



**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 & Number:** RLGN 5300 Research and Writing for Religious Studies

**Term:** Summer 2017 (5/29/2017 – 8/12/2017)

**Name of Instructor:** Dr. Stephen M. Stookey  
Professor of Religion  
Director, Online Religion Programs

**Office Phone Number and WBU Email Address:**

Office Phone: 809-291-1161

WBU Email: stookeys@wbu.edu

**Office Hours, Building, and Location:**

Flores Bible Building, Plainview campus, M - TH 9:00am-4:00pm; F, 9:00-Noon CDT/CST

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

**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 for students in the Master of Divinity program.

**Required Textbook and Resources:**

- *Kate L. Turabian: A Manual for Writers* (8<sup>th</sup> ed.)
- Michael Kibbe, *From Topic to Thesis: A Guide to Theological Research*

**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/hypothesis, a review of the literature, an outline, a summary, a synthesis, and a unified, coherent, complete research paper in Turabian.

**Service for the Disabled:** 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.

**Plagiarism:** University policy, and the academic community at large, considers plagiarism a serious breach of ethics. Confirmed instances of plagiarism will result in a failing grade for this course. All written assignments are subject to screening by the Safe Assignment service, which conducts a comprehensive Internet search for plagiarism. In addition, the WBU catalog states: "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 of the work of another as one's own work.) The student carries the responsibility of becoming familiar with the penalties associated with plagiarism stated in the catalog." (See [WBU Catalog](#))

### **Course Requirements and Grading Criteria:**

- *Submission of Assignments:* Submit all assignments in the designated area of the Blackboard course site unless otherwise noted.
- *Class Orientation Quiz:* Every Virtual Campus course is designed differently. To help familiarize you with the Blackboard site, please view the video in the "Begin Here" area of the class Blackboard site. This video will help prepare you for the quiz.
- *Library Quiz:* You will need to become familiar with WBU's on-line library system. Your username and password for this the same as your Blackboard login information. View the video in the week two folder and complete the associated exercises to prepare for the quiz.
- *Article Critique:* Write a critique of one peer-reviewed journal article. This article should be related to the topic you are interested in researching for the research paper in this class. I must approve the article you select before you begin writing the critique. Email it to me for approval. *This is a mini research paper so please don't wait until the last minute to begin working on the assignment.*
- *Annotated Bibliographies:* Write an annotated bibliography of 10 authoritative sources related to the topic of your research paper. The description of each source should be at least three sentences.
- *Research Question and Outline:* Write a research question, and outline for the research paper.
- *Research Paper:* Write a 12 to 20-page research paper (not including front matter, and reference pages). The course paper will be prepared in Turabian 8th edition style. This paper will be submitted in the Assignments area of the Blackboard site.
- *Peer Review:* The first draft of each student's research paper will be subjected to a peer review. Examinations: There will be a mid-term and final examination. A study guide will be provided for these examinations.
- *Participation--100 points (10 points per week):* Class interaction will be split approximately evenly between Blackboard Collaborate sessions, and posting to Discussion Board threads (we'll do one or the other in any given week, but not both). Each week's lecture will be posted under the Assignments area. Please view each week's lecture, and reading before participating in the Collaborate session or Discussion Board. *Students unable to attend live chat sessions may make up the absence by submitting a double-spaced one-page summary of the recording of the missed session.*

### *Standards for Participation Credit*

#### **Proficient**

9 to 10 points – Student uses precise terminology to make a point, and demonstrates critical thinking through a thorough exploration of the topic or issues. In written responses, the student also uses correct grammar and spelling. Student’s feedback to the posts and verbal comments of peers is respectful, and provides thoughtful reflective comments and questions.

#### **Adequate**

7 to 8 points – Student uses somewhat appropriate terminology to make a point with minor conceptual errors. In written responses, the student makes minor grammatical and spelling errors. Student’s feedback to the posts and verbal comments of peers is mostly respectful, and provides some thoughtful comments and questions.

#### **Inadequate**

5 to 6 points – Student has a partial understanding of concepts under consideration, and makes vague or unrelated comments. In written responses, the student makes frequent grammar and spelling errors. Student’s feedback to the posts and verbal comments of peers shows little respect, and provides few or very brief comments and questions.

#### **Unacceptable**

0 – 4 points – Student does not understand terms and concepts under consideration. In written responses, the student makes major grammatical and spelling errors. The student provides no written or verbal responses. Student’s feedback to the posts of peers is not respectful to peers, and feedback is brief or provides no response.

**Late Penalty:** All assignments are due on the day and time stated in the syllabus schedule. The penalty for late work is one letter grade per week.

**Assignment Backup:** Please back up your assignments on a regular basis using an external drive, or cloud server. Students lose their work on a regular basis due to computer viruses, hardware failure, theft, or other mishaps. Lost work does NOT alleviate the penalty for late work.

#### **Grading:**

<b>ASSIGNMENT</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
Library Quiz	25
Article Critique	50
Annotated Bibliography	50
Research Question/Outline	25
Peer Review	25
Research Paper	150
Mid-Term Exam	100
Class Orientation Quiz	50
Participation	100
Final Exam	50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>600</b>

<b>GRADE POINT RANGE</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE RANGE</b>	<b>LETTER GRADE</b>
600-540	100-90	A
539-480	89-80	B
479-420	79-70	C
419-360	69-60	D
359-below	59 & below	F

**Grade Appeal Procedures:** 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.

**Learning Resource Center:** The Wayland Library (Learning Resource Center) is available to all Wayland students at: <http://library.wbu.edu> Tutorials for accessing library resources are linked from the homepage.

**Virtual Campus Attendance Policy:** 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 3 or more weeks of an 11 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.

**Email:** Please direct any private communication to my regular WBU email account [stookeys@wbu.edu](mailto:stookeys@wbu.edu)

**Assignment of Grades:** I am capable of evaluating your work at a level of “C” or lower, and still care for you as a person. Please do not take my critique of your work personally.

### **Tentative Schedule**

#### ***Week 1: May 29 – June 4***

- Course introduction, Theological, Philosophical and Related Research, Characteristics of a Research Paper, Peer Review Process
- *This week we will not be having a Collaborate session. Please view Lecture 1 and complete the associated exercises BEFORE posting responses to the Discussion Board threads for the week. You are required to post an initial response to each thread and at least one reply to another student. Your initial posting must demonstrate substantial thought and should be at least 50 words in length. Subsequent posts must be at least one complete sentence, rather*

*than responses like “Amen!” or “I agree.” First posting is due by 11:59 PM CDT May 31, and subsequent posts are due by 11:59 PM CDT June 4.*

- Class orientation Quiz due 11:59 PM CDT on June 4.

***Week 2: June 5-11***

- Developing Research Topics, Questions, and Assumptions, Initial Gathering of Information, Defining the Problem, Planning a Research Outline, Hypothesis.
- Read: Turabian Appendix, page 373 – 408
- *This week we will not be having a Collaborate session. Please view Lecture 3 and complete the associated exercises BEFORE posting responses to the Discussion Board threads for the week. You are required to post an initial response to each thread and at least one reply to another student. First posting is due by 11:59 PM CDT June 7, and subsequent posts are due by 11:59 PM CDT June 11.*

***Week 3: June 12-18***

- Meet via Blackboard Collaborate on June 13, 9:00-10:00 CDT. Learning Resource Center Instruction Session.
- Read: Turabian Chapters 1, 2, 3
- Library Quiz due June 18 at 11:59 PM CDT.

***Week 4: June 19-25***

- Meet via Blackboard Collaborate on June 20, 9:00-10:00 CDT. The Research Process, Gathering information, Assessing validity of information. Higher level thinking.
- Read: Turabian Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7
- Annotated Bibliographies due by 11:59 PM CDT, June 25

***Week 5: June 26-July 2***

- Discussion on Reading Critically, Drafting the Research paper Turabian Style
- Read: Chapters Turabian Chapters 17, 18, 19
- Article Critique due by January June 30 at 11:59 PM CDT.
- *This week we will not be having a Collaborate session. Please view Lecture 5 and complete the associated exercises BEFORE posting responses to the Discussion Board threads for the week. You are required to post an initial response to each thread and at least one reply to another student. First posting is due by 11:59 PM CDT June 28, and subsequent posts are due by 11:59 PM CDT July 2.*

***Week 6: July 3-9***

- Meet via Blackboard Collaborate, time & date to be determined. Developing Arguments
- Read 8, 9, 10, 11
- Research Question/Outline due by July 9 at 11:59 PM CDT.

***Week 7: July 10-16***

- Mid-term Examination: *Schedule proctored mid-term at your local WBU campus location, or other testing service.*
- *Read Designated Material and take extra credit quiz online (the quiz is not proctored).*
- Research Design

***Week 8: July 17-23***

- Meet via Blackboard Collaborate, time & date to be determined. Incorporating evidence, Documenting sources, Drafting the research paper
- Read 12, 13, 14

***Week 9: July 24-30***

- Final Revisions-editing the paper, Paper-Peer Review.
- Review APA Chapter 8
- Due: Paper-Peer Review by 11:59 PM CDT July 27.
- *This week we will not be having a Collaborate session. Please view Lecture 9 and complete the associated exercises BEFORE posting responses to the Discussion Board threads for the week. You are required to post an initial response to each thread and at least one reply to another student.*
- *You will also be doing a peer review of papers by two of your classmates.*

***Week 10: July 31-August 6***

- Informal discussion of research paper findings.
- Meet via Blackboard Collaborate, time & date to be determined.
- Research Paper due by 11:59 PM CDT, August 6.

***Week 11: August 7-12***

- Final Examination: *Schedule proctored final exam at your local WBU campus location, or other testing service. Exam must be completed by 11:59 PM CDT, August 12.*