

WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

VIRTUAL CAMPUS

SCHOOL OF RELIGION & PHILOSOPHY

Mission: 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 NUMBER AND TITLE

RLGN 5325 VC01 Historical Theology

TERM AND DATES

Spring 2018 Feb 26-May 19, 2018

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. J. M. Givens Jr.

Professor of Religion and Philosophy

Office) 806.291.1166 Assist) 806.291.1160 Fax) 806.291.1969 Mobile) 806.292.3957

jgivens@wbu.edu

Instant Messaging available through Blackboard IM (download through Tools section)

OFFICE LOCATION AND HOURS

Flores Bible Building School of Religion and Philosophy office suite

Mon 9:00-11:00; 3:00-4:00; Tues 8:00-11:00; 2:00-3:00; Wed 9:00-11:00; 3:00-4:00; Thurs 8:00-10:00; Fri 9:00-10:00 CST/CDT (phone and instant messaging)

*Other times available by email and/or appointment; **Mobile phone for emergencies***

CLASS MEETING TIME AND LOCATION

Asynchronous interaction; Virtual Campus Blackboard website

CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION

Research in theological developments of the church from the New Testament period to the contemporary era.

PREREQUISITE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND COURSE NUMBERS

None.

REQUIRED RESOURCE MATERIALS

1. *STUDENT TEXTBOOKS*

- a. Books (including ISBN info) available at WBU [bookstore](#)
- b. Roger E. Olson, *The Story of Christian Theology*. Primary text; supplement to lectures.

- c. Alister E. McGrath, *The Christian Theology Reader*, 5th ed. supplement to lectures; aid to discussion boards.
- d. Bible, any modern translation. Supplement to written lectures and aid to assignments.

2. INTERNET EQUIPPED COMPUTER

- a. Must conform to [minimum recommended settings](#) identified by WBUonline
- b. Should use compatible browser and have [correct settings](#) as recommended by Blackboard
- c. Must utilize WBU [student email account](#) for official university communications

3. WBU BLACKBOARD COURSE MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

- a. [Blackboard website URL](#)
- b. Login username: WBU student id (9 digit number, usually 3-5 zeros at beginning)
- c. Login password: first three letters of first name + first three letters of last name (unless you have used Blackboard previously and have changed your password)
- d. Technical support: 24/7 via phone, chat, ticket requests; see links on Blackboard login page

4. WBU RESOURCE LEARNING CENTER

Textbooks, articles, databases, e-books, and other items necessary for research paper.

OPTIONAL RESOURCE MATERIALS

1. Donald McKim, *Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms*. Define theological terms.
2. Bb for Students—Apple App Store or Google Play

COURSE OUTCOME COMPETENCIES

The student will

1. identify the significant contributions of major theologians and movements to the history of Christian thought.
2. discuss the key issues involved in major theological debates and schools of thought.
3. demonstrate an understanding of the impact of history and culture upon the development of Christian doctrines.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance for online courses is defined fully in the [university catalog](#).
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.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Wayland Baptist University observes a zero tolerance policy regarding academic dishonesty. Per university policy as described in the academic catalog, all cases of academic dishonesty will be reported and second offenses will result in suspension from the university.

In this course, plagiarism or other forms of cheating will result in a zero for the assignment for any first instance. A zero in the course for any subsequent instance.

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. *Concept Discussion Boards.* Students will participate in one or more weekly discussions of selected theological/doctrinal issues. Concept boards will engage the student in reflective discussion over primary theological texts and their relationship to the lecture and textbook readings. These boards are intended to aid student awareness of the development of theology within its historical context as well as help students identify their personal theological views and enhance their reflective and critical thinking skills.

NOTE: Because the university classroom is a place designed for the free exchange of ideas, students are encouraged to think aloud and to be honest about their theological perspectives and concerns. Students should respect the views of their peers, addressing any concerns or questions about another's views with charity and compassion, so that the whole body of Christ might be built up ([Eph. 4:11-15](#)).

2. *Exploratory Readings.* During the semester, students will read selections of their choice from *The Christian Theology Reader*. The readings will be selected from a list correlating to each week's lecture. Students will keep a journal of readings on their word processor, which will be submitted at the end of term. For each reading, students should enter a *substantive* answer to at least one of the questions provided by McGrath at the conclusion of the reading. Students may also elect to include personal reflections on what was learned about the theologian and/or doctrine from the reading. The exploratory readings journal is intended to allow students the freedom to investigate doctrines and/or theologians of interest during the course of the semester. Grades will be determined by the total number

- b. Theology in the Second Century

Week 3 – The Third Century

- a. Tertullian and the Origins of Latin Theology
- b. The Rise of the School of Alexandria
- c. Western Theology after Tertullian in the Third Century
- d. The Church's Response to Schism and Heresy

Week 4 – The Trinitarian Debates

- a. The Background: The Monarchians and the Monarchy
- b. The Battlefield: The Arian Controversy
- c. The Resolution: The Cappadocian Fathers
- d. A Retrospect Look at the Development of the Doctrine of the Trinity

Week 5 – The Christological Debates

- a. The Rivalry of Two Great Schools: Alexandria and Antioch
- b. The Apollinarian Controversy
- c. The Nestorian Controversy
- d. The Eutychian Controversy
- e. The Continuing Debates in the Eastern Church(es)
- f. The Development of the Doctrine of Christ in Retrospect

Week 6 – The Early Medieval Period

- a. Introduction to the Medieval Period
- b. The Growing Romanism of the Catholic ("Universal") Church in the West
- c. The Increasing Precision of the Orthodox ("Right Thought") Church in the East
- d. The Final Split: The Filioque Controversy

Week 7 – The Latter Medieval Period

- a. Introduction to the Latter Medieval Period
- b. The Twelfth Century: Emergence from Darkness
- c. The Thirteenth Century: Golden Age of Scholasticism
- d. The Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries: Winds of Change

Week 8 – The Reformation

- a. Introduction to the Reformation
- b. The Magisterial Reformers
- c. The Radical Reformers
- d. Later Evangelical Developments
- e. Later Reformed Developments
- f. The Anglican Reformation
- g. The Catholic Reformation

Week 9 – The Post-Reformation Period

- a. Introduction to the Post-Reformation Period
- b. Continuing Debates in the Catholic Church
- c. Reformed Scholasticism and Arminian Reforms
- d. Lutheran Orthodoxy and Pietism
- e. Attempts to “Complete” the English Reformation
- f. Natural Theology, Deists, and the Enlightenment
- g. **Research Paper Due**

Week 10 – The Modern Period

- a. Introduction to the Modern Period
- b. Schleiermacher: The Father of Modern Theology
- c. Liberal Theology
- d. Conservative Theology
- e. Neo-Orthodoxy: A Devastating Critique of Liberalism
- f. Catholic Theology: A Late Entry into Modernity
- g. The Fracturing of Theology at the End of Modernity
- h. Some Theological Topics of Modernity

Week 11 – The Future of Historical Theology

Exploratory Reading Journal Due

Reflective Paper Due