



**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: RLED/RLGN 5113 VC01: Practice of Outward Spiritual Disciplines

Term: Summer 2019 (5/27/2019 – 8/10/2019)

Name of Instructor: Dr. Stephen M. Stookey
Dean, School of Religion & Philosophy
Lester W. James, Sr., Professor of Religion--Church History & Theology

Office Phone Number and WBU Email Address:

Office Phone: 809-291-1165

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: 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.

Prerequisites: RLED/RLGN 5354 Spiritual Disciplines and Christian Spirituality

Required Textbook(s) and/or Resource Material

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

Optional Text/Resource

- Richard J. Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*, HarperCollins, ISBN-10:0060628391; ISBN-13: 978-0060628390

Course Outcome Competencies: Students will be able to

1. Describe the spiritual significance and benefits of the first to 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.

Attendance Requirements:

1. Student “attendance” in an online course is defined as active participation in the course through discussion boards and submitting weekly assignments on time. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. When a student reaches a number of absences considered by the instructor to be excessive, the instructor will submit a Report of Unsatisfactory Progress to the student’s WBU student email account and to appropriate university personnel.
5. Time is standardized for this course per Central Time Zone – Plainview, TX time. Central Daylight Time (CDT) spring late spring through early fall.

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.”

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty: Writing is a collaborative art. Working out ideas for your paper with an instructor, writing tutor, classmate, family member, or friend is encouraged not only for this class, but also for other classes that involve writing. Discussion and collaborative brainstorming are good. However, passing off another's writing or ideas as your own is plagiarism. It is unethical, it constitutes Academic Dishonesty (cheating), and it is sufficient grounds both for failure of a course and suspension from the university. For more information, see http://www.wbu.edu/academics/schools/religion_and_philosophy/student_help/documents/StatementonPlagiarismandAcademicDishonesty.pdf

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria:

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 livechat 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

B 80-89

C 70-79

D 60-69

F Below 60

I Incomplete**

W Withdrawal

WP Withdrawal Passing

WF Withdrawal Failing

**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.

- 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.

Course Schedule:

Week 1: May 27 – June 2

Live Chat Session via Blackboard Collaborate, Thursday, May 30 from 9:00-10:00 PM CDT

Introduction to Course/syllabus review

Week 2: June 3 – June 9

Interact via Discussion Board forum. *First posting due by end of day (11:59 PM CDT) on Thursday, June 6.* Subsequent posts due by June 9 at 11:59 PM CDT.

Read: Barton - Chapter 1

Journal Entry for Barton, Chapter 1, due June 9 at 9:00 PM CDT.

Read: Willard - Preface and Chapter 1

Week 3: June 10 – June 16

Interact via Discussion Board forum. *First posting due by end of day (11:59 PM CDT) on Thursday, June 13.* Subsequent posts due by June 16 at 11:59 PM CDT.

Read: Barton Chapter 2

Journal Entry for Barton, Chapter 2, due June 16 at 11:59 PM CDT.

Read: Willard – Chapter 2

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Week 4: June 17 – June 23

Interact via Discussion Board forum. First posting due by June 20 at 11:59 PM CDT. Subsequent posts due by June 23 at 11:59 PM CDT.

Read: Barton Chapter 3

Journal Entry for Barton, Chapter 3, due June 23 at 11:59 PM CDT

Read: Willard – Chapter 3

Week 5: June 26 – June 30

Live Chat Session via Blackboard Collaborate, *June 30* from 9:00-10:00 PM CDT

Read: Barton Chapter 4

Journal Entry for Barton, Chapter 4, due June 30 at 11:59 PM CDT

Read: Willard – Chapter 4

Week 6: July 1 – July 7

Interact via Discussion Board forum. *First posting due by Wednesday, July 3* at 11:59 PM CDT. Subsequent posts due by July 7 at 11:59 PM CDT.

Read: Barton Chapter 5

Journal Entry for Barton, Chapter 5, due July 7 at 11:59 PM CDT.

Read: Willard – Chapter 5

Week 7: July 8 – July 14

Interact via Discussion Board forum. First posting due by July 11 at 11:59 PM CDT.

Subsequent posts due by July 14 at 11:59 PM CDT.

Read: Barton Chapter 6

Journal Entry for Barton, Chapter 6, due July 14 at 9:00 PM CDT.

Read: Willard – Chapter 6

Week 8: July 15 – July 21

Interact via Discussion Board forum. First posting due by July 18 11:59 PM CDT.

Subsequent posts due by July 21 at 11:59 CDT.

Read: Barton Chapter 7

Journal Entry for Barton, Chapter 7, due July 21 at 9:00 PM CDT.

Read: Willard – Chapter 7

Week 9: July 22 – July 28

Interact via Discussion Board forum. First posting due by July 25 11:59 PM CDT.

Subsequent posts due by July 28 at 11:59 CDT.

Read: Barton Chapter 8

Journal Entry for Barton, Chapter 8, due July 28 at 9:00 PM CDT.

Read: Willard – Chapter 8

Week 10: July 29 – August 4

Live Chat Session via Blackboard Collaborate, *August 1* from 9:00-10:00 PM CDT

Read: Barton Chapter 9

Journal Entry for Barton, Chapter 9, due August 4 at 11:59 PM CDT.

Read: Willard – Chapter 9 & Epilogue

Week 11: August 5 – August 10

Read: Barton Chapter 10

Journal Entry for Barton, Chapter 10, due *August 10 at 9:00 PM CDT*.