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Clovis/CAFB Campus

School of Religion & Philosophy

**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:**

RLGN 5327 VC01 Christian Worship

**TERM:**

Winter, 2018-19

**INSTRUCTOR:**

Dr. Gary Mitchell

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Office phone: (575) 763-0535

WBU Email: [mitchellg@wbu.edu](mailto:mitchellg@wbu.edu)

Cell phone: (575) 693-6830

**OFFICE HOURS, BUILDING & LOCATION:**

M/T/W/TH 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

WBU-Clovis Campus, 810 E. 21st Street, Suite A-6, Clovis, NM 88101

**COURSE MEETING TIME & LOCATION:**

Meeting day & time: Asynchronous, Virtual Campus

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

Research in the theology and practice of Christian worship.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND RESOURCE MATERIAL:**

**Required Texts**

David Peterson, *Engaging With God: A Biblical Theology of Worship;* Downers Grove, IL:IVP Academic/InterVarsity Press, 1992.

N.T. Wright, *For All God’s Worth: True Worship and the Calling of the Church,* Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1997.

*The Holy Bible*.

**Optional Texts**

Harold M. Best, *Unceasing Worship: Biblical Perspective on Worship and the Arts,* Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books/InterVarsity Press, 2003.

Bob Kauflin, *Worship Matters: Leading Others to Encounter the Greatness of God,* Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2008.

* **Access to WBU Learning Resources:** Click on link at left entitled "Wayland Library"; Email Distance Librarian Sally Quiroz ([lrcref@wbu.edu](mailto:lrcref@wbu.edu)) about having books mailed to you.
* **Internet links:** See "Web Resources" tab.
* **Class message board:** See “Announcements” and "Discussion Board" tab.
* **Email:** All students will need to set up and use their Wayland student email account.

**COURSE OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCIES:**

**At the conclusion of this course, students should be able to:**

* Discuss the biblical and theological foundations of worship.
* Identify major historical developments of Hebrew and early Christian worship through the Reformation.
* Describe the important characteristics of Christian worship since the Reformation, especially among Evangelicals, with an emphasis on worship renewal beginning in the mid-1970s.
* Define issues and develop strategies for teaching and leading local church worship in the 21st century.
* Design a plan for a corporate worship experience.
* Implement corporate worship planning and preparation.
* Evaluate, compare and contrast a corporate worship plan.
* Critique N.T. Wright’s text on the biblical and theological foundations of worship, evaluating its use and value as a viable resource in a church leader’s library.

**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.

**STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM & 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.

**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 class lectures, reading assignments, class projects, outside research, films/videos and discussion during the semester.

2. **Reading Assignments:** Students will read chapters as listed in the schedule of readings and tests.

3. **Tests:** There will be two major examinations, a mid-term and the final, to be given at the mid-point of the term and at the end of the term. The tests will not be cumulative, but will only cover the previous section of material.

4. **Written Assignments:** Students will turn in a 15-20 page (double-spaced), research paper on an aspect of worship – either an historical perspective, a theological perspective, or study of a key essential principle of worship. The paper must include a minimum of eight sources (only two Internet sources of those eight). References must be cited (in Turabian style). A title page and a bibliography are required but are not counted as part of the 15-20 pages. Late papers will be accepted, but will be penalized by receiving a lower grade than what might have been given.

5. **Analytical Book Review/Discussion:** Students will write a 5-7 page summary and analytical review of N.T. Wright’s text, *For All God’s Worth: True Worship and the Calling of the Church,* complete with an assessment of whether this book is beneficial as a worship resource for any church leader. The graduate student will engage his/her peers in class discussion (via Discussion Board) about the book, noting its strengths and any issues as well as its ideas on worship.

6. **Class Project:** As members of this class, you have also been selected as members of the elite Mission: Possible – Cloak & Worship Warrior Team (MPCWWT – I have selected an acronym even the military can’t pronounce). Your mission – should you choose to accept it (and if you don’t, the world crumbles) – is not so simple. You have been selected to this team because of your notable humility, outstanding spirituality, tremendous knowledge and wily wisdom – (plus, you are members of this class). You and your team have been tasked by the director of missions for NoCanDo Association of Churches to design and develop a corporate worship experience for the leaders of the churches of the association, which those leaders will be able to share with their respective churches, but it will be no small task. Here is the background for the association churches: (**Some of this information may or may not be relevant to your task – or your group may want to design more than one corporate experience to accommodate the various church situations – your choice**). One of the churches is a megachurch, and feels no need to help or cooperate with the other churches in the association; three of the churches in the association have issues with a fourth church because the leaders of the three churches feel the fourth church has been stealing sheep (members) from their congregations; two other churches are poor congregations, have little resources, feel inferior to the other churches, don’t participate and generally have low spiritual self-esteem; the remaining five churches are growing, vibrant and wanting to move on in spreading the Gospel to their communities with the help of the association.

**Your preparation for the task:** As a class project (via the Wiki tool in Blackboard), you will be requested to use additional worship resources, such as Harold Best’s *Unceasing Worship: Biblical Perspectives on Worship and the Arts* and Bob Kauflin’s *Worship Matters: Leading Others to Encounter the Greatness of God,* to use in planning and preparing a corporate worship experience. All students will participate in the project. Students will select a leader to head up the project, encourage one another, lead discussion and assign roles to be completed for the project.

**Your task:** Design and develop a corporate worship experience (or several) either: (a) to bless the leaders of the various churches to come together in a healing, worshipful experience focused on the majesty and glory of God, the all-sufficiency of Christ and His work, and the empowering presence, peace and healing of the Holy Spirit; or (b) to ultimately help the leaders to see the need to forgive and work together and grow into an effective association of believers to change and impact their communities and world.

Task members can be assigned different aspects or venues either: (a) to so focus on God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit that all else pales in comparison; or (b) to confront the various issues, e.g., structure worship activities; formulate prayer and/or fasting times; meditation activities; Bible study cell groups, and so on.

**Worship Project due date:** The completed project will be due at the end of the course and will be graded on its content as well as each student’s contribution to it. Submission of this project counts up to 20% of the final grade. **DUE FEBRUARY 10, 2019.**

7. **Grading will be based on the following scale:** Students will have the opportunity to accumulate up to 500 points during the semester. This is how they can be earned:

Examinations: (2) (40% of the final grade) worth up to 200 points

Written Research Project: (20% of the final grade) worth up to 100 points

Analytical Book Review/D.B. (10% of the final grade) worth up to 50 points

Class Worship Project: (10% of the final grade) worth up to 50 points

Design Worship Plan (10% of the final grade) worth up to 50 points

D.B./Class Participation: (10% of the final grade) worth up to 50 points

Total Possible Accumulated Points: **500 points**

**The grading scale** then would be as follows: A = 450-500 points; B = 400-449 points; C = 350-399 points; D = 300-349 points; and F = 299 and below.

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

##### 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 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 1 (November 12 – 18)**

Introduction to Course

Chapter 1: Engaging with God in the Old Testament

**THANKSGIVING BREAK (November 19 – November 25)**

**Week 2 (November 26 – December 2)**

Chapter 2: Honoring, serving and respecting God

**Week 3 (December 3 – December 9)**

Chapter 3: Jesus and the new temple

**Week 4 (December 10 – 16)**

Chapter 4: Jesus and the new covenant

**Analytical Book Review/Discussion Board due (on N.T. Wright’s text)**

**CHRISTMAS BREAK (December 20-January 2 – Christmas Holidays)**

**Week 5 (January 3 – 6)**

**Mid Term Exam,** Chapter 5: Temple and Community in the Acts of the Apostles

**Week 6 (January 7 – 13)**

Chapter 6: Paul and the service of the gospel; **Research Paper due**

**Week 7 (January 14 – 20)**

Chapter 7: Serving God in the assembly of his people

**Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday January 21 – no assignments / no class this day**

**Week 8 (January 22 – 27)**

Chapter 8: Book of Hebrews & worship of Jesus

**Week 9 (January 28 – February 3)**

Chapter 9: Worship in the Revelation to John

**Week 10 (February 4 – 10)**

**Class Wiki Project/Worship Plan due**

**Week 11 (February 11 – 16)**

**Final Exam**

***The professor reserves the right to amend the syllabus and class schedule to fit the needs of this particular class.***

**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.