



WBUonline
School of Christian Studies

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.

COURSE NUMBER & NAME:

THST 4302 Christian Theology

TERM:

Spring 2 2023 Mar 27-May 20, 2023

INSTRUCTOR:

Dr. J. M. Givens Jr.

Professor of Theological Studies, Director of Online Christian Studies Programs

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Office phone: 806.291.1166 (assistant 806.291.1160)

WBU Email: jgivens@wbu.edu

Mobile phone: 806.292.3957 (prefer to reserve this for emergency situations, which is not defined as last minute work based on student preference . . . plan ahead on assignments)

OFFICE HOURS, BUILDING & LOCATION:

Flores Bible Building office suite

Office Hours will be posted in the Instructor Info section of Blackboard

COURSE MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

Asynchronous interaction with specific deadlines managed through [Blackboard](#)

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

The central doctrines of the Christian faith from a systematic approach.

PREREQUISITE:

RLGN1301 and RLGN1302 or equivalents.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND RESOURCE MATERIAL:

Title	Editor/Author	Publisher	Ed	Year	ISBN
<i>Created for Community</i>	Grenz/Smith	Baker Academic	3rd	2014	9780801049293
Bible	Any modern translation recognized by mainstream Christianity				

NOTE: There is an Automatic eBook already in the Blackboard classroom – click on the menu link for information. Should you wish to purchase a print copy remember to opt out by the date listed in Blackboard.

1. 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

2. WBU BLACKBOARD COURSE MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

- A. All assignments and other class issues will be available through [Blackboard](#).
- B. WBUonline technical support can assist you with log in issues, such as username and password.
- C. Contact to technical support is available on the login page of Blackboard. Support is 24/7 support by phone and available also by chat or creating a case.

3. WBU MABEE LEARNING RESOURCES CENTER

- A. Use the [LRC website](#) to search for book (sent via priority mail), articles, online articles and e-books, and other resources.
- B. The website also has tutorials for using their services.
- C. [Email](#) the Distance Learning Librarian with questions on LRC and assistance identifying/securing resources for papers.

OPTIONAL MATERIALS

Suggested texts for deeper understanding of topic

- 1. Stanley Grenz, *Theology for the Community of God*, Eerdmans, 2000
- 2. Alister E. McGrath, *Christian Theology*, 6th ed., Wiley, 2016
- 3. James Leo Garrett, *Systematic Theology*, vol. 1 (4th ed.) and vol. 2 (2nd ed.), Wipf & Stock, 2014

COURSE OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCIES:

The student will:

- 1. Demonstrate knowledge of major doctrinal positions, including identification of relevant biblical passages, chief exponents, and key theological terms.
- 2. Articulate clearly his or 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:

- Attendance for online courses is defined fully in the [university catalog](#).
- Students are expected to participate in all required instructional activities in their courses.
- Student “attendance” in an online course is defined as active participation in the course as described in the course syllabus (completing weekly assignments).

- 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 2 or more weeks of an 8 week term, may receive an F for that course.
- Any student who has not actively participated in an online class prior to the census date for any given session 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.
- A student with excessive non-participation may also have a Predict Report filed with student’s WBU email and appropriate administrative personnel.

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.

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. *Blackboard First Assignment.* The first assignment is required to verify attendance by the university.
2. *Discussion Boards.* Students are expected to participate in all discussion boards and any other weekly group activities. Active, robust student participation in class interaction on theological topics enriches the class.

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).

3. *Journaling.* Students are expected to maintain a private journal on Blackboard that will only be accessible to the student and the instructor. Journal entries should reflect on the weekly reading assignments and how these relate to the student’s personal walk of faith, corporate identity within the body of Christ, and calling to missional action in the kingdom of God. Journal entries may ask questions about topics raised in the text or doctrinal issues not addressed by the text. The instructor will respond to such questions as appropriate.

4. *Book Review.* Students will write a critical book review over a theological monograph selected in consultation with the instructor. Possible texts are available on Blackboard.

This review should consist of **8-12 pages of text** in **10 or 12 point** legible font (no cutesy fonts please). It should be written in proper English utilizing the style guide of the School of Christian Studies. **Late** papers will be lowered **3 points per day**, including weekends. Instructor may allow extensions for pre-approved reasons and emergency situations.

5. *Exam.* Students will a final exam over the material covered in class discussion.

GRADING CRITERIA

University Grading Scale

- A 90-100
- B 80-89
- C 70-79
- D 60-69
- F below 60

Procedure Used for Computation of Final Grade

- 1. First Assignment1%
- 2. Discussions.....25%
- 3. Journaling14%
- 4. Book Review30%
- 5. Exam30%

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.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

- Week 1 Introduction; Chs. 1 & 2
- Week 2 Chs. 3 & 4
- Week 3 Chs. 5 & 6
- Week 4 Chs. 7 & 8
- Week 5 Chs. 9 & 10
- Week 6 Chs. 11 & 12
- Week 7 Exam (not final assignment)
- Week 8 Submit Book Review (early submission bonus points through Thursday)

INSTRUCTOR'S CONFESSIONAL STATEMENT

It is the instructor's belief that the Bible is written *exactly* the way God intended for it to be written. The instructor is also committed to the historic position of Baptists that religious liberty is for all . . . including his students. ☺

The liberty I contend for, is more than toleration. The very idea of toleration, is despicable; it supposes that some have a pre-eminence above the rest, to grant indulgence; whereas, all should be equally free, Jews, Turks, Pagans and Christians. Test oaths and established creeds should be avoided as the worst of evils.

— John Leland, Virginia Baptist and advocate for the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution; quoted in *Baptist Ways* by Bill Leonard (2003, pp. 130-31).