

WBU Online

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:

PHIL/THST 4330: Christian Ethics VC01

# **TERM**:

Fall 1, 2025

# **INSTRUCTOR**:

Dr. J. Jeffrey Tillman [Curriculum Vitae](http://24.153.147.19/online/Courses/JAMES%2520JEFFREY%2520TILLMAN.doc)

CONTACT INFORMATION: 940-448-0845-- james.tillman@wayland.wbu.edu

# **OFFICE HOURS, BUILDING & LOCATION**:

**Office Hours:** 3:00-6:00 PM M-Th

**Office Location:** 426 5th Ave., suite 7, Sheppard AFB, TX 76311

# **COURSE MEETING TIME & LOCATION**:

Virtual Campus course

# **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 TEXTBOOK AND RESOURCE MATERIAL**:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Title** | **Editor/Author** | **Publisher** | **Ed** | **Year** | **ISBN** |
| Introducing Christian Ethics | Wells, Quash, and Eklund, | Eerdmans | 2nd | 2017 | 9781119155720 |

**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.**

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in an online class prior to the census date for any given term is considered a "no-show" and will be administratively withdrawn from the class without record.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

**Academic Integrity**

[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),

No use of any generative AI tools permitted.

* + 1. 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.
    2. All assignments must be fully created, designed, and prepared by the student(s).
    3. 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**:

All assignments are due by 11:59 PM Saturday of the week they are assigned, except for the final week when all assignments are due by Friday. 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 Discussions: Each week there is a dedicated Discussion Question 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 discussion. 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 critical response to another student’s response. These should be criticisms of the student’s post in terms of how the student failed to address the question using the material from the textbook. 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 exploring the issue, particularly in terms of the competing Christian arguments that make the issue controversial. This assignment should be at least 15 pages in length and prepared in Turabian style according to the instructions and examples at this links: [SRP Turabian Style Guide](https://www.wbu.edu/academics/schools/school-of-christian-studies/documents/Revised-SRPWritingStyleGuide2016.pdf). Here is a link to an example of an analytic/evaluative papers: [Christian Ethics Paper Examples](http://wbuwf.com/online/Courses/RLGN4323/Christian%20Ethics%20example%20papers/). 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.](https://wbuwf.com/online/Courses/rswr3345/source_evaluation.pdf)  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. The final draft is due the last week 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.

# **GRADING CRITERIA**:

| Points for the Course | | | | | | Points |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Chapter Quizzes—10 points times 8 | | | | | | 80 points |
| Chapter Question Discussions—20 points times 8 | | | | | | 160 points |
| Research Project | | | | | |  |
|  | Paper Topic | | | 5 points | |  |
|  | Working bibliography and outline- | | | 10 points | |  |
|  | Research Paper | | | 100 points | |  |
|  |  | Total points for research project | |  |  | 115 points |
| Total points for course |  |  |  |  |  | 355 points |

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

A—319-355; B—284-318; C—248-283; D—213-247; F—0-212

# 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.

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.

# TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **All assignments are due no later than Saturday at 11:59 PM C.S.T. of the week that they are listed as due, except for the last week, when all assignments are due by Friday at 11:59 PM C.S. T.** | | |
| Dates | **Wells Readings** | Assignments Due |
| **Week 1 –** August 11-16 | Chapters 1-2 | Professor Information Quiz  Chapters 1-2 Question Discussion  Chapters 1-2 Quiz |
| **Week 2 –** August 17-23 | Chapters 3-4 | Chapters 3-4 Question Discussion  Chapters 3-4 Quiz  Research topic due |
| **Week 3 –** August 24-30 | Chapters 5-6 | Chapters 5-6 Question Discussion  Chapters 5-6 Quiz |
| **Week 4-** August 31-September 6 | Chapters 7-8 | Chapters 7-8 Question Discussion  Chapters 7-8 Quiz |
| **Week 5**-September 7-13 | Chapter 9 | Chapter 9 Question Discussion  Chapter 9 Quiz  Working Bibliography and outline due |
| **Week 6 –** September 14-20 | Chapter 10 | Chapter 10 Question Discussion  Chapter 10 Quiz |
| **Week 7-** September 21-27 | Chapter 11 | Chapter 11 Question Discussion  Chapter 11 Quiz |
| **Week 8 –** September 28-October4 | Chapter 12 | Chapter 12 Question Discussion  Chapter 12 Quiz  Research Paper Due |