

**WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY**

**SCHOOL OF RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY**

**WBUONLINE**

**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**: RLGN 4302 – Christian Theology

**Term**: Fall 2018

**Name of Instructor**: Dr. Hal N. Ostrander, Online Professor of Religion & Philosophy

**Office Phone Number & WBU Email Address**: 478-278-4066; [hcamas2004@yahoo.com](mailto:hcamas2004@yahoo.com)

**Class Meeting Time & Location**: Online class; August 20 – November 3

**Catalog Description**: Research in the nature, source, and scope of the doctrines of Christianity. Prerequisite(s): [RLGN 1301](http://catalog.wbu.edu/search_advanced.php?cur_cat_oid=7&search_database=Search&search_db=Search&cpage=1&ecpage=1&ppage=1&spage=1&tpage=1&location=3&filter%5Bkeyword%5D=Christian+Theology#tt4675) or [RLGN 1303](http://catalog.wbu.edu/search_advanced.php?cur_cat_oid=7&search_database=Search&search_db=Search&cpage=1&ecpage=1&ppage=1&spage=1&tpage=1&location=3&filter%5Bkeyword%5D=Christian+Theology#tt5316) [OT maj/min], and [RLGN 1302](http://catalog.wbu.edu/search_advanced.php?cur_cat_oid=7&search_database=Search&search_db=Search&cpage=1&ecpage=1&ppage=1&spage=1&tpage=1&location=3&filter%5Bkeyword%5D=Christian+Theology#tt8850) or [RLGN 1304](http://catalog.wbu.edu/search_advanced.php?cur_cat_oid=7&search_database=Search&search_db=Search&cpage=1&ecpage=1&ppage=1&spage=1&tpage=1&location=3&filter%5Bkeyword%5D=Christian+Theology#tt8007) [NT maj/min].

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

* *Theology for the Community of God*, by Stanley J. Grenz; Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company (2000); ISBN-10: 0802847552.
* *Who Needs Theology? An Invitation to the Study of God*, by Stanley J. Grenz and Roger E. Olson; IVP Academic (1996); ISBN-10: 0830818782

**NOTE**: If you have not taken ***RLGN 0001 Theological Research and Writing Lab***, it would be in your **best interest** to enroll this term. The class teaches you how to carry out research on theological topics and, most importantly, the **proper format** in which the paper must be written. Neither APA nor MLA will be accepted.

**Course Outcome Competencies:**

1. Demonstrate knowledge of major doctrinal positions, including identification of relevant biblical passages, chief exponents, and key theological terms.
2. Articulate clearly his/her own personal beliefs in relation to historic Christian doctrines.
3. Identify meaningful ways to relate theology to the ministry of the church.

**Attendance Requirements:**

Students are expected to participate in all required instructional activities in their courses. Online courses are no different in this regard; however, participation must be defined differently.

Student “attendance” in an online course is defined as *active participation* in the course as described in the course syllabus. Instructors in online courses are responsible for providing students with clear instructions for how they are required to participate in the course. Additionally, instructors are responsible for incorporating specific instructional activities within their course and will, at a minimum, have weekly mechanisms for documenting student participation. These mechanisms may include, but are not limited to, participating in a weekly discussion board, submitting assignments in Blackboard, or communicating with the instructor.

Students aware of necessary absences must inform the professor with as much advance notice as possible in order to make appropriate arrangements. ***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* [and likely WILL] *receive an F for that course***. Instructors may also file a **Report of Unsatisfactory Progress (ROUP)** 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***. Additional attendance and participation policies for each course, as defined by the instructor in the course syllabus, are considered a part of the university’s attendance policy.

**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:** [***\*DETAILS FOLLOW IN THE SYLLABUS!*]**

1. **Book Analysis\*** 75 pts
2. **Mid-term examination\***  100 pts
3. **Research Paper\*** 100 pts
4. **Final Examination**\* 100 pts
5. **Class participation in Discussion Boards\*** (10 pts per DB) 90 pts
6. **Readings Report\*** (Maximum additional) 20 pts

**TOTAL 485 pts**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY* | | | |
| 1 - w/o\* Aug 20 | **L1**: *The Nature, Sources, and Scope of Theology* | *^TCG*, Intro | ***+****DB1* |
| 2 - w/o Aug 27 | **L2**: *God, Revelation, and Creation* | *TCG*, 1-2, 4-7 | *DB2* |
| 3 - w/o Sep 3 | **L3**: *The Person of Christ* | *TCG*, 9-11 | *DB3* |
| 4 - w/o Sep 10 | **L4**: *The Work of Christ* **Book Analysis due *Sep 15*** | *TCG*, 12 | *DB4* |
| 5 - w/o Sep 17 | **MIDTERM EXAMINATION** | | |
| 6 - w/o Sep 24 | **L5**: *The Holy Spirit* | *TCG*, 13-14 | *DB5* |
| 7 - w/o Oct 1 | **L6**: *Salvation* | *TCG,* 15-16 | *DB6* |
| 8 - w/o Oct 8 | **L7**: *The Nature of the Church* | *TCG,* 17-18 | *DB7* |
| 9 - w/o Oct 15 | **L8**: *The Mission of the Church*  **Research Paper due *Oct 20*** | *TCG*, 19-20 | *DB8* |
| 10 - w/o Oct 22 | **L9**: *Eschatology* | *TCG*, 21-24 | *DB9* |
| 11 - w/o Oct 29 | **FINAL EXAMINATION** | | |
| ^*TCG* = Grenz, *Theology for the Community of God* and assigned chapters  *\* = week of + = Discussion Board (DB)* | | | |

**Schedule of** **Topics, Readings, Examinations, and Assignments:**

**Course Evaluation (Method of Determining Grade):**

**Of a TOTAL of 485 possible points**:

A 485-437 points I INCOMPLETE \*\*

B 436-388 points WP WITHDRAWAL PASSING

C 387-340 points WF WITHDRAWAL FAILING

D 339-291 points W WITHDRAWAL

F BELOW 291 points

\*\*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.

**Plagiarism: Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, forgery, or plagiarism. Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work. It is the student’s responsibility to be familiar with penalties associates with plagiarism stated in the catalog.**

**Plagiarism can be avoided for the most part simply by citing your sources. In this class, you will be writing a research paper. Research involves necessarily searching through various sources for the information in your paper. Again, just cite the source and you will not be guilty of plagiarism.**

More about sources, paper requirements, etc., on the following pages!

**RLGN 4302 –** **CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY**

***GUIDELINES FOR BOOK ANALYSIS***

These guidelines are to be used in preparing your analysis of *Who Needs Theology? An Invitation to the Study of God*, by Grenz and Olson. Carefully consider each directive as the analysis progresses.

* **General:**

The paper shall be at least ***2,000*** *but no more than* ***2,500 words***, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt font, based on information found in your reading. For matters of style and form, consult WBU’s *Digest of Writing* or, for more detail, Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations,* 7th ed. As religion students, you must follow this format. Remember, APA or MLA will NOT be accepted for any assignment!!

***Due date: End of the day, SATURDAY, SEP 15***

* **Substantive:**

It should be descriptive in approach, that is, describe what you are reading. Focus on the thinking and conclusions of Grenz and Olson. As you write, select quotes which adequately characterize what they are trying to present and/or propose about theology. To reference the quote, simply put page numbers in parentheses at the end of the sentence (76). What about the categories of "dogma, doctrine, and opinion"? Above all, what is the answer to the question *Who Needs Theology?*

However, a book review means that you interact with the author (s). Where do you think they are

right? Wrong? What do they not cover adequately? What do they fail to explain to your satisfaction? Based on previous readings and/or information from other courses, etc., how are their conclusions similar or different?

Because none of us is a theological scholar, you must check out what other reviewers may have written about this book and the authors’ conclusions. To do so, visit the Wayland LRC (use link below) and look for other book reviews. Most scholarly journals contain these sorts of reviews, too, if you have them nearby. Please reference informally, in parentheses, the various other reviewers you read.

In your concluding comments identify at least three, but no more than five, meaningful ways to relate theology *to the ministry of the church*.

* **Wayland Baptist University LRC:**

WBU has an extensive library with terrific personnel ready to help in any way. Please ask the library about anything you need. They are there to help!

I have had excellent results with our library. They will find and mail a book to you, post-paid with free return! And, they’ll email an article to you complete with proper documentation!

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| [Find Books](http://www.wbu.edu/academics/academic_resources/wayland_learning_resource_center_library/find/books.html) | [Find Articles](http://www.wbu.edu/academics/academic_resources/wayland_learning_resource_center_library/find/articles.html) | [Ask a librarian](http://www.wbu.edu/academics/academic_resources/wayland_learning_resource_center_library/forms/ask.asp) | [Tutorials on how to use the website.](http://www.wbu.edu/academics/academic_resources/wayland_learning_resource_center_library/tutorials/tutorials.html) |

**RLGN 4302 –** **CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY**

***GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH PAPER***

These guidelines are to be used in preparing your Research Paper.Carefully consider each directive as the review progresses.

* General:

The paper shall be at least 3,000 words but no more than 4,000 words, double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt font, based on information found from your research. For matters of style and form, consult WBU’s *Digest of Writing* orKate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th ed. As religion students, you must follow this format. *APA or MLA will NOT be accepted for any assignment!*

***Due date: End of the day, SATURDAY, OCT 20***

* Substantive:

The research paper focuses on a particular issue related to theological development. Like the book review, it should be *descriptive* in approach that is, describe the issue or doctrine assigned from a *theological perspective*.

Sources are absolutely essential. Select them with great care; they *must be* of a scholarly nature and support your topic. Be sure to utilize and cite sources that specifically address the topic directly, not indirectly. *Your textbook* is a key source – use it! The Bible, albeit, is *the* source of theological study, but will *not count* as a source.

The following TOPIC is the assignment for EVERYONE in the course:

THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD:

A BIBLICAL, HISTORICAL AND THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

*Please use the exact phrase above as the title to your paper*. Also, be sure that you address each of these aspects of the providence of God; these three will serve as *formal sections* within the paper.

**➊ For the BIBLICAL section of the paper**, provide a thorough interpretation of **Gen 22:14**, which is *the* foundational verse for biblical providence. In the NT, do the same for another key passage, **Rom 11:36**. *You must use at least* ***three commentaries*** *per passage*.

**➋ For the HISTORICAL section of the paper**, be sure to discuss the follow historical figures and their view of divine providence:

* + **Augustine**, *The City of God* (online at CCEL,

<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/npnf102.html>

* + **John Calvin**, *The Institutes* (online at CCEL, <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/calvin/institutes/>

**➌ For the SYSTEMATIC section of the paper**, *select* ***only one*** *of the following*: providence and faith, providence and creation, or providence and preservation, and formulate your systematic response based on what you discovered in the ***biblical section*** and with insights from the ***historical section***. I will be looking for one of those phrases followed by its definition and how it relates to your study.

FOR INSIGHTS INTO AUGUSTINE AND CALVIN (above), please see the books and articles section below. Farley’s book\* will provide you with a good overview of their respective positions on the doctrine of providence.

The WBU Library can find Farley’s book or any of the others regardless of how many of you may request it. They will simply find the book at other libraries and mail it to you. The service is FREE and the return postage provided. NO EXCUSES for not locating books or articles will be accepted.

FOR A THOROUGH LIST OF BOOKS AND ARTICLES that will be helpful in writing your paper, click on the following link: <http://timmybrister.com/2006/05/bibliography-the-providence-of-god/>. Here you will find 88 books and 56 articles! What a goldmine!

This list is not a set of “easy” reads. It does, however, provide you with some key sources you may choose to use in your paper. In particular, try:

* Berkhouwer, G.C. *The Providence of God*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1952.
* Farley, Benjamin W. *The Providence of God*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1988.
* George, Timothy. “Providence” in *Holman Bible Dictionary*. ed. Trent C. Butler, Nashville: Holman, 1991.
* Helm, Paul. *The Providence of God*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1993.
* Parker, T.H.L. “Providence of God,” in *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*. ed. Walter A. Elwell. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1984.
* Vanhoozer, Kevin J. “Providence” in *Dictionary for Theological Interpretation of the Bible*. ed. Kevin J. Vanhoozer. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005.

***Please begin with your TEXTBOOK first.***

***Then, go the DICTIONARIES for a concise look at providence.***

A few other **VERY IMPORTANT** matters:

* As noted above, all sources must be properly cited and comply with WBU’s *Digest of Writing Instructions for Papers and Research Projects in the Division of Religion & Philosophy*. The WBU *Digest of Writing Instructions for Papers and Research Projects* may be accessed at:
* <https://tinyurl.com/yby7bgr6>

You may find the following links to be helpful for researching, structuring, and writing the paper:

* <http://www.bartleby.com/141/> (Strunk & White, *The Elements of Style*)
* <http://www.crivoice.org/exegesisformat.html>

The following sources may ***NOT*** be used in this paper\*:

* *Wikipedia*
* *Theopedia*

\**You may use them, however, to get ideas about the structure or outline of your paper!*

The following will be ***heavily* considered** when determining the paper’s grade:

* ***FORM*** – how the preliminary parts, text, and reference matters within the paper adhere to acceptable scholarly standards as noted above *(you will be double-spacing these pages).* **25 points**
* ***STYLE*** – how the paper complies with proper rules of grammar, syntax, punctuation, and spelling. **25 points**
* ***CONTENT*** – how the paper addresses relevant, scholarly data related to the topic. Included here will be the adequate and judicious use of sources and the length of the text. **40 points**
* ***PUNCTUALITY*** – late papers will be penalized 10 points per week –*no exceptions for any reason, starting with* ***day one, minute one****.*  **10 points**

**RLGN 4302** **–** **CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY**

***INFORMATION FOR DISCUSSION BOARDS***

**Discussion Boards (DBs)** will be provided for nine weeks, every week except the weeks of the midterm and final examinations. At 10 points each, the total points to earn are 90. The grade will be assessed as follows:

* Responded directly to question 4
* Provided substantive comments 4
* Utilized good grammar and style 2

As a senior level course, substantive comments are required for each DB. Substantive much will be expected, much more than a few sentences and much, much more than a simple, non-reflective answer.

You will also be expected to compose, read, and re-read your comments for sense, accuracy, spelling, grammar, and matters of style. So, when you compose a response, put some thought into it. Sometimes posts are written at the last minute with little thought. DBs are informal in nature, but some good thinking is needed with respect to your comments, all with good form.

What will be looked for? Specifically, to see if you **ANSWER THE QUESTION(S).** That may sound obvious, but students often “beat around the bush” and respond to issues but not the question(s) per se. *So, make certain you answer the question(s) posed in the posted DB.*

As for word count, more than a few sentences are needed as noted above; to be more specific, let’s go with **350 - 400 words**. And, yes, they will be counted.

**DBs are scheduled to closed at the end of seven days**. For this course, that will be on Sundays at the end of the day. You are encouraged to make your responses on time.

**RLGN 4302** **–** **CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY**

***INFORMATION FOR EXAMINATIONS***

There will be ***TWO* *PROCTORED EXAMS*** – a midterm and a final:

* **The midterm exam** is available *throughout the week of* ***SEPTEMBER 17***closing end of the day ***SEPTEMBER 22*** and will cover the material from all previous lectures.
* **The final exam** is available *throughout the week of* ***OCTOBER 29*** closing end of the day ***NOVEMBER 3*** and will cover all lecture material *since* the midterm.

Both exams will have twenty-five *objective* questions, each worth four points; exams will be taken **on Blackboard with a proctor**.

You will have a total of ***90 minutes*** to complete the exam. Any time over and above 90 minutes will be penalized as follows\*:

* 91-95 minutes two points deducted
* 96-100 minutes four points deducted
* 101-105 minutes five points deducted
* 106-110 minutes seven points deducted
* 111 minutes and above ten points deducted

\* This means, of course, that you will *NOT* be kicked off Blackboard when the 90-minute time passes. Your time will be simply noted in order to assess any penalties.

Makeup exams will be permitted ONLY for excused absences, and ONLY if the student contacts the professor prior to the exam (except in emergency situations).

A **STUDY GUIDE** will be provided for both exams. Look through your lecture notes and answer those questions as succinctly and objectively as you can. While my formal lectures are NOT permitted during the test, you may consult your own answers to the **STUDY GUIDE**.

**There is an important aspect of taking exams mentioned directly below;**

**do not overlook it and get it done as soon as you can.**



**HOW DOES ONE FIND AND SECURE A PROCTOR?**

You must secure your own **WBU-authorized PROCTOR**. In order to do so, please click on the link: <http://www.wbu.edu/academics/online_programs/proctor/proctorrequest.htm> and follow the simple instructions.

**Please do not delay doing this**. This time for the exam will come around sooner than you think and you MUST be ready! *He who hath ears, let him hear!*

**RLGN 4302** **–** **CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY**

***READINGS REPORT***

These guidelines are to be used in preparing your **Readings Report** at the end of the term. Please bear in mind this assignment is worth a **maximum of 20 points**.

It is simple to report: **NOT LATER THAN OCT 30**, send me an email with the subject line containing the words **READINGS REPORT** (all caps).

Then, in the body of the email, list *in proper form*, a bibliography of the book(s) or articles) [see below], the pages you read from each *individual book or article* (162-177), and the resulting total of pages (total 15 pages) from that particular book or article. Finally, in two or three sentences, summarize the main idea in each of the sections/chapters you read. For example:

1. Stiver, Dan. *Life Together in the Way of Jesus Christ: An Introduction to Christian Theology*. Waco: Baylor University Press, 2008. I read pages 335-349 for a total of 15 pages. Stiver’s topic is sanctification discussed in the chapter on salvation. He describes how a person with the new birth should progress in the faith and the importance of filling of the Spirit for empowerment, the biblical passages in Acts, and maturity and growth in the Spirit.

Follow suit for each additional reading you choose. NOTE: You do not have to read an entire book or article. Simply select a chapter or section that interests you and report those readings.

**For every 50 pages you read**, you will receive **2 additional points** on your final grade, to a **maximum of 20 points**. ***These points may prove to be critical for a grade of A.***

**Readings List**

Class, this readings list offers only a sample of the varied subjects and viewpoints in Christian theology. Some are classics and some recent. Pick and choose and have fun reading and reporting!

Baker, Charles F. *A Dispensational Theology.* Grand Rapids: Grace Bible College Publications,1971.

Ultradispensational.

Barth, Karl. *Church Dogmatics*. 5 Vols. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1936, 77. Neoorthodox.

Berkof, Hendrikus. *Christian Faith*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1979. Reformed.

Bloesch, Donald G. *Essentials of Evangelical Theology*. 2 vols. New York: Harper & Row, 1978-79.

Neoevangelical.

Brunner, Emil. *Dogmatics*. 3 vols. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1959-62. Neoorthodox.

Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. Ed. by John T. McNeill, 2 vols. Philadelphia:

Westminster Press, 1936. Conservative, Reformed, a classic.

Frame, John M. *The Doctrine of God: A Theology of Lordship*. Phillipsburg, N.J.: P&R Publishing, 2002.

Reformed, conservative covenant perspective. Interacts with philosophy of religion.

Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Grand Rapids:

Zondervan, 1994. Conservative, Arminian, Charismatic.

Enns, Paul P. *The Moody Handbook of Theology*. Chicago: Moody, 1989. Conservative,

Dispensational, Moderate Calvinist, Premillennial.

Erickson, Millard. *Christian Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1983. Conservative, non-dispensational,

premillennial.

Hodge, Charles. *Systematic Theology*. 3 vols. New York: Scribners, 1877. Eerdmans offers a reprint,

3 vols. Reformed, Postmillennial, Conservative.

Horton, Michael. T*he Christian Faith: A Systematic Theology for Pilgrims on the Way*. Grand Rapids:

Zondervan, 2011. Postmodern and interdenominational interactions

McGrath, Alister E. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. Wiley-Blackwell; 5th ed., 2010. British,

evangelical, interacts with philosophy.

Pannenberg, Wolfhart. *An Introduction to Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991.

Succinct introduction to Pannenberg’s massive 3-volume systematics (if you care to read those, too!).

Reymond, Robert L. *A New Systematic Theology of the Christian Faith*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson,

1998.

Stiver, Dan. *Life Together in the Way of Jesus Christ: An Introduction to Christian Theology*. Waco:

Baylor University Press, 2008. A modern Baptist perspective

There is great difference between the wisdom of an enlightened and devout man and the learning of a well-read and brilliant scholar, for the knowledge which flows down from divine sources is much nobler than that laboriously acquired by human industry.

--Thomas á Kempis, *The Imitation of Christ*, 3:31

**The End**