**WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY**

**WBUonline**

**School of Religion & Philosophy**

**Baptist 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 Name:** RLGN 4300 Research and Writing for Religious Studies

**Term & Year:** Winter 2018-19

**Professor:** Hal Ostrander, Ph.D.

**Email –** harold.ostrander@wayland.wbu.edu

**Phone** – (478) 278-4066

**Class Meeting Time and Location**: Online (See course schedule for details)

**Description:** Provides instruction in formulating research topics in religious studies, as well as conducting research, and writing papers, which marshal support from secondary sources. Students will learn to read and understand research reports, to analyze and interpret results, and to develop in-depth, research-based papers centering on topics in the various areas of religious studies. The course is to be taken in the first two terms of attendance.

**Prerequisite**: ENGL 1301 – Composition and Rhetoric

**Required Textbook and Resources**:

*Kate L. Turabian: A Manual for Writers* (8th ed.)

***Course Outcome Competencies***

Upon the conclusion of this course, students actively engaged in learning will be able to:

* utilize printed library reference materials, proprietary databases, and Internet resources to locate source material;
* use borrowed information in a manner that complies with standard academic conventions pertaining to quotation, paraphrase, and summary;
* analyze, evaluate, organize, and manage the assertions of more than one source or author in order to support your own main point;
* develop and focus a research topic; and
* write a research question/proposal, a review of the literature, an abstract, an outline, a summary, a synthesis, and a unified, coherent, complete research paper in Turabian.

***Requirements & Grading Criteria***

**Submission of Assignments:** Submit all assignments in the designated area of the Blackboard course site unless otherwise noted.

**Class Orientation Quiz:** Every Virtual Campus course is designed differently. To help familiarize you with the Blackboard site, please view the video in the “Begin Here” area of the class Blackboard site. This video will help prepare you for the quiz.

**Library Quiz:** You will need to become familiar with WBU’s on-line library system. Your username and password for this system is the same as your Blackboard login information. View the video in the week two folder and complete the associated exercises to prepare for the quiz.

**Article Critique:** Write a critique of one peer-reviewed journal article published within the last two years. This article should be related to the topic you are interested in researching for the research paper in this class. I must approve the piece you select before you begin writing the critique. Email it to me for approval. ***This is a mini research paper so please don't wait until the last minute to start working on the assignment.***

**Annotated Bibliographies:** Write an annotated bibliography of 10 authoritative sources related to the topic of your research paper. The description of each source should be at least three sentences.

**Working Hypothesis Sentence and Outline:** Write a working hypothesis and outline for the research paper.

**Research Paper:** Write a 10 to 15-page research paper (not including front matter, and reference pages). The course paper will be prepared in Turabian 8th ed. style. This paper will be submitted in the Assignments area of the Blackboard site. Please do not submit a hard copy of your paper.

**Peer Review:** The first draft of each student’s research paper will be subjected to a review by other students.

**Examinations:** There will be two examinations. A study guide will be provided for these examinations.

**Participation** 100 points (10 points per week) Class interaction will be split approximately evenly between Blackboard Collaborate sessions and posting to Discussion Board threads (we’ll do one or the other in any given week, but not both). Each week's lecture will be posted under the Assignments area. Please view each week's lecture and reading before participating in the Collaborate session or Discussion Board. Students unable to attend live Collaborate sessions may make up the absence by submitting a double-spaced one-page summary of the recording of the missed session.

***Standards for Discussion Board Credit***

* ***Proficient (9 to 10 points)***– Student uses precise terminology to make a point and demonstrates critical thinking through a thorough exploration of the topic or issues. In written responses, the student also uses correct grammar and spelling. Student’s feedback to the posts and verbal comments of peers is respectful and provides thoughtful, reflective comments and questions.
* ***Adequate (7 to 8 points)***– Student uses somewhat appropriate terminology to make a point with minor conceptual errors. In written responses, the student makes minor grammatical and spelling errors. Student’s feedback to the posts and verbal comments of peers is mostly respectful and provides some thoughtful comments and questions.
* ***Inadequate (5 to 6 points)***– Student has a partial understanding of concepts under consideration and makes vague or unrelated comments. In written responses, the student makes frequent grammar and spelling errors. Student’s feedback to the posts and verbal comments of peers shows little respect and provides few or very brief comments and questions.
* ***Unacceptable (0 to 4 points)***– Student does not understand terms and concepts under consideration. In written responses, the student makes significant grammatical and spelling errors. The student provides no written or verbal responses. Student’s feedback to the posts of peers is not respectful to peers, and feedback is brief or offers no cogent response.

**Late Penalty:** All assignments are due on the day and time stated in the syllabus schedule. The penalty for late work is one letter grade per week.

**Backing up Assignments:** Please back up your assignments on a regular basis using an external drive, or cloud server. Students lose their work on a regular basis due to computer viruses, hardware failure, theft, or other types of mishaps.

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| **Grading Assignment**  | **Points** | **Grade Point Range** | **Percentage** | **Letter Grade** |
| Library Quiz  | 25 | 600 – 540 | 100 – 90 | A |
| Article Critique  | 50 | 539 – 480 | 89 – 90 | B |
| Annotated Bibliography  | 50 | 479 – 420 | 79 – 70 | C |
| Hypothesis/Outline  | 25 | 419 – 360 | 69 – 60 | D |
| Peer Review  | 25 | 359 & below | 59 & below | F |
| Participation  | 100  |
| Research Paper  | 150  |
| Mid-Term Exam  | 100  |
| Class Orientation Quiz  | 25  |
| Final Exam | 50  |
| **Total**  | **600**  |

**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.

**Learning Resource Center:** The Wayland Library (Learning Resource Center) is available to all Wayland students at http://library.wbu.edu Tutorials for accessing library resources are linked from the homepage.

**Participation:** Class interaction will be split between live Blackboard Collaborate sessions and posting to Discussion Board forums (we’ll do one or the other in any given week, but not both). Entry points for each chat session will appear in the assignment folder for the week. Weekly lectures will also be posted under the assignments area. Please view each week's lecture before participating in the Collaborate session or Discussion Board. Students unable to attend Collaborate sessions may make up the absence by submitting a double-spaced one-page summary of the recording of the session they miss.

***Important Information***

**Virtual Campus Attendance Policy:** 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.

**Service for the Disabled:** Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make any necessary arrangements. Students should present appropriate verification from Student Disability Services during the instructor’s office hours. Please note instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from Student Disability Services has been provided. For additional information, you may contact the Student Disability Services office in 335 West Hall or (806) 742-2405.

**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)

**Email:** Please direct any private communication to my regular WBU email account ashleyd@wbu.edu.

**Assignment of Grades:** I am capable of evaluating your work at a level of “C” or lower, and still care for you as a person. Please do not take my critique of your work personally.

***Tentative Schedule***

**November 12-17**

Course introduction, Theological, Philosophical and Related Research, Characteristics of a Research Paper, Peer Review Process

*We will not be having a Collaborate session this week. Please view Lecture 1 and complete the associated exercises BEFORE posting responses to the Discussion Board threads for the week. You are required to post an initial response to each thread and at least one reply to another student. Your initial posting must demonstrate substantial thought and should be at least 50 words in length. Subse- quent posts must be at least one complete sentence, rather than responses like “Amen!” or “I agree.”*

*The deadline for the first posting is November 15 and subsequent postings must be completed by 12:00 midnight Central Time, November 17.*

**November 27**

**Meet via Blackboard Collaborate Tuesday, 9-10 pm, Central Time**

Learning Resource Center Instruction Session.

**Read:** Turabian Chapters 1, 2, 3

**Library Quiz due by November 27 at 8 pm Central Time**

**December 3-8**

Developing Research Topics, Questions, and Assumptions, Initial Gathering of Information, Defining the Problem, Planning a Research Outline, Hypothesis.

**Read:** Turabian Appendix, pp. 373-408

*We will not be having a Collaborate session this week. Please view Lecture 3 and complete the associated exercises BEFORE posting responses to the Discussion Board threads for the week. You are required to post an initial response to each thread and at least one reply to another student. Your initial posting must demonstrate substantial thought and should be at least 50 words in length. Subsequent posts must be at least one complete sentence, rather than responses like “Amen!” or*

*“I agree.”*

*The deadline for the first posting is December 6 and subsequent postings must be completed by 12:00 midnight Central Time, December 8.*

**December 11**

**Meet via Blackboard Collaborate Tuesday, 9-10 pm, Central Time**

The Research Process, Gathering information, assessing validity of information. Higher level thinking.

**Read:** Turabian Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7

**Annotated Bibliographies due by December 11 at 8 pm, Central Time**

**December 17-19; January 3-5**

Discussion on Reading Critically, Drafting the Research paper Turabian Style

**Read:** Turabian Chapters 17, 18, 19

**Article Critique due by January 5 at 11:59 pm, Central Time**

*We will not be having a Collaborate session this week. Please view Lecture 5 and complete the associated exercises BEFORE posting responses to the Discussion Board threads for the week. You are required to post an initial response to each thread and at least one reply to another student. Your initial posting must demonstrate substantial thought and should be at least 50 words in length. Subsequent posts must be at least one complete sentence, rather than responses like “Amen!” or “I agree.”*

*The deadline for the first posting is January 3 and subsequent postings must be completed by 12:00 midnight Central Time, January 5.*

**Mid-Term Exam**

*This is a proctored exam and it requires a password your testing center or online proctoring service will provide. The dates to take the exam are January 14-19. If you are taking the exam at a WBU location, please schedule a testing time during business hours. If you aren't close to a testing center you can use Examity. Examity is an online proctoring service that allows students to take proctored exams from their laptop or desktop computer at any location, any time of the day. You'll need a webcam, microphone, and a reliable Internet connection to use this service. Examity cannot be used on smartphones or tablets. Allow 30 minutes to complete the exam.*

**January 22**

**Meet via Blackboard Collaborate Tuesday, 9-10 pm, Central Time**

Incorporating evidence, Documenting sources, drafting the research paper

**Read:** Turabian chapters 12, 13, 14

**January 28 - February 2**

Final Revisions-editing the paper, Presentation Guidelines, Paper-Peer Review.

**Review APA Chapter 8**

**Due: Paper-Peer Review by October 20 at 11:59 pm, Central Time**

**February 2**

**Meet via Blackboard Collaborate Tuesday, 9-10 pm, Central Time**

**Research Paper by February 5 at 8 pm, Central Time**

**Final Exam due by February 12 at midnight, Central Time.**

*Schedule proctored final exam at your local WBU campus location, testing center or Examity.*