

**WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY**

**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 Title and Number: PHIL/THST5330 VC01 CHRISTIANETHICS

# Term: Fall 1 2025

Instructor**:**  J. Jeffrey Tillman--

Office Phone Number and WBU Email Address**:**

* **Phone:** 940-448-0845
* **Email:** james.tillman@wayland.wbu.edu

Office Hours, Building, and Location**:**

* **Office Hours:** 3:00-6:00 PM M-Th
* **Office Location:** 426 5th Ave., Suite 7, Sheppard AFB, TX 76311

Class Meeting Time and Location**:** Virtual Campus

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

Prerequisites**:** *None*

Required Textbook(s) and/or Resource Material:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Title** | **Editor/Author** | **Publisher** | **Ed** | **Year** | **ISBN** |
| *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Ethics* | Robin Gill, ed. | Cambridge | 2nd | 2021 | 978-0-521-16483-2 |

\* 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.

4. Reflect critically on one’s own performance and other students’ performance in the course.

5. Research a specific issue in Christian ethics.

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in an online class prior to the census date for any given term is considered a "no-show" and will be administratively withdrawn from the class without record.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 last week of the term when they are due on Friday. All uploaded documents, including the paper, should be submitted as word document files and in Turabian format.

Chapter Discussion Questions: Each week there is a discussion question assigned over the chapters assigned from the book. Each question should have an answer of at least 400 words, but many questions will require more words for complete credit. The student should reflect on the question primarily in terms of the content of the book, attempting to synthesize the content while critically reflecting on it. 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 content of the textbook. These assignments are worth 20 points each.

Response to professor’s response to discussion questions. Each student should post a reaction to my comments on his/her discussion questions for the previous week. The student should begin with a summary of what my statement is that he/she is responding to. These are due the week after the respective discussion is due and are worth 10 points apiece.

Research Project: This project is a written analysis of an ethical issue. The student should gather relevant research material to address the importance and complexity of the issue. Specific attention should be given to a presentation of the competing Christian arguments involved and their evaluation. This assignment should be at least 20 pages in length and prepared in Turabian style according to the instructions at these university link: [Link](https://www.wbu.edu/academics/schools/school-of-christian-studies/documents/Revised-SRPWritingStyleGuide2016.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](https://wbuwf.com/online/Courses/rswr3345/source_evaluation.pdf). The specific topic should be submitted to the designated discussion board by the first week, and later reviewed for the professor’s comments. This is worth 5 points. A working bibliography and paper outline should be uploaded to the designated discussion board by the end of the third week and is worth 10 point. See this link for the rubric according to which the assignment will be graded: [Rubric](http://wbuwf.com/online/Courses/RLGN5323/RLGN5323PaperRubric.docx). The research paper is due the last Friday of the term 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 Question Discussion Boards—20 points times 8 160 points

Response to my comments—10 points times 7 70 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 345 points

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

A—311-345; B—276-310; C—242-275; D—207-241; F—206-0

# 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.

# Course Outline and Calendar

All assignments, unless otherwise stated, are due on the Saturday of the week they are assigned at 11.59 P.M. C.S.T. The major exception is the last week, when assignments are due by 11:59 PM CST Friday of that week.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Dates | **Gill Readings**  **Chapters** | **Assignments Due** |
| **Week 1 –** August 11-16 | 1-2 | Chapter Discussion Questions  Research topic due |
| **Week 2 –** August 17-23 | 3-4 | Chapter Discussion Questions  Response to my comments |
| **Week 3 –** August 24-30 | 5-6 | Chapter Discussion Questions  Response to my comments  Working Bibliography and outline due |
| **Week 4-** August 31-September 6 | 7-8 | Chapter Discussion Questions  Response to my comments |
| **Week 5**-September 7-13 | 9-10 | Chapter Discussion Questions  Response to my comments |
| **Week 6 –** September 14-20 | 11-12 | Chapter Discussion Questions  Response to my comments |
| **Week 7-** September 21-27 | 13-14 | Chapter Discussion Questions  Response to my comments |
| **Week 8 –** September 28-October4 | 15-16 | Chapter Discussion Questions  Response to my comments    Research Paper due |