

**WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY**

**VIRTUAL CAMPUS**

**SCHOOL OF RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY**

# 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 Title and Number: (RLGN/PHIL 5343) (VC01) *BASIC CHRISTIAN ETHICS*

# Term: Summer 2018

Instructor**:**  J. Jeffrey Tillman--

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

* **Phone:** 940-855-4322
* **Email:** james.tillman@wayland.wbu.edu

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

* **Office Hours:** 3:00-6:00 PM M-Th
* **Office Location:** 426 5th Ave., Suite 7, Sheppard AFB, TX 76311

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

Catalog Description**:** research in the principles of Christian ethics and their application to the problems of contemporary society

Prerequisites**:** *None*

Required Textbook(s) and/or Resource Material: Robin Gill, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Ethics*, 2nd ed., Cambridge, ISBN: 978-0-521-16483-2

\* Course Outcome Competencies**:**

1. Identify the major biblical themes and theological doctrines informing Christian ethics.

2. Identify the major philosophical ethical theories informing Christian ethics.

3. Apply the major theological doctrines and major philosophical theories to contemporary ethical issues to frame distinctively Christian ethical responses.

Attendance Requirements**:** 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in an online class prior to the census date for any given term is considered a "no-show" and will be administratively withdrawn from the class without record.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.

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.” (This statement is required on all university syllabi.)

# Course Requirements:

All assignments are due by 11:59 PM Saturday of the week they are assigned. All uploaded documents, including the paper, should be submitted as word document files and in Turabian format.

Chapter Questions Blog: Each week there is a discussion question assigned over the chapters assigned from the book. Each question should have an answer of at least 400 words, but many questions will require more words for complete credit. The student should reflect on the question primarily in terms of the content of the book, attempting to synthesize the content while critically reflecting on it. The text of the question being answered should appear before the answer. These answers/responses should be posted by the Wednesday of each week at 6 PM C.S.T. By Saturday at 11:59 P.M. C.S.T. each student should submit at least a 100 word response to another student’s response. These should be critical comments regarding the other student’s success or failure in addressing the assigned question. These responses should be posted to the other student’s blog as well as your own blog. (See this link for an example of how to post the response to the blog: [copyandpaste example](http://www.wbuwf.com/online/Courses/PHIL4319/Exampleofcutand%20paste.htm).) Each group of posts and responses is worth 20 points. The Bogs will be available on Monday of the week they are due, and then close by 11:59 PM on Saturday of the week they are due. I will reopen them only under exceptional circumstances.

Response to professor’s response to discussion questions. Each student should post a reaction to my comments on his/her blog for the previous week. The student should begin with a summary of what my statement is that he/she is responding to. These are due the week after the respective blog is due and are worth 10 points a piece.

Research Project: This project is a written analysis of an ethical issue. The student should gather relevant research material, not only theological, but also historical, sociological, and philosophical, and address the importance and complexity of the issue. Specific attention should be given to why this particular issue promotes disagreement, what Christian resources are available for addressing the issue, and what possible directions lie open for resolving, abating, or living with the issue as a society and/or a community of faith. This assignment should be at least 20 pages in length and prepared in Turabian style according to the instructions at these university link: [Link](https://www.wbu.edu/academics/schools/school-of-religion-and-philosophy/documents/SRPWritingStyleGuide2016.pdf). This assignment will be graded on the basis of quality of research, quality and accuracy of presentation, and the sophistication of analysis involved. [See this link for criteria by which to identify quality sources](http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/research/skill26.htm). The specific topic should be submitted to the designated discussion board by the second class period, and later reviewed for the professor’s comments. This is worth 5 points. A working bibliography and paper outline should be uploaded to the designated discussion board by the fourth class meeting and is worth 10 points. A completed draft of the paper should be submitted by the seventh class meeting and is worth 50 points. See this link for the rubric according to which the assignment will be graded: [Rubric](http://wbuwf.com/online/Courses/RLGN5323/RLGN5323PaperRubric.docx). The final draft is due the last class period and is worth 100 points. The student should carefully view the professor’s comments on each of the successive assignment submissions in order to make progress in preparing a high quality paper.

Form Critique:  Each student will be assigned to critique the form of a paper presented during the term.  The student should provide a critique of no less than two double spaced pages indicating the quality of the paper in terms of Turabian style and Religion Division criteria.  A copy of the critique should be posted to the class discussion board by the date indicated on the schedule.  The header of the discussion board thread should clearly indicate the posting student’s name as well as the title of the paper being discussed.  While students should remain respectful and courteous in these critiques, they should also work to identify all major problems and as many minor problems as they can. This critique is worth 25 points. Here are some examples: [examples.](http://www.wbuwf.com/online/Courses/RLGN5343/form%20critique/)

Content Critique:  Each student will be assigned a paper during the term to critique for content.  The student will provide a critique of no less than five pages of the content of the assigned paper.  A copy of the critique will be posted to the class discussion board by the date indicated on the schedule.  The header of the discussion board thread should clearly indicate the posting student’s name as well as the title of the paper being discussed. This critique is worth 50 points. While students should remain respectful and courteous in these critiques, they should also work to be as insightful and critical as possible. For many of you, this may be the last time that your thinking and writing style are subjected to such scrutiny. We should all help each other to become better writers and thinkers. Here’s some examples:  [examples](http://www.wbuwf.com/online/Courses/RLGN5343/content%20critique/).

# Course Evaluation (Method of Determining Grade)

Chapter Question Discussion Boards—20 points times 11 220 points

Response to my comments—10 points times 10 100 points

Research Project

Paper Topic -5 points

Working bibliography and outline-10 points

First Draft—50 points

Final Draft—100 points

Total points for research project 165 points

Form Critique 25 points

Content Critique-- 50 points

Total points for course 560 points

**As per the University Grading System listed below, points earned in the course will result in the following final grades:**

A—560-504; B—503-448; C—447-392; D—391-336; F—335-0

# University Grading System

Symbol Percentage

A 90-100

B 80-89

C 70-79

D 60-69

F Below 60

Other symbols used for grading include:

CR Credit Satisfactory, but without qualitative grading.

NCR No Credit Unsatisfactory, but without qualitative grading.

I\*\* Incomplete May be given to a student who is passing, but has not completed a term paper, examination, or other required for work reasons beyond the student’s control.

IP In progress Assigned to a course indicating that at the conclusion of a term the course will still be in progress.

X No grade No grade has been submitted by the instructor. The course grade which will replace the X must be submitted within 30 days from the beginning of the next full term.

W Withdrawal Course dropped or withdrawal from the University.

WP Withdraw passing Course dropped or withdrawal from the University after deadline to withdraw with a W and prior deadline to withdraw with a WP or WF.

WF Withdraw failing Course dropped or withdrawal from the University after deadline to withdraw with a W and prior to deadline to withdraw with a WP or WF.

\*\*A grade of incomplete is changed if the deficiency is made up by midterm of the next regular semester; otherwise, it becomes "F". This grade is given only if circumstances beyond the student's control prevented completion of work during the semester enrolled and attendance requirements have been met.

# Academic Honesty (Plagiarism):

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.) It is the student’s responsibility to be familiar with penalties associates with plagiarism stated in the catalog on page 88.

# Classroom Disruption

Students who disrupt a class will be directed to leave immediately and report to the external campus executive director/dean or dean of students, who will discuss with the student the cause of the disruption. The student will return to the class only with permission of the executive director/campus dean or dean of students and faculty member involved.

# Course Outline and Calendar

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| Dates | **Gill Readings**  **Chapters** | Assignments Due |
| **Week 1 –** May 28-June 2 | 1-2 | Chapter Questions Blog |
| **Week 2 –** June 3-9 | 3-4 | Chapter Questions Blog  Response to my comments blog  Research topic due |
| **Week 3 – June 10-16** | 5-6 | Chapter Questions Blog  Response to my comments blog |
| **Week 4- June 17-23** | 7-8 | Chapter Questions Blog  Response to my comments blog  Working Bibliography and outline due |
|  | 9-10 | Chapter Questions Blog  Response to my comments blog |
| **Week 5-June 24-30** | 11-12 | Chapter Questions Blog  Response to my comments blog |
| **Week 6 – July 1-7** | 13-14 | Chapter Questions Blog  Response to my comments blog |
| **Week 7- July 8-14** | 15-16 | Chapter Questions Blog  Response to my comments blog  Draft of Research Paper due |
| **Week 8 – July 15-21** | 17-18 | Chapter Questions Blog  Response to my comments blog  Form Critiques Due |
| **Week 9 – July 22-28** | 19 | Chapter Questions Blog  Response to my comments blog  Content Critiques Due |
| **Week 10 – July 29-August 4** | 20 | Chapter Question Blog  Response to my comments blog  Research Paper Due |