

**WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY**

**SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES**

**WBU ONLINE**

**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 and Number:** MNST 5301Spiritual Formation

**Term:** Fall 1 2023

**Name of Instructor:** Dr. Michael Dain

**Office Phone Number and WBU Email Address:** (806) 742-9537 [dainm@wbu.edu](mailto:dainm@wbu.edu)

**Office Hours, Building, and Location:** Lubbock Campus, Office #161 Tues, Wed, Thurs 10-12; 3-6 Wed. 10-12

**Class Meeting Time and Location:** Asynchronous online course

**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(s) and/or Resource Material:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Title** | **Editor/author** | **Publisher** | **Year** | **Ed** | **ISBN** |
| *Celebration of Discipline: the Path to Spiritual Growth* | Richard Foster | Harper San Francisco | 2018 |  | 9780062843555 |
| *Renovation of the Heart: Putting on the Character of Christ* | Dallas Willard | NavPress | 2002 |  | 1-57683-296-1 |
| *Kingdom Life: A Practical Theology of Discipleship and Spiritual Formation* | Allen Andrews, ed. | Nav Press | 2010 |  | 978-1-60006-280-3 |

**Course Outcome Competencies:**

1. Student will demonstrate knowledge of the traditional Christian disciplines.
2. Student will demonstrate an understanding of the value of personal and congregational spiritual formation.
3. Student will demonstrate knowledge of the various avenues for enhancing spiritual formation.
4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of broader research and writing in the study of spiritual formation.

**Attendance Requirements:** External Campuses

* + - * 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 dean. 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. A student may petition the Academic Council for exceptions to the above stated policies by filing a written request for an appeal to the provost/academic vice president.

**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.” (This statement is required on all university syllabi.)

**Course Requirements and Grading Criteria:**

* **Discussion:** Students will write a weekly discussion entry to discuss the readings from the required textbooks*.*  **Counts 20% of Final Grade**
* **Spiritual Disciplines Reports:** Each student will prepare **three** research type papers on three of the classical spiritual disciplines. More instructions come at the end of the syllabus. **Counts 30% of Final Grade (each paper is worth 10%)**
* **Annotated Bibliography:** Each student will prepare an annotated bibliography consisting of at least 15 sources. Your bibliography will consist of books that are spiritual formation classics or concern themselves with spiritual formation. This list should be alphabetical and enumerated. **Counts 20% of Final Grade**
* **Book Journal:** Graduate students will prepare a weekly book journal based on the weekly reading from Willard, *Renovation of the Heart*. This journal is posted each week on blackboard. **30% of Final Grade**
* **Procedure for computations of final grade** 
  + - Discussion: 20%
    - Spiritual discipline reports : 30%
    - Annotated bibliography: 20%
    - Book Journal 30%

100%

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.

**Tentative Schedule:**

| WEEK | READING ASSIGNMENT | ASSIGNMENT |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Week 1 | *COD* 1,2, *Kingdom Life* 10 |  |
| Week 2 | *COD* 3, *Kingdom Life* 9 |  |
| Week 3 | *COD* 4,5, *Kingdom Life* 8 |  |
| Week 4 | *COD 6,7*, *Kingdom Life* 1 |  |
| Week 5 | *COD* 8, *Kingdom Life* 2 | **Spiritual discipline report due** |
| Week 6 | *COD* 9, *Kingdom Life* 3,4 |  |
| Week 7 | *COD* 10,11, *Kingdom Life* 5,6 | **Prayer journal due** |
| Week 8 | *COD* 12,13, *Kingdom Life* 7 | **Spiritual discipline report due** |

**Additional Information:**

**Prayer/Devotional example:**

This devotional is one I prepared for a summer online church history course. This is the sort of thing I am looking for in your prayer/devotional journal.

There's and old cowboy song that I heard Tex Ritter sing many times called "Rounded up in Glory."  In one line of the song he sings that we are to be "known by the brand of the Lord."  How do people know that we "bear the brand of the Lord?"  Do we bear visible marks on our bodies that identify us as Christians?  Do we wear special clothing, or have tattoos?  Perhaps some do, if they wear t-shirts that have religious messages or maybe a necktie with a cross, or even a cross on a chain around their neck.  But what about those times we don't have such visible, outward signs?  Are we then indistinguishable from the greater crowd around us?

The Apostle Paul indicated in Galatians 6:17 that he bore on his body "the marks of Jesus."  We don't really know what he meant by that.  Roman Catholic tradition indicates that St. Francis of Assisi was the first recorded individual to have a "stigmata," a term which is a transliteration of the Greek word which Paul records in the Galatians passage. What about the rest of us? Do we need to bear some physical mark to identify us as Christians?

I think that we can be symbolically marked out as followers of Christ.  We can be differentiated from other in this world by what we do and how we live.  We can be bearers of the image of Jesus by being people who do the things that he did.  How can people know that we are Christians?  In John 13: 34-35 Jesus said *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.  By this all men will now you are my disciples if you love one another."* If we love one another and others in this world we will truly bear the marks of Jesus on our lives.

**Spiritual Discipline research report:**

You will choose three topics from the following list. Each of the three reports will be double-spaced, Times New Roman 11 or 12 point font. The paper will be at least three pages long and will include a bibliography list at the end of at least **4 sources**. You are not required to include direct quotations in your paper, but you cannot plagiarize. If you use a direct quote, you must reference it with a footnote.

List:  **Prayer, Fasting, Pilgrimage, Intercessory prayer, Meditation, organized Bible reading, Simplicity, Celebration/worship**