



WBUonline
School of Christian Studies

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 NUMBER & NAME: THST 5160 Readings in Christian Spirituality: Early Anabaptist Spirituality

TERM: Summer, 2026

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Michael A. Dain

CONTACT INFORMATION: Office phone: 806-291-1165; WBU Email: dainm@wbu.edu

OFFICE HOURS, BUILDING & LOCATION: WBU-Plainview

COURSE MEETING TIME & LOCATION: WBUonline

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Introduction to one or more classic texts of Christian devotional and/or contemplative spirituality, with focus on deepening the devotional life through reflection, contemplation, and practice within a weekly spiritual formation small group. Note: May be repeated when content varies. Prerequisite(s): MNST5301 Spiritual Formation or THST5301 Christian Spirituality or similar undergraduate courses. Summer 2024 will focus on selected writings by early Anabaptist spirituality (1500s C.E.)

PREREQUISITE: Prerequisite(s): MNST5301 Spiritual Formation or THST5301 Christian Spirituality or similar undergraduate courses.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND RESOURCE MATERIAL:

Daniel Liechty, ed. & trans. *Early Anabaptist Spirituality: Selected Writings*. New York: Paulist Press, 1994.

Additional reading assignments posted in Blackboard

OPTIONAL MATERIALS

Armor, Rollin S. *Anabaptist Baptism*. Herald Press, 1966.

Estep, William R. *Renaissance & Reformation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1986.

Estep, William R. *The Anabaptist Story*. 3rd. Edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1995.

Pipkin, H. Wayne. *Balthasar Hubmaier: Theologian of Anabaptism*. Herald Press, 1989.

Snyder, C. Arnold. *Following in the Footsteps of Christ: The Anabaptist Tradition*. Orbis Books, 2004.

Williams, George Huntston. *The Radical Reformation*. 3rd edition. Truman State University, 1995.

Williams, George Huntston. *Spiritual & Anabaptist Writers*. Reprint by Franklin Classics, 2018.

COURSE OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCIES: *Students will:*

1. *Describe the spiritual significance and benefits to the Christian faith of devotional and/or contemplative spirituality, focused on the text examined for the term.*
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 of the impact of devotional and/or contemplative reflection upon daily life.*
3. *Reflect on how the practices and concepts within the assigned text impact their lives in their daily decisions and relationships.*

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:

As stated in the Wayland Catalog, 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 executive director. Any student who misses 25 percent or more of the regularly scheduled class meetings may 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 "attendance" in an online course is defined as active participation in the course as described in the course syllabus. ***Failure to submit weekly assignment on time (Journal or Discussion Board) will result in an absence for the week.***

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM & ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Please click on this link to [WBU's Statement on Academic Integrity](#) to understand policies concerning plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. All work must be the work of the student. In addition to normal means of plagiarism, the following policy concerning AI generated works also applies:

— No use of any generative AI tools permitted. Students are required to create and produce all work themselves or with assigned group members. Any work submitted that has used an AI generative tool like ChatGPT will be in immediate violation of the academic integrity policies for the course and WBU.

- All assignments must be fully created, designed, and prepared by the student(s).
- Any work that uses generative AI will be treated as plagiarism.

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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS and GRADING CRITERIA:

1. The course will be composed of reading assignments, historical context summaries, corresponding exercises/projects, and interaction with colleagues via Blackboard discussion forums.
2. Participation—Discussion Board (100 points): Our interaction will be through Blackboard Discussion Board forums (six). Optional Collaborate Sessions may be scheduled per course consensus. Effort will be made to record Collaborate sessions for those who wish to access the content at a later [point within the course. Discussion Board participation is measured by posting as scheduled at least three substantial comments per forum—1 response to the week's topic and 2 replies interacting with class colleagues.
3. Journal (100 points): Throughout the course, students will write an analytical journal entry related to assigned readings. Journal entries (five journal entries of 250 to 500 words) will be guided by posted prompts or topics. Each assigned journal entry should be typed per School of Christian Studies/Turabian guidelines and submitted to the Assignments link in the course site. All assignments are to be submitted as either a WORD or PDF document—no other formats will be accepted.
4. Late assignments will be heavily penalized, per specific assignment instructions posted within Blackboard. Late assignments include documents submitted in unreadable or inaccessible formats. Late penalty reduction: One week late—30% reduction; two weeks late--50% reduction; three weeks late—75% reduction. Four weeks or more, assignment not accepted. Submission of late assignment does NOT eliminate absence.

All time deadlines correspond to the Central Time Zone in Lubbock, TX. The assignments are due at 11:59 PM on the Due Date.

Course Evaluation:
University Grading System

1. A 90-100
2. B 80-89
3. C 70-79
4. D 60-69

F BELOW 60

I INCOMPLETE**

Cr FOR CREDIT

NCr NO CREDIT

WP WITHDRAWAL PASSING 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 long (10-15 weeks) 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 (No Credit). An incomplete notation cannot remain on the student's permanent record and must be replaced by the qualitative grade (A-F or Credit/No-Credit) 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

Final grading for this one-hour course is a credit/no-credit class. *To receive credit for the class students must earn a 70% (140 points) or higher.* Students who exceed allowed absences will receive a grade of No Credit. No grades will be given except credit or no-credit.

Students will have the opportunity to accumulate up to 200 points during the semester:

- Participation/Discussion Board = 100 points possible
- Journal = 100 points possible

Include Grade Appeal Statement: "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 Vice President of Academic Affairs/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

Week	Readings	Assignments
Week 1 Historical Context: Reformations & Radicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anabaptist Reader: xi-17 • Posted Readings in Blackboard 	Historical Context: Reformations & Radicals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary Lecture • Readings • Discussion Board--Week 1
Week 2 Meet the Radicals Swiss Brethren	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posted Readings in Blackboard • Anabaptist Reader, 18-21 • Posted Readings in Blackboard 	Meet the Radicals Swiss Brethren <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical Context • Readings • Discussion Board--Week 2
Week 3 Swiss & South German Anabaptists: Balthasar Hubmaier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anabaptist Reader: 21-63 • Posted Readings in Blackboard 	Swiss & South German Anabaptists: Hubmaier • Historical Context • Readings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Journal Entry #1
Week 4 Anabaptism: Church & Baptism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anabaptist Reader: 64-98 • Posted Readings in Blackboard 	Anabaptism: Church & Baptism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical Context • Readings • Discussion Board--Week 4
Week 5 Anabaptism: Discipleship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anabaptist Reader: 99-111 • Additional Readings as posted in Blackboard 	Anabaptism: Discipleship • Historical Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readings • Journal Entry #2
Week 6 Anabaptism: Sword	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anabaptist Reader: 112-137 • Posted Readings in Blackboard 	Anabaptism: Sword <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical Context

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readings • Discussion Board--Week 6
<p>Week 7</p> <p>Dutch Mennonites</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anabaptist Reader: 200-272 • Posted Readings in Blackboard 	<p>Dutch Mennonites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical Context • Readings • Journal Entry #3
<p>Week 8</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anabaptist Reader: 138-199 • Posted Readings in Blackboard 	<p>Communitarian Impulses • Historical Context</p>