

**WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES
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: THST 5302 Christian Theology

Term: Fall 2019

Name of Instructor: Dr. Ben D. Craver, Professor of Christian Studies

Office Phone Number and WBU Email Address: 210-826-7595; craverb@wbu.edu

Office Hours, Building, and Location: Office at 11550 IH 35 North; San Antonio, Texas
Hours: Mondays and Tuesdays, 2:00pm – 6:00pm.

Class Meeting Time and Location: Online class

Catalog Description: Research in the nature, source, and scope of the doctrines of Christianity.

Required Textbook(s) and/or Resource Material:

- *Theology for the Community of God*, by Stanley J. Grenz; Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company (2000); ISBN-13: 978-0802847553.
- *A Little Book for New Theologians: Why and How to Study Theology*, by Kelly M. Kopic; IVP Academic (2012); ISBN-13: 978-0830839759
- *Death and the Afterlife: Biblical Perspectives on Ultimate Questions*, by Paul R. Williamson; IVP Academic (2018); ISBN: 978-0830826452

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.
4. Research and write a major paper on an assigned theological topic, to include biblical, historical, and systematic theological applications.

Attendance Requirements: My expectation is that all students participate in all required instructional activities in their courses. Online courses are no different in this regard; however, the University defines participation in a different manner. **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 have, at a minimum, 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.

PLEASE NOTE: No student who fails to submit ALL assignments will pass this course. If, for example, you completed all assignments except the book analysis and have perfect scores on all of it, you will receive a grade of F. ***Something is always better than nothing.***

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 simply 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:

1. Syllabus Exam, “What does the syllabus say?”	50 pts
2. Participation in Discussion Boards*	(10 pts per DB) 90 pts
3. Book Analysis*	75 pts
4. Midterm examination*	100 pts
5. Research Paper*	100 pts
6. Final Examination*	100 pts
	TOTAL 515 pts

* Detailed information on how to complete these assignments follows in the syllabus.

Schedule of Topics, Readings, Examinations, and Assignments:

CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY			
1 - w/o 19 Aug	L1: The Nature, Sources, and Scope of Theology	TCG, Intro	DB1
2 - w/o 26 Aug	L2: God, Revelation, and Creation SYLLABUS EXAM	TCG, 1-2, 4-7	DB2
3 - w/o 2 Sept	L3: The Person of Christ	TCG, 9-11	DB3
4 - w/o 9 Sept	L4: The Work of Christ Book Analysis due 15 Sept	TCG, 12	DB4
5 - w/o 16 Sept	MIDTERM EXAMINATION		
6 - w/o 23 Sept	L5: The Holy Spirit	TCG, 13-14	DB5
7 - w/o 30 Sept	L6: Salvation	TCG, 15-16	DB6
8 - w/o 7 Oct	L7: The Nature of the Church	TCG, 17-18	DB7
9 - w/o 14 Oct	L8: The Mission of the Church Research Paper due 20 Oct	TCG, 19-20	DB8
10 - w/o 21 Oct	L9: Eschatology	TCG, 21-24	DB9
11 - w/o 28 Oct	FINAL EXAMINATION		
TCG = Grenz, Theology for the Community of God and assigned chapters w/o = week of DB = Discussion Board			

Course Evaluation (Method of Determining Grade)

Of a TOTAL of **515** possible points:

A	515-464 points	I	INCOMPLETE**
B	463-412 points	WP	WITHDRAWAL PASSING
C	411-360 points	WF	WITHDRAWAL FAILING
D	359-309 points	W	WITHDRAWAL
F	BELOW 309 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. Academic 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 associated with plagiarism stated in the catalog.

You can avoid plagiarism 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 won't be guilty of plagiarism. More about sources, paper requirements, etc., on the following pages.

**THST 5302—CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY
GUIDELINES FOR BOOK ANALYSIS**

These guidelines are to be used in preparing your analysis of *Death and the Afterlife: Biblical Perspectives on Ultimate Questions*, by Paul R. Williamson. Carefully consider each directive as the analysis progresses.

- **General:**

The paper shall be at least **2,400 but no more than 2,700 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, SUNDAY, 15 SEPT

- **Substantive:**

It should be descriptive in approach that is, describe what you're reading. Focus on the thinking and conclusions of Williamson. As you write, select **quotes** which adequately characterize what he is trying to present and/or propose about death and the afterlife. To reference the quote, simply put page numbers in parentheses at the end of the sentence (76).

More specifically, compose your descriptions in terms of the six divisions Williamson uses for the book. For example, Part 5 is entitled, "Hell—the ultimate holocaust?" Describe the chapter appropriately for the analysis, but be especially certain that you respond the question he raises; i.e., "Is hell the ultimate holocaust?" What does Williamson think? What do you think? Follow suite on the other five chapters as well.

However, a book review means that **you interact critically with the author**. In the overall picture, where do you think he is right? Wrong? What does he not cover adequately? What does he fail to explain to your satisfaction? Based on previous readings and/or information from other courses, etc., how are his conclusions similar or different?

Because none of us is a theological scholar, you must read what **other reviewers may have written about this book and the author's conclusions**. Enter as a footnote and in a bibliography any of these reviews. To find them, visit the Wayland LRC and look for other book reviews. Most scholarly journals contain these sorts of reviews which the LRC will have available.

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

NOTE: WBU has a terrific library with terrific personnel ready to help in any way. Please ask the library about anything you need. 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!

**THST 5302—CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY
GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH PAPER**

Use these guidelines in preparing your Research Paper. Carefully consider each directive as the review progresses.

▪ **GENERAL:**

The paper shall be at least 4,200 words but no more than 4,500 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* or Kate 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, SUNDAY, 20 OCT

▪ **SUBSTANTIVE:**

Like the book review, the research paper 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—Death and the Afterlife—is a key source—use it! The Bible, albeit it is **the** source of theological study, will *not count* as a source.

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

**DEATH AND THE AFTERLIFE
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 death and the afterlife; these three will serve as **formal sections** within the paper.

- ① **For the BIBLICAL section of the paper**, carefully review in chapter 1, the section entitled: "Death and the afterlife in biblical perspective." Perform a thorough exegesis/analysis of two Pauline texts mentioned there (pages 22-23): **2 Cor 5:6-9** and **Phil 1:21-24**; for additional analysis, read pages 56-58 in the textbook. What in particular do you conclude that these texts teach about the continued existence of life after physical death?
- ② **For the HISTORICAL section of the paper**, you will address the following historical figures and positions on life after physical death (click for link to their work):
 - [Martin Luther, Death as Soul Sleep](#)
 - [John Calvin, Conscious Existence of the Soul](#) (p. 237ff)
- ③ **For the THEOLOGICAL section of the paper**, clarify why it is important for Christian ministers to understand and be able to explain what happens upon physical death. 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.

**Please begin with your TEXTBOOK and LECTURE NOTES first.
Then, consult THEOLOGICAL DICTIONARIES for a look at death and the afterlife.**

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*.
- Please consult [The WBU Digest of Writing Instructions for Papers and Research Projects](#).

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

- *Wikipedia*
- *Theopedia*
- Old and/or single volume biblical commentaries, such as *Matthew Henry*, *Jamieson-Faucett-Brown*, *Wycliffe Bible Commentary*, *MacArthur Bible Commentary*, *Moody Bible Commentary*, *Schofield*, and *Spurgeon*. There are many more; contact me before you write your paper only to discover that your commentary is not a good choice.

The reason I don't want you using these commentaries should be obvious. They're old! There's more recently-written scholarship available for your use. Besides, single volume commentaries on the entire Bible cannot possibly contain as much detail as a single volume commentary on Genesis. **That's why I will be providing you with three good commentaries to use on the study of 2 Cor 5:6-9 and Phil 1:21-24.**

The following items 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

Go on to the next page.

**THST 5302—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

Thoughtful, substantive comments are required for each DB. That means that I will be expecting much, much more than a few sentences and much, much more than a simple, non-reflective answer.

I will also expect that you will 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. Over the years, I've read some which appear to have been written almost at the last minute with little thought. DBs are informal in nature, but I'm expecting some good thinking to go into your comments, all with good form.

What am I looking for? Specifically, I'm looking to see if you **ANSWER THE QUESTION(S)**. That may sound silly, but my experiences over the years have shown me that students often "beat around the bush" and respond to issues but not the question(s).

So, make certain that you answer the question(s) posed in the posted DB. Also, if I offer a response with a question, I'm expecting that you will answer it.

As for word count, I'm expecting more than a few sentences as noted above; to be more specific, let's go with **350 - 400 words**. And, yes, I'll count.

I encourage you to make your responses in a timely manner. **Any original response made after seven days of the posting, will receive a 0.**

**THST 5302—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 17 SEPT* closing end of the day 23 SEPT and will cover the material from all of the previous lectures.
- **The final exam** is available *throughout the week of 29 OCT* closing end of the day 4 NOV and will cover all lecture material *since* the midterm.

Both exams will have twenty-five *objective* questions, each worth four points; exams **MUST** 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 you contact me *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 prior to the exam. Study those answers.

NO NOTES OR STUDY MATERIALS ARE ALLOWED DURING THE EXAMINATIONS.

PROCTOR REQUIRED!

**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 [PROCTOR REQUEST FORM](#) and follow the simple instructions.

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