**WBU Flame Logo

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**WBU ONLINE**

**School of Christian Studies**

**Wayland Baptist 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 Prefix, Number, & Name/Title: THST 5160 Readings in Christian Spirituality: Bonhoeffer**

**Term and Year: Fall 1 2025**

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

**Office Phone and WBU Email Address: Office 806-742-9537 email dainm@wbu.edu**

**Office Hours, Building, and Location:** Conference hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10-12: and 4-6 CST Lubbock Campus 801 N. Quaker Ave. WBU online students can request a zoom session if face to face is preferred to email

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

**Catalog Description:** Introduction to one or more spiritual disciplines of the Christian life, discussed and practiced within a weekly spiritual formation small group.

**Prerequisite:**

**Required Textbook and Resources**:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Title** | **Editor/Author** | **Publisher** | **Ed** | **Year** | **ISBN** |
| *Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Christian Community* | Dietrich Bonhoeffer | Harper One | 1 | 1954 | ‎ 978-0060608521 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

**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.**

**Optional Materials:**

 A study guide for *Life Together* will be available as word file on blackboard

**Course Outcome Competencies**:

1. Understand, describe, and incorporate the spiritual benefits of corporate spiritual disciplines of the Christian faith.

2. Demonstrate an appreciation that Christianity is a way of life, not merely a set of beliefs or

values, by the sharing of practical examples in daily life.

3. Reflect on how the corporate spiritual disciplines within community can impact and enhance their lives and ministry.

**Attendance Requirements**: WBU Online

1. Attendance for WBUonline courses is defined fully in the university catalog:

<http://catalog.wbu.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=80#Class_Attendance_-_Online>

2. Students are expected to participate in all required instructional activities in their courses.

3. Student “attendance” in an online course is defined as active participation in the course as described in the course syllabus.

4. Students aware of necessary absences must inform the professor with as much advance notice as possible in order to make appropriate arrangements.

5. Any student absent 25 percent or more of the online course, i.e., non-participatory during 2 or more weeks of an 8 week term, may receive an F for that course.

6. 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.

7. 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.

**STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM & ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

Please click on this 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) to understand policies concerning plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. All work must be the work of the student. In addition to normal means of plagiarism, the following policy concerning AI generated works also applies:

* + 1. No use of any generative AI tools permitted. 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.
* All assignments must be fully created, designed, and prepared by the student(s).
* 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 and Grading Criteria:**

**Discussion Board: Weekly discussion and interaction with the reading is a major portion of this course. Weekly discussions will follow the reading schedule and include your substantive interaction with all students in the course. Discussion board is worth 50% of the course grade.**

**Reflective Essay: Students will complete a reflective essay discussing the importance of corporate spiritual disciplines. The essay should incorporate reflections on *Life Together* and at least 3 other writings that deal with corporate spiritual disciplines. The reflective essay is worth 50% of the final grade.**

**Discussion board 50%**

**Reflective essay 50%**

**Students must earn 70% to earn credit for the course. The course is pass/fail for credit.**

**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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| Week | Topic(s) | Readings | Assignments Due |
| 1 | Community | Introduction; chpt 1: 1-26 LT  study guide and pages 1-4 | Discussion Board 1 |
| 2 | Community | LT Chapter 1: 27-39  Study guide pages 4-5 | Discussion Board 2 |
| 3 | Day with others | LT Chapter 2: 40-57  Study guide 5-6 | Discussion Board 3 |
| 4 | Day with others | LT chapter 2 58-75  Study guide 6-7 | Discussion Board 4 |
| 5 | Day alone | LT chapter 3  Study guide 7-8 | Discussion Board 5 |
| 6 | Ministry | LT chapter 4: 90-100  Study guide 8-9 | Discussion Board 6 |
| 7 | Ministry | LT chapter 4: 100-109  Study guide 8-9 | Discussion Board 7  **Reflective Essay due** |
| 8 | Confession and Communion | LT chapter 5  Study guide 9-10 | Discussion Board 8 |