# "WBUlogo"

Virtual Campus

School of Religion and Philosophy

# 2. 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.

# 3. COURSE NUMBER & NAME:

RLGN 4300- Research and Writing for Religious Studies

# **4. TERM**:

Spring, 2019

# **5. INSTRUCTOR**:

J. Jeffrey Tillman, Ph.D.

# **6. CONTACT INFORMATION**:

Office phone: 940-855-4322

WBU Email: james.tillman@wayland.wbu.edu

# **7. OFFICE HOURS, BUILDING & LOCATION**:

M/T/W/TH 3-6PM

*426 5th Ave., suite 7, Sheppard AFB, TX 76311*

# **8. COURSE MEETING TIME & LOCATION**:

Online course

# **9. CATALOG DESCRIPTION**:

Provides instruction in formulating research topics in religious studies, as well as conducting research, and writing papers, which marshal support from secondary sources. Students will learn to read and understand research reports, to analyze and interpret results, and to develop in-depth, research-based papers centering on topics in the various areas of religious studies. Course is to be taken in the first two terms of attendance.

# 10. PREREQUISITE: ENGL 1301

# **11. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND RESOURCE MATERIAL**:

Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition, ISBN-13: 9780226816388

# **13. COURSE OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCIES**:

# Course Outcome Competencies: Upon the conclusion of this course, students actively engaged in learning will be able to:

# 1. utilize printed library reference materials, proprietary databases, and Internet resources to locate source material;

# 2. use borrowed information in a manner that complies with standard academic conventions pertaining to quotation, paraphrase, and summary;

# 3. analyze, evaluate, organize, and manage the assertions of more than one source or author in order to support your own main point;

# 4. develop and focus a research topic; and

# 5. write a research question/proposal, a review of the literature, an abstract, an outline, a summary, a synthesis, and a unified, coherent, complete research paper in Turabian.

# 14. ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:

As stated in the Wayland Catalog, students enrolled at one of the University’s external campuses should make every effort to attend all class meetings. All absences must be explained to the instructor, who will then determine whether the omitted work may be made up. When a student reaches that number of absences considered by the instructor to be excessive, the instructor will so advise the student and file an unsatisfactory progress report with the campus executive director. Any student who misses 25 percent or more of the regularly scheduled class meetings may receive a grade of F in the course. Additional attendance policies for each course, as defined by the instructor in the course syllabus, are considered a part of the University’s attendance policy.

# **15. STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM & 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.

# **16. 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.

# **17. COURSE REQUIREMENTS and GRADING CRITERIA**:

**Course Preparation and General Instructions**

**General Instructions**

1. During the first week, if students have not set up their WBU email account, they must do so by going to [Student Email](http://www.wbu.edu/current_students/student_email/default.htm).
2. **All assignments are submitted to the appropriate location on the Blackboard page for the course, and are due no later than Saturday at 11:59 PM C.S.T. of the week that they are assigned, except for the last week of the course when they are due at the same time on Wednesday**. All written assignments, unless otherwise indicated in the assignment description, should be submitted as word files and should be named in this format: **lastnameofstudent. sec#.assignmentname.doc**. All assignments should contain references to the student’s name and class within the document as well.
3. It is critical that students go through the portions of the Turabian Manual listed on the schedule grid, as well as the links in the right hand column of the grid. The information and insight of these sources are essential to successful completion of the course. (Important Note: Selecting “TurabianStyle” when downloading articles from the WBU databases or using Microsoft Word will not achieve complete consistency with the Turabian Manual. At best, one will get perhaps 60% consistency. All students must use the examples and descriptions in the manual in constructing their reference entries and research papers.) Drafts of the paper should be uploaded as single files. Consult the [sample paper](http://wbuwf.com/online/Courses/RLGN4300/Sample%20turabian%20paper.docx) to find a template for formatting the front matter of the paper so that it can be uploaded as one file.
4. All blogs, discussion boards, and quizzes are available on the Blackboard site for this course. Feedback on assignments will be provided through the same platform. To access feedback on any assignment, click on the grade in the grade book and continue following the screens, clicking on the underlined grade till you find feedback entered into a feedback field or an uploaded file which I have marked and edited.
5. The due dates for assignments are found on the schedule grid at the end of this document, and are itemized by week in the content folders of the Blackboard page for the course.
6. Students should check the Announcements page of Blackboard frequently to find updates,
7. The WBU Writing Center is available to assist students with writing questions and to provide additional feedback regarding writing issues. The student can read about its services and gain access to the writing portal to submit papers for feedback at [Writing Center](https://www.wbu.edu/academics/writing-center/).
8. By signing up for this course, you have consented to enter into an editorial relationship with the instructor. While the instructor will attempt to respect your areas of interest and direction, the student will have to respect the instructor’s sensibilities regarding proper form, good writing, and academic standards. Not only will you probably find that your writing is more closely scrutinized in this course than it ever has been before, this is also perhaps the last time anyone will ever look at your writing in any serious way. You should take full advantage of this opportunity and WBU’s resources.

**Course Requirements:**

Syllabus Quiz: The student will find on the Blackboard page for this course a quiz over the syllabus. This is a non-proctored quiz over the contents of the syllabus. It will be a 30 minute multiple choice quiz, and while the student can use the syllabus as reference, the student should be highly familiar with the syllabus prior to beginning the quiz in order to have enough time to complete it. Because the syllabus is so crucial to the structure and process of this course, this quiz requires that the student read the syllabus intensely and follow all of its hyperlinks. This assignment is worth 30 points, and is due the Saturday of the week listed on the schedule grid.

WBU Article Database Tutorial Quiz: This is a 22 point quiz over the material found in the [Library Guides](http://wbu.libguides.com/DistanceStudents) and [Search Strategies within WBU Databases](http://www.wbuwf.com/online/Courses/rswr3345/Search%20Strategies%20Within%20WBU%20Article%20Databases.htm) Fifteen minutes will be allowed for the quiz.

Paper Topic Blog: The student should carefully read these websites: [paper topic](http://libguides.weber.edu/researchtopic) and [topic list](http://wbuwf.com/online/Courses/RLGN4300/Topics%20for%20Research%20Paper.htm), and then write at least a 300 word response on the blog to the website in regard to the student’s early process of choosing a paper topic, and **relate this process to the student’s specific topic**. One week later, the student should come back to the blog and write a 50 word analysis/response to another student’s paper topic blog, one to which no other student has yet responded. This should be a critical/analytic response: Not just “I like that.” The student should return to his or her initial posting and copy and pasting the post to the other student’s post so that the professor is able to see it. The initial posting and follow up are worth 10 points total. (Other students’ posts may be viewed by clicking on the arrow under one’s own name on the Blog Page). Here’s a link to an example for this assignment: [Paper Topic Blog Example](http://www.wbuwf.com/online/Courses/rswr3345/Paper%20Topic%20Blog2.htm). Because this is a course for religion majors, the topics should deal with some aspect of religious interest. See this link for a list of possible topics: [topic list](http://wbuwf.com/online/Courses/RLGN4300/Topics%20for%20Research%20Paper.htm).

Paper Topic and Research Database List—Blog: The student should begin the first week considering a topic for his/her line of research for the term. This should be a brand new topic and paper for the student. Old papers may not be reworked. This should be an area that interests the student, but also one that is academically oriented and of sufficient focus to allow for significant and creative work. The student should begin by working through the [WBU Library Tutorials](http://old.wbu.edu/academics/academic_resources/wayland_learning_resource_center_library/tutorials/tutorials.html) link, and go to the WBU online resources to begin investigating the databases regarding the topic. This investigation will indicate the extent to which the topic is too broad, (e.g. hundreds of articles about the topic) or too narrow, (e.g. no articles about the topic). The student should then post the topic to appropriate discussion board **along with a listing of the specific databases which have been consulted thus far (just listing “Ebsco host” is not specific enough)**. Insert this assignment as a text message rather than a file attachment. It may take several communications between the student and the instructor to refine the topic sufficiently for the assignment. This assignment is worth 15 points and is due as listed on the schedule. Here is an example: [Paper Topic and Research Database Example](http://www.wbuwf.com/online/Courses/rswr3345/Paper%20topic%20and%20Research%20Database%20List.htm).

Turabian Style and Plagiarism Quiz: This is a 90 minute timed, non-proctored quiz on Blackboard over Turabian style and anti-plagiarism rules. The student should be thoroughly familiar with the relevant sections of theTurabian Manual, if available, This Purdue [website](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/), as well as the  [Plagiarism tutorial](http://www.lib.usm.edu/plagiarism_tutorial/) This quiz is worth 50 points.

Writing Tutorial Quiz: this is a 30 minute timed, non-proctored quiz on Blackboard over the materials on the website [CUNY Writing Tutorial](http://jjc.jjay.cuny.edu/erc/writing/index.php). In particular the student should work carefully through the sections on “Generating Ideas,” “Introduction and Thesis,” “Paragraph Structure,” “Paragraph Development,” “Concluding Paragraph,” “Revising and Editing,” and “Writing Research papers.” This material is of very high quality and will benefit the student a great deal, but the student should pay attention to several things in regard to this content.

1. These tutorials have excellent practice exercises which the student should work through step by step.

2. The “testing what you have learned sections” are helpful, but the student does not need to attempt to submit these. No assignments from these exercises need be printed out.

3. The material about thesis statements deals with statements that attempt to take specific positions. This is not the focus of the research thesis statements in this course. In this course, what is needed is a statement that provides an analytic way to look at the many sides of an issue instead of position papers that attempt to prove one particular perspective.

4. Portions of the tutorials recommend some internet sites as viable research sources as well as some newspaper articles, but they will not be allowed in this course. The student will need to use the WBU Library article search databases (see source requirements listed under the Annotated Bibliography assignment below).

5. The description of concluding paragraphs is for essay writing in general, and at a very introductory level. In this course, I am looking for analysis of sources, competing arguments, and insightful overview in concluding paragraphs.

This quiz is worth 10 points and is due by the date indicated on the schedule.

Annotated Bibliography-- Each student will submit a typed bibliography in Turabian format listing the sources which he or she intends to use in the Research Paper. No fewer than 10 reputable sources should be listed. At the top of the first page of the bibliography provide a 25 to 50 word description of the area of research interest. Accompanying each entry will be an annotation describing why this source is useful, credible, and reliable for the student's paper. (Please note that this is different than the ordinary summary type of annotation.) Does the source come from a reputable author, journal, website, or publisher? On what basis, do you claim it to be authoritative? . [See this link for criteria by which to identify quality sources](http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/research/skill26.htm) This assignment will be graded on the basis of accuracy to Turabian style, the amount of research demonstrated, the quality of the descriptions of the sources, and the cogency of the arguments for the sources' applicability to the topic at hand. The student should make every effort to utilize as recent and as high quality of sources as possible. These sources should be primarily recent peer-reviewed journals and should be found through the WBU library article search databases. The professor requires that students use these databases and their accompanying articles and/or books (as in the case of EBSCO Books) for two reasons. First, the WBU resources contain an enormous number of high quality peer reviewed materials that fulfill the research expectations of this course. Second, if there is a question about the use of a particular source, the professor will be able to access that source and verify it. Some valuable open access sources, and a list of references works available through WBUs Ebook collection are listed here: [source list](http://wbuwf.com/online/Courses/RLGN4300/Some%20Non-Journal%20Quality%20Materials.htm). A first draft of the assignment is worth 50 points and is due by the date indicated on the schedule. A second draft of the assignment is worth 100 points and is due by the date indicated on the schedule. Here is the grading rubric for this assignment: [annotated bibliography rubric](http://wbuwf.com/online/Courses/RLGN4300/Annotated%20Rubric.htm). (Please note that while the instructor will not require that the student document the sources for annotations, **the student should not merely cut and paste material**. The material should be paraphrased into the students own words; see statement regarding plagiarism below.

Paper Outline Discussion Board Post: This is a sentence outline of the student’s research paper. The thesis statement is listed at the top, and then the major headings and subheadings of the paper are listed, and then under each subheading the topic sentence of each proposed paragraph should be listed. Here is a link to some examples of outlines:  [Outline Link](http://wbuwf.com/online/Courses/rswr3345/Analytic%20Outline%20Example.docx).   Note that these examples are primarily for descriptive papers rather than analytic ones.   You can also look at the table of contents of the sample papers in the links provided under the description of the paper assignment in the syllabus for more guidance. The student will also find this link on planning and organizing writing helpful: [planning and organizing](http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/planning-and-organizing). This assignment is worth 20 points and is due according to the date listed on the schedule. The more detail the student provides for the assignment the better, in that it will give the instructor the ability to provide direct feedback. This assignment should be posted to the appropriate discussion board on Blackboard as an in text message. Here is a grading rubric for the assignment:  [Paper Outline Grading Rubric](http://wbuwf.com/online/Courses/rswr3345/Paper%20Outline%20Grading%20Rubric.docx).

Blog about Analytic Research Papers: On this blog each student should indicate how an analytical research paper is different from a descriptive paper and an argumentative paper. This weblink ([link](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/658/02/)) and this one, [Research Paper: Argument or Analysis](https://writingcenterunderground.wordpress.com/2013/01/23/research-papers-argument-or-analysis/), should be consulted to assist in this assignment. Each explanation must be unique from other postings in word choice and structure. This assignment is worth five points.

Research Paper: The research paper should be 7-10 pages of text in length, and follow Turabian style. It should address a very specific topic in an informed and analytically creative way using the best possible sources. This [link](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_ressteps.html) provides a step by step description of the research and writing process.

Research Paper Draft 1--By the date indicated on the schedule, the student should upload a preliminary draft of the research paper to the assignment tab in the appropriate content folder in Blackboard. The student should have made every effort to put the paper in a style and presentation acceptable for publication in a professional journal. It should include a title page, an abstract, a table of contents, and a non-annotated bibliography/reference list. The paper will be graded on the basis of the quality of research, argument, style, and grammar, consistency with Turabian style, and is worth 100 points. A student example may help with this assignment: [sample paper](http://wbuwf.com/online/Courses/RLGN4300/Sample%20turabian%20paper.docx), and here is the grading [rubric](http://wbuwf.com/online/Courses/RLGN4300/Research%20paper%20rubric.htm). The sample paper should not be used as an infallible guide for Turabian style. Students must consult the Turabian Manual on those matters.

Students should consider preparing their papers ahead of time and submitting it to the WBU [Writing Center](https://www.wbu.edu/academics/writing-center/).

The student should also post a copy to the course discussion board to become part of the Editing Project assignment described below. Be careful not to turn in this assignment late. The instructor will assign students other student’s papers to edit soon after the due date. **If your paper is not uploaded to the Discussion Board by the deadline, you will not receive a paper assignment to edit.**

About 12 hours after uploading this assignment a SafeAssignment analysis will be available on Blackboard. If this report indicates significant problems with undocumented words or sources, then the professor will send the report to the student for correction of the paper and resubmission. If the student fails to make the necessary corrections, then the student is in jeopardy of not finishing the course. See the WBU catalog for university policies regarding plagiarism.

Final Draft: After the student receives the preliminary draft back from the instructor, the student will then make changes to the paper in accordance with the instructor's suggestions, along with an accompanying page or two appended to the end of the paper listing the types of changes made and how the student would do the paper differently next time. The revised paper will then be uploaded and attached to the corresponding assignment link in the content folder in Blackboard. (This version will be compared by SafeAssignment with the first. Unless the student made a very high grade on the first draft, then the final draft should not match the first draft more than 90%, and in fact should match it much less.) The description of the changes to the paper can be appended to the last page of the paper. Please note that this assignment is graded independently of the first assignment, and much better quality is expected. As a result, the number of points the student gains on the first draft are not assured on the second draft. The student should be sure to make changes to a clean file of the paper. If the professor receives a copy with changes from the previous draft still tracked and showing, then points will be deducted. This assignment is worth 100 points.

Editing Project— Each student will be assigned the paper of another student to critique and edit with attention to form, structure, and argument. These papers will be found on the course discussion board on Blackboard. Each student will put his or her name on the edited manuscript and submit it to the corresponding discussion board on Blackboard. Students should consult these edits of their own papers for assistance in producing the final draft. Students often catch mistakes the professor misses, but also students often make inaccurate comments. Student authors should therefore be suspicious regarding these comments and direct any uncertainties as questions to the professor. The assignment will be graded on the basis of editing skill demonstrated. Here are two examples of editing projects[: Example 1](http://www.wbuwf.com/online/Courses/rswr3345/Editing%20Project1.doc), [Example 2](http://www.wbuwf.com/online/Courses/rswr3345/Editing%20Project%20%282%29.doc). This assignment is worth 50 points.

**Grading**: The quality of the individual assignments will be assessed according to the following scale: A-100-90, B-89-80, C-79-70, D-69-60, F-59-below.   
  
There are a total of 562 points in this course. Students who wish to make an A in the course must obtain at least 505 points on the available assignments. Those students who wish to make a B in the course must gain at least 450 points from a combination of the course assignments. Those students who wish to make a C in the course must gain at least 393 points. Students who earn at least 337 points will receive a D. Students with point totals below 337 points will fail.

Assignments turned in late will be assessed a penalty of 10% for each class day the assignment is late. **Assignments which fail to follow the instructions for preparation and delivery outlined above will be subject to a five point deduction.**

17.1 Include Grade Appeal Statement: “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/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.”

# 18. TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

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| COURSE SCHEDULE | | | |
| **All assignments are due no later than Saturday at 11:59 PM C.S.T. of the week that they are listed as due, except during the final week when all assignments are due by Wednesday at 11:59 PM CST.** | | | |
| Dates | Turabian Manual | Assignments | Internet Links Helpful for Assignments |
| **Week 1 – February 25-March 2** |  | Syllabus Quiz due  Paper Topic Blog-first post | [The Writing Process](http://writing2.richmond.edu/writing/wweb.html)  [Plagiarism tutorial](http://www.lib.usm.edu/plagiarism_tutorial/)  [Writing Research Papers: Tutorial](http://jjc.jjay.cuny.edu/erc/writing/) |
| **Week 2 – March 3-9** |  | Paper Topic and Database List Blog Post due  Paper Topic Blog-follow up  WBU Article Database Quiz | [Library Guides-Distance Students](http://wbu.libguides.com/DistanceStudents)  [Search Strategies within WBU Databases](http://www.wbuwf.com/online/Courses/rswr3345/Search%20Strategies%20Within%20WBU%20Article%20Databases.htm)  [WBU Library Tutorials](http://old.wbu.edu/academics/academic_resources/wayland_learning_resource_center_library/tutorials/tutorials.html) |
| **Spring Break—March 10-16** |  |  |  |
| **Week 3 – March 17-23** |  | Writing Tutorial Quiz Due  Annotated Reference List draft 1 |  |
| **Week 4- March 24-30** |  | Blog about Analytical Research Papers  Turabian Style and Plagiarism Quiz due |  |
| **Week 5-March 31-April 6** |  | Paper outline due |  |
| **Week 6 – April 7-13** |  | Annotated Reference List draft 2 |  |
| **Week 7- April 14-20** |  |  |  |
| **Week 8 – April 21-27** |  | Draft 1 of research paper due |  |
| **Week 9 – April 28-May 4** |  | Editing Project due |  |
| **Week 10 – May 5-11** |  |  |  |
| **Week 11 – May 12-18** |  | Final draft of research paper due |  |