

**WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY**

**VIRTUAL CAMPUS**

**SCHOOL OF RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY**

**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 5311 VC01 New Religious Movements

**Term:** Spring 2018

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

**Office Phone Number and WBU Email Address:** Phone: (806) 742-9537 email: [dainm@wbu.edu](mailto:dainm@wbu.edu)

**Office Hours, Building, and Location:** WBU Lubbock Campus Office Hours 10:00am-12pm; 4:00-6:00 p.m. M-TH

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

**Catalog Description:** Intensive study and analysis of origins, personalities, historical development, and thought of religious or spiritual groups founded after 1800, which evidence deviant beliefs and/or practices from established denominations and religions; Major attention on Latter-Day Saints, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Christian Science, New Age Movements, and other groups which have a significant presence in the United States.

**Prerequisites:**

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

Tucker, Ruth A., *Another Gospel: Cults, Alternative Religions and the New Age Movement*. 1st ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004. ISBN 13: 978-0310259374

Daschke, Dereck. *New Religious Movements: A Documentary Reader*. New York: University Press, 2005 ISBN 13: 978-0814707036

Optional Materials

**Course Outcome Competencies:**

1. Describe the origins, development, essential doctrines, and present status of new religious movements in America.
2. Identify and understand primary writings of the new religious groups in America.
3. Explain the appeal of such groups to the American people.
4. Formulate a method that facilitates dialogue with persons affiliated with religious cults and sects.

**Attendance Requirements:**

1. Attendance for online 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 3 or more weeks of an 11 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.

**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:**

* **Primary Reading Reports:** Students will complete four reading reports based on the primary documents found in Daschke’s *New Religious Movements: A Documentary Reader*. Reading assignments from the text will occur each week. Students will select four documents from which to complete the reading reports. The reading reports need to include a summary of the contents and an analysis of the individuals related to the primary source, such as the author or recipient of the document, the historical context of the document and the significance of the document for the understanding of church history. Each report should be 3 to 4 pages in length. The primary source documents will also serve as reading and discussion material during the week even if students do not use them for reading reports. Further instructions will be found in the blackboard assignment for this course requirement.
* **Discussion Board Questions:** Each of the first ten weeks I will post discussion board questions on the discussion board forum. These questions will deal with lectures, primary readings and textbook readings from each week. You will be evaluated on accuracy, relevance and understanding of the topics discussed.
* **Research Paper:** The student will prepare a 20-22 page research paper over a topic related to New Religious Movements approved by the instructor. The paper must adhere to the guidelines published by Wayland’s School of Religion and Philosophy, available at <https://www.wbu.edu/academics/schools/school-of-religion-and-philosophy/documents/Revised-SRPWritingStyleGuide2016.pdf> online. A list of possible paper topics will be found on blackboard.
* **Interview:** Students will interview an adherent to a sectarian group covered during the semester. An interview format will be found on blackboard to guide the student in preparing for the interview and writing up the results.

**Grading and Evaluation Criteria:**

Discussion Board questions 20%

Primary Reading reports 20%

Interview 20%

Research Paper 40%

100%

**Grading for Course**:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Letter Grade | Percentage |
| A | 90-100 |
| B | 80-89 |
| C | 70-79 |
| D | 60-69 |
| F | Below 60 |
| I | An incomplete may be given to a student who is passing, but has not completed some required work for reasons beyond the student’s control. |

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 Executive Vice President/Provost 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:**

Week Reading Assignment

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 Feb 26 | *Another Gospel* 1-3 |  |
| 2 March 5 | *Another Gospel* 4-5 | Reading report due end of the week |
| 3 March 19 | *Another Gospel* 6 |  |
| 4 March 26 | *Another Gospel* 7-8 | Reading report due end of the week |
| 5 April 2 | *Another Gospel* 9 |  |
| 6 April 9 | *Another Gospel* 10-11 |  |
| 7 April 16 | *Another Gospel* 12 | Reading report due end of the week |
| 8 April 23 | *Another Gospel* 13 |  |
| 9 April 30 | *Another Gospel* 14 | Reading report due end of the week |
| 10 May 7 | *Another Gospel* 15 | Research paper due |
| 11 May 14 | Course Wrap up |  |

**Additional Information:**

**Academic Honesty (Plagiarism): University students are expected to conduct themselves according to the highest standards of academic honesty. 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 pf 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.**