a biblical passage; (9) participating in a class project (assigned or approved by the instructor) with the idea that every class member has a significant contributing role; or (10) other projects as discussed and approved by the instructor. **Due September 26**

Grading will be based on the following scale: Students will have the opportunity to accumulate up to 500 points during the semester. This is how they can be earned:

 Exam No. 1 = 100 points

 Exam No. 2 = 100 points

 Final Exam = 100 points

 Book Review Critique = 50 points

 Research Paper = 50 points

 Prayer Journal = 25 points

 Discussion Board = 25 points

 Personal Projects = 25 points each (4)

 A student can do a fifth individual project worth up to 20 points for extra credit.

 The grading scale then would be as follows: A = 495-550 points; B = 440-494 points; C = 385-439 points; D = 330-384 points; and F = 329 and below.

##### University Grading System

 A 90-100 I INCOMPLETE\*\*

 B 80-89 Cr FOR CREDIT

 C 70-79 NCr NO CREDIT

 D 60-69 WP WITHDRAWAL PASSING

 F BELOW 60 WF WITHDRAWAL FAILING

 W WITHDRAWAL

\*\*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.

**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**

**Course Outline and Calendar**

The student is responsible for reading the assignments before the class session. The instructor reserves the right to give quizzes over the reading assignments at his discretion.

**Week 1 (August 9 – 15)**

 Introduction to Course/syllabus review

 The Spiritual Disciplines (Foster, 1-11)

**Lecture Notes:** Introduction/The Supernatural Power of Prayer/Necessity of Prayer & the Sin of Prayerlessness (Mitchell, Chaps. 1-3, pp. 9-36)

**Week 2 (August 16 – 22)**

The Inward Disciplines/Meditation/Prayer/Fasting/Study (Foster, 15-76)

 **Lecture Notes:** Jesus: Man of Prayer (Mitchell, Chap. 4, pp. 37-58)

 **Lecture Notes:** People of Prayer in the Bible (Mitchell, Chap. 5, pp. 59-80)

 **Week 3 (August 23 – 29)**

Outward Disciplines/Simplicity/Solitude/Submission/Service (Foster, 79-140)

EXAM / Work on book review and projects

**Week 4 (August 30 – September 5)**

Corporate Disciplines/Confession/Worship (Foster, 141-174)

**Lecture Notes:** People of Prayer in History (Mitchell, Chap. 6, pp. 81-92)

**Lecture Notes:** Prayer: Key to Spiritual Awakening (Mitchell, Chap. 7, pp. 93-116)

**Critical Book Review due by September 5**

 **Week 5 (September 6 – 12)**

Corporate Disciplines/Guidance/Celebration p (Foster, 175-201)

**Lecture Notes:** Hindrances to Answered Prayer/Principles of Prayer (Mitchell, Chaps. 8-9, pp. 117-141)

EXAM / Work on projects

**Week 6 (September 13 – 19)**

**Lecture Notes:** Components of Effective Prayer/Fasting & Prayer (Mitchell, Chaps. 10-11, pp. 142-183)

**Lecture Notes:** Special Modes of Prayer/How to Put Prayer to Work (Mitchell, Chaps. 12-13, pp. 184-217)

**Research Paper Due September 19**

**Week 7 (September 20 – 26)**

**Prayer Journal Report Due September 26**

 **Project Reports Due September 26**

**Week 8 (September 27 – October 2)**

**FINAL EXAM Due October 2**

**Course policies**:
***Respect*.** Because the university classroom is a place designed for the free exchange of ideas, we will frequently encounter the opinions of others which may seem novel and, occasionally, outlandish. We must show respect for one another in all circumstances. I will show respect for you by not belittling or ignoring you. You will show respect for me by giving attention to assignments. We will show respect for one another by exhibiting patience and courtesy in our exchanges.

***Student rights*.** Your rights as a student have been outlined in the current WBU catalogue. If you feel that your rights have been infringed upon in this class, please inform me. If you have a disability which will require particular attention on my part, you must inform me as soon as possible.