**WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY**

**VIRTUAL CAMPUS**

**SCHOOL OF RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY**

Wayland Baptist University Mission Statement

Wayland Baptist University exists to education students in an academically challenging, learning-focused and distinctively Christian environment for professional success and service to God and humankind.

### RLED/RLGN 5113 VC01

***PRACTICE OF THE OUTWARD SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES***

# Summer 2015 (May 28 – August 11)

## Instructor: Don Ashley

## Instructor Information

* **Phone:** office 907-375-4508, cell 907-529-5791
* **Email:** ashleyd@wbu.edu
* **Office Hours:** Monday and Thursday,Noon – 6 pm
* **Office Location:** Anchorage Alaska, Parkside Center, Room 112

**Class Time and Location:** Virtual Campus

**Catalog Description:** Introduction to one or more spiritual disciplines oriented toward the external practices of the Christian, practiced within a weekly spiritual formation small group of M.Div. students.

**Prerequisite:** RLED/RLGN 5354 Spiritual Disciplines and Christian Spirituality

**Required Textbooks and Resources**

* *Invitation to Solitude and Silence: Experiencing God's Transforming Presence by* Ruth Haley Barton, ISBN-10: 0830835458; ISBN-13: 978-0830835454
* *Hearing God (DVD): Developing a Conversational Relationship with God* by Dallas Willard, ASIN:0830835687.
* *The Bible*

**Optional Text/Resource**

* *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard J. Foster, HarperCollins, ISBN-10: 0060628391; ISBN-13: 978-0060628390
* **Access to WBU Learning Resources:** Click on link at left entitled "Wayland Library"; Email Distance Librarian Sally Quiroz (lrcref@wbu.edu) about research assistance, or having books mailed to you.
* **Email:** All students will need to set up and use their Wayland student email account.

**Course Outcome Competencies:** Students will be able to

1. Describe the spiritual significance and benefits of the first two traditional external/outward spiritual disciplines (solitude and silence) of the Christian faith.
2. Demonstrate an appreciation that Christianity is a way of life, not merely a set of beliefs or values, by the sharing of practical examples in daily life.
3. Reflect on how the outward disciplines of silence and solitude impact their lives in their daily decisions and relationships.

#### Course Requirements:

1. The course will be composed of reading assignments and corresponding exercises/projects each week as well as interacting with fellow colleagues via Blackboard Collaborate and discussion forums, involving the areas of solitude and silence during the semester.
2. **Participation (100 points)** Our interaction will be split between Blackboard Collaborate live-chat sessions, and posting to Discussion Board forums. We’ll do one or the other in any given week, but not both (see course schedule below). 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 session missed. Discussion Board participation is measured by posting at least **four substantial comments** per forum. Comments may be replies to posted questions or to the responses of other students.
3. **Weekly Journal (100 points)** Throughout the course, students will read *Invitation to Solitude and Silence: Experiencing God's Transforming Presence, and* complete the exercises at the end of each chapter. Students will also write a brief journal entry (200 to 350 words) reflecting on the exercise for each chapter. Each week the assigned journal entry should be typed, and double-spaced and submitted to the Assignments link in the course site. The Blackboard Collaborate sessions, and Discussion Board forums will consist of discussing themes related to weekly journal entries.

**Course Evaluation (Method of Determining Grade)**

Although this one-hour course is a credit/noncredit class, grading within the class will be based on the following scale: Students will have the opportunity to accumulate up to 100 points during the semester. This is how they can be earned:

 Blackboard Collaborate and Discussion Board Participation = 100 points

 Weekly Journal = 100 points

To receive credit for the class, the student must earn 140 points or higher (70%). No grades will be given except credit or noncredit.

##### 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 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. A grade of "CR" indicates that credit in semester hours was granted but no grade or grade points were recorded.

**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.”

**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.

**Attendance:** 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 dean.  Any student who misses 25 percent or more of the regularly scheduled class meetings will 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.

**Student Responsibilities:** Students are responsible for reading, understanding, obeying, and respecting all academic policies, with added emphasis being placed upon academic progress policies, appearing in the Wayland Baptist University Academic Catalog applicable to their curriculum and/or program of study.

**Statement on Plagiarism and 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.

**Course Outline and Calendar**

**Week 1**

 Introduction to Course/syllabus review

**Week 2**

Read: Barton Chapter 1

*Journal Entry for Chapter 1*

*View Hearing God DVD Session 1*

**Week 3**

Read: Barton Chapter 2

 *Journal Entry for Chapter 2*

*View Hearing God DVD Session 2*

**Week 4**

Read: Barton Chapter 3

*Journal Entry for Chapter 3*

*View Hearing God DVD Session 3*

 **Week 5**

Read: Barton Chapter 4

 *Journal Entry for Chapter 4*

*View Hearing God DVD Session 4*

**Week 6**

Read: Barton Chapter 5

*Journal Entry for Chapter 5*

*View Hearing God DVD Session 5*

**Week 7**

Read: Barton Chapter 6

 *Journal Entry for Chapter 6*

*View Hearing God DVD Session 6*

**Week 8**

Read: Barton Chapter 7

*Journal Entry for Chapter 7*

*View Hearing God DVD Bonus Video*

 **Week 9**

Read: Barton Chapter 8

 *Journal Entry for Chapter 8*

 **Week 10**

Read: Barton Chapter 9

*Journal Entry for Chapter 9*

**Week 11**

Read: Barton Chapter 10

 *Journal Entry for Chapter 10*