WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

VIRTUAL CAMPUS

SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES

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 5352 VC 01 Historical Theology

Term: Spring 2: 2026   Online Course

Name of Instructor: Dr. Brent Schlittenhart

Office Phone Number and WBU Email Address: Office: 808-488-8570; Home: 808-234-6960; Cell 808-551-2263; schlittenhartb@wbu.edu; or schlittenhartb@yahoo.com; Please use the wbu.edu email for primary correspondence. You are free to call me at home but remember the time difference since I live in Hawaii.

Office Hours, Building, and Location: The professor is available at 4 PM Hawaii time and 30 minutes after class. The professor is also available by appointment at other times. Office Location is 599 Farrington Highway, Kapolei, HI 96707.

Class Meeting Time and Location: Virtual Campus   3/22/2026—5/16/2026

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

Prerequisites: None

Required Textbook(s) and/or Resource Material:

Title	Editor/Author	Publisher	Ed	Year	ISBN
The History of Christian Thought in One Volume	Justo Gonzalez	Abingdon Press		2014	9781426757778 E-Text 9781426763694
The Mosaic of Christian Belief: Twenty Centuries of Unity and Diversity	Roger Olson	IVP Academic	2nd	2016	9780830851256 E-text 9780830899708

The textbooks are Automatic eBooks already in the classroom—click on the menu link for information. Should you wish to purchase a print copy remember to opt out by the due date.

Other Books and Periodicals: The professor may provide additional articles and websites for you to read throughout the course of the term.

Course Outcome Competencies: Students 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.
4. Analyze and explain the importance of the councils, creeds, and confessions in the formation of Christian doctrines.
5. Identify and analyze important people and movements and their impact within the history of Christianity.

Attendance Requirements: Online Attendance Policy

Online Students: Students are expected to participate in all required instructional activities in their courses. Online courses are no different in this regard; however, participation must be defined 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, at a minimum, have weekly mechanisms for documenting student participation. These mechanisms may include, but are not limited to, participating in a weekly discussion board, submitting/completing assignments in Blackboard, or communicating with the instructor. 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. Instructors may also file a Report of Unsatisfactory Progress 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 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.

Students are expected and required to meet deadlines. You are personally accountable for anticipating unforeseen delays.

Academic Honesty (Plagiarism): Link to Statement on Academic Integrity
Generative AI tools permitted in specific context and with proper citations.
   a. Students are allowed to use, reference, or incorporate generative AI tools into specific assignments for this course. When used, students must properly cite the generative AI tool in their submitted work.
   b. While there is no true substitute for direct help and instruction for your instructor, students

may be allowed to use generative AI tools to provide further explanations of course content, readings, and other assignments. Any use of generative AI tools to help further explain or translate content must be properly referenced and cited.
- c. Specific parameters for generative AI usage are provided by the instructor.
- d. Any use of generative AI tools outside of the approved instructor parameters will be considered a form of plagiarism and academic dishonesty.

AI can be used in the research paper assignment for gathering resources for your research, producing your bibliography, assistance in formatting the paper, and providing ideas for your paper. Grammar checking and spell-checking software can be used to assist in making corrections to your paper and are not considered AI. AI cannot be used to write your paper. Other than grammar and spell-checking the use of AI needs to be documented in your bibliography as a source.

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 Disability Services Coordinator and Academic Coach serves as the coordinator of students with disabilities and must be contacted concerning accommodation requests (office (806) 291-1057. Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria:
1. Each student will read the assigned readings and participate in the classroom experience.
2. Each student will take a midterm and a final exam. Material will come from the assigned readings and class notes.
3. Each student will write a research paper on an important church council, theological movement, or theologian's development of, or reaction to a significant doctrine in the history of Christianity. The paper needs to follow the Turabian format by using the WBU Religion Writing Lab Style Guide in form and documentation and use footnotes in the paper. The style guide and the cover page template are in the research paper folder in the Course Info/Syllabus folder. The paper needs to include a title page, and a bibliography in addition to the 8-10 pages of text and requires a minimum of ten sources. Margins for the paper need to be one inch, use 10 or 12 New Times Roman font, and double space. The professor will grade the paper according to the rubric posted on Blackboard. The student needs to submit the finished paper to the professor through email and safe assignment. The best way to do this in order to keep the formatting correct is to make separate word documents (one for the title page; 1 for the body of the paper, and 1 for the bibliography) and attach them to an email that you send to the professor. The body of the paper needs to be submitted through Safe Assignment in Blackboard.
4. Each student will read the lecture notes on Blackboard and submit postings to the Discussion Board forums on the assigned weeks. The student posting needs to be a minimum of 200 words. Students need to read all other student postings and make a student response to at least one other student posting. The student response needs to be a minimum of 175 words. There will be one grade for each discussion board forum which includes both the student posting and student response.
5. Each student will write a 3 to 5-page critical book review on *The Mosaic of Christian Belief.* The book review needs to have a title page, an analysis and evaluation of the book's contents highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of the book. Quotations from the book in the review can be referenced parenthetically with just the page number. The student can use book reviews from journal articles to

assist in the analysis and evaluation of the book as long as they are properly documented and footnoted and then included in a bibliography page.

6. Each student will prepare and submit a Power Point presentation on an assigned chapter out of *The Mosaic of Christian Belief.* The presentation needs to highlight the key points made in the assigned chapter.

Resources:

The student can request many resources through the WBU main campus library and have them mailed directly to his/her home. The Bible does not count as one of your minimum resources, however, when referencing the Bible see the writing style guide in how to footnote it, when referencing a study note from the *NIV Study Bible* use the form for one general editor. **START YOUR RESEARCH EARLY!**

Course Evaluation:

University Grading System

A	90-100	I	INCOMPLETE**
B	80-89	Cr	FOR CREDIT
C	70-79	NCr	NO CREDIT
D	60-69	WP	WITHDRAWAL PASSING
F	BELOW 60	WF	WITHDRAWAL FAILING
		W	WITHDRAWAL

** A grade of incomplete is changed if the work required is completed prior to the last day of the next 8-week term, unless the instructor designates an earlier date for completion. If the work is not completed by the appropriate date, the I is converted to a grade of F. An incomplete notation cannot remain on the student's permanent record and must be replaced by the qualitative grade (A-F) by the date specified in the official University calendar of the next regular term. An incomplete turned to a qualitative grade will be indicated by the notation I/grade on the student transcript.

Procedure for computations of final grade

1. Midterm exam:	20%
2. Final exam:	20%
3. Blackboard Average:	20%
4. Research Paper:	20%
5. Book Review:	10%
6. Power Point Presentation	10%

Late assignments will not receive full credit and will usually receive a five point minimum reduction.

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: Course Outline and Calendar

Week 1   03/23--29/2026   **Introduction; Apostolic Fathers and Apologists**
Required Reading: Gonzalez chapters 1-5
In order to be counted in the census reporting as attending the class you need to do the Required First Assignment in Blackboard by 3/25
Blackboard Discussion 1: Student Posting Due 3/27, Student Response Due 3/29

Week 2   03/30—04/05/2026   **Christological Controversies and early Church Councils**
Required reading: Gonzalez chapters 6-10
Blackboard Discussion 2: Student Posting Due 4/3; Student Response Due 4/6 extra day for Easter

Week 3   04/6—12/2026   **Augustine and Medieval Theology**
Required reading: Gonzalez chapters 11-14
Blackboard Discussion 3: Student Posting Due 4/10; Student Response Due 4/12

Week 4   04/13--19/2026   **Medieval Theology and Scholasticism**
Required reading: Gonzalez chapters 15-19
Midterm Exam Due 4/19

Week 5   04/20--26/2026   **Reformation Part 1**
Required reading: Gonzalez chapters 20-23
Blackboard Discussion 4: Student Posting Due 4/24; Student Response Due 4/26

Week 6   04/27—05/03/2026   **Reformation Part 2**
Required reading: Gonzalez chapters 24-27
Blackboard Discussion 5: Student Posting Due 5/1; Student Response Due 5/3
Book Review Due 4/27

Week 7   05/04—10/2026 **Post-Reformation Movement to the Contemporary Era**
Required reading: Gonzalez chapters 28-31; Final Overview
Research Paper Due 5/10

Week 8   05/11—16/2026   **Final Exam**
Final Exam Due 5/16   Graduate Power Point Presentation Due 5/16

Additional Information:

Method of Instruction: Online through Blackboard and the Virtual Campus; Lecture/Split level.
Internet Access
All Virtual Campus students are required to have access to the Internet, an e-mail account, and access to a computer with Microsoft word processing capability. All information exchanges, homework assignments, exams, and other requirements for this course will be conducted via Wayland Baptist University's Blackboard, e-mail/email attachment(s). Use of anti-virus software for computer is highly recommended. If you have not activated your Wayland email account this is a good time to do so. Important announcements and other information can be emailed to your Wayland account directly from Blackboard.