

**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
Winter 2017 – 18**

Instructor: Don Ashley

Instructor Information

- **Phone:** office 907-375-4508, cell 907-529-5791
- **Email:** ashleyd@wbu.edu
- **Office Hours:** Tuesday/Thursday, Noon – 6 pm; Wednesday, Noon – 3 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 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.

Attendance Requirements

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.

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)

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 education 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

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.

1. **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 **three substantial comments** per forum. Comments may be replies to posted questions or to the responses of other students.
2. **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 200 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.

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.

Course Outline and Calendar

November 12

Live Chat Session via Blackboard Collaborate, November 10 from 10 to 11 pm central.

Visit this link for a Blackboard Collaborate Tutorial.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VK0H_S_TBHQ

Introduction to Course/syllabus review

Thanksgiving Break November 20 - 26

November 27 – December 2

Interact via Discussion Board forum. First posting due by November 30.

Subsequent posts due by December 2 at midnight central time.

Read: Barton Chapter 1

Journal Entry for Chapter 1, due December 2 @ midnight central time.

View Hearing God DVD Session 1

December 7

Live Chat Session via Blackboard Collaborate, December 7 from 10 to 11 pm central.

Read: Barton Chapter 2

Journal Entry for Chapter 2, due December 1 @ midnight central time.

View Hearing God DVD Session 2

December 11 – 16

Interact via Discussion Board forum. First posting due by December 14.

Subsequent posts due by December 16 at midnight central time.

Read: Barton Chapter 3

Journal Entry for Chapter 3, due December 16 @ midnight central time

View Hearing God DVD Session 3

December 18 – 20

Interact via Discussion Board forum. First posting due by December 19.

Subsequent posts due by December 20 at midnight central time.

Read: Barton Chapter 4

Journal Entry for Chapter 4, due December 20 @ midnight central time.

View Hearing God DVD Session 4

Christmas Break: December 20 – January 2**January 3 - 6**

Interact via Discussion Board forum. First posting due by January 4. Subsequent posts due by January 6 at midnight central time.

Read: Barton Chapter 5

Journal Entry for Chapter 5, due January 6 @ midnight central time.

View Hearing God DVD Session 5

January 8 – 13

Interact via Discussion Board forum. First posting due by January 11. Subsequent posts due by January 13 at midnight central time.

Read: Barton Chapter 6

Journal Entry for Chapter 6, due January 13 @ midnight central time.

View Hearing God DVD Session 6

January 15 - 20

Interact via Discussion Board forum. First posting due by January 21. Subsequent posts due by January 24 at midnight central time.

Read: Barton Chapter 7

Journal Entry for Chapter 7, due January 19 @ midnight central time.

View Hearing God DVD Bonus Video

January 25

Live Chat Session via Blackboard Collaborate, January 25 from 10 to 11 pm central.

Read: Barton Chapter 8

Journal Entry for Chapter 8, due January 25 @ midnight central time.

February 1

Interact via Discussion Board forum. First posting due by February 1. Subsequent posts due by February 1 at midnight central time.

Read: Barton Chapter 9

Journal Entry for Chapter 9, due February 1 @ midnight central time.

February 8

Live Chat Session via Blackboard Collaborate, February 8 from 10 to 11 pm central.

Read: Barton Chapter 10

Journal Entry for Chapter 10, due February 8 @ midnight central time.

Course Policies

Respect. Because the university classroom is a place designed for the free exchange of ideas, we will frequently encounter the opinions of others which may seem novel and, occasionally, outlandish. We must show respect for one another in all circumstances. I will show respect for you by not belittling or ignoring you. You will show respect for me by giving attention to assignments. We will show respect for one another by exhibiting patience and courtesy in our exchanges.

Student rights. Your rights as a student have been outlined in the current WBU catalogue. If you feel that your rights have been infringed upon in this class, please inform me. If you have a disability which will require particular attention on my part, you must inform me as soon as possible.