



WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

VIRTUAL CAMPUS

SCHOOL OF RELIGION & PHILOSOPHY

Mission: 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 AND TITLE

RLGN 5343 VC01 Seminar on Topics in Christian Theology: Destiny of the Unevangelized

TERM AND DATES

Winter 2018 Nov 12, 2018-Feb 16, 2019

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME, OFFICE NUMBER, AND E-MAIL ADDRESS

Dr. J. M. Givens Jr.

Professor of Religion and Philosophy

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Instant Messaging available through Blackboard IM (download through Tools section)

OFFICE LOCATION AND HOURS

Flores Bible Building office suite

Mon 10:00-12:00; 3:00-4:00; Tues 8:15-11:00; 2:00-3:00; Wed 10:00-11:00; 3:00-4:00; Thurs 8:15-11:00; Fri 9:00-10:00 CST/CDT (phone and instant messaging)

*Other times available by email and/or appointment; **Mobile phone for emergencies***

CLASS MEETING TIME AND LOCATION

Asynchronous interaction with specific deadlines; Virtual Campus Blackboard website

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

A study of various topics which are directly related to significant theological inquiry. Note: May be repeated when content varies.

PREREQUISITE(S)

None.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND RESOURCE MATERIALS

1. TEXTBOOKS

- A. *Four Views of Salvation in a Pluralistic World*. Grand Rapids, IL: Zondervan, 1995.
- B. *Three Views on the Destiny of the Unevangelized: What About Those Who Have Never Heard?* Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1995.
- C. Full book information, including ISBNs, available at WBU [bookstore](#)

2. Bible, any modern translation recognized by mainstream Christianity

3. INTERNET EQUIPPED COMPUTER

- D. Must conform to [minimum recommended settings](#) identified by WBUonline
- E. Should use compatible browser and have [correct settings](#) as recommended by Blackboard
- F. Must utilize WBU [student email account](#) for official university communications

4. WBU BLACKBOARD COURSE MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

- A. [Blackboard website URL](#)
- B. Login username: WBU student id (9 digit number, usually 3-5 zeros at beginning)
- C. Login password: first three letters of first name + first three letters of last name (unless you have used Blackboard previously and have changed your password)
- D. Technical support: 24/7 via phone, chat, ticket requests; see links on Blackboard login page

OPTIONAL MATERIALS

1. Blackboard Mobile App

Bb Student by Blackboard—Apple App Store or Google Play

COURSE OUTCOME COMPETENCIES

The student will

1. describe different views of revelation and how the religions are to be understood in this light, including whether or not truth can be found in these religions and whether this truth might benefit Christian faith and practice
2. compare and contrast major doctrinal views on the destiny of the unevangelized: universalism, pluralism, inclusivism, and particularism/restrictivism (including variants within each position)
3. evaluate these views in light of key biblical passages and theological history
4. construct a statement of the student's personal belief about the destiny of the unevangelized in light of the biblical, historical, and contemporary evidence

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance for online courses is defined fully in the [university catalog](#).
2. Students are expected to participate in all required instructional activities in their courses.
3. Student "attendance" in an online course is defined as active participation in the course as described in the course syllabus.
4. Students aware of necessary absences must inform the professor with as much advance notice as possible in order to make appropriate arrangements.

5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.

PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY STATEMENT

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. Full statement of the policy is in the [university 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 educational program or activity in the university. The Director of Counseling, Career, & Disability 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 ASSIGNMENTS/REQUIREMENTS

1. *Discussion Boards.* Students will participate in weekly discussions based on assigned readings. Through these boards, students will engage one another in discussion and analysis of issues related to the doctrines of revelation and salvation as these relate to the destiny of the unevangelized. These boards are intended to enhance student understanding of the issues, learn from other perspectives, clarify personal theological views, and develop reflective and critical thinking skills. Instructions and expectations will be provided in the Course Info section of the Blackboard course for the initial post and subsequent interaction.

NOTE: Because the university classroom is a place designed for the free exchange of ideas, students are encouraged to think aloud and to be honest about their theological perspectives and concerns. Students should respect the views of their peers, addressing any concerns or questions about another's views with charity and compassion, so that the whole body of Christ might be built up ([Eph. 4:11-15](#)).

2. *Chapter Review.* Students will write a **3-5 page** summary and analysis of an assigned chapter on two or more topics as described in the outline below. Student reviews will be posted in Blackboard and will serve as the point of discussion for the subsequent week's discussion,

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 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 CONTENT & OUTLINE (readings and major assignments)

Week 1 – Introduction to the Destiny of the Unevangelized

Initial Position Paper Due (start of term)

- a. Read “Questions People Ask,” by Adam Hamilton in *Christianity and World Religions* (provided in Blackboard)
- b. Read Introduction by Dennis L. Okholm and Timothy R. Phillips in *Four Views*
- c. Read Introduction by John Sanders in *Three Views*

Week 2 – Introduction to the Biblical Witness about Religions

- a. Read “A Biblical Perspective on the Religions—Old Testament,” by Calvin Shenk in *Who Do You Say That I Am?* (provided in Blackboard)
- b. Read “A Biblical Perspective on the Religions—New Testament,” by Calvin Shenk in *Who Do You Say That I Am?* (provided in Blackboard)
- c. Read “God and the Nations,” by Kenneth Cracknell in *Towards a New Relationship* (provided in Blackboard)

Week 3 – Introduction to Pluralism (and Universalism)

- a. Read “A Pluralist View,” by John Hick in *Four Views* (and responses)

Week 4 – Introduction to Inclusivism

- a. Read “An Inclusivist View,” by Clark Pinnock in *Four Views* (and responses)

Week 5 – Two Inclusivist Approaches (Faith Principle and Post-Mortem Evangelism)

- a. Read “Inclusivism,” by John Sanders in *Three Views* (and responses)
- b. Read “Divine Perseverance” by Gabriel Fackre in *Three Views* (and responses)

Week 6 – Introduction to Restrictivism/Particularism/Exclusivism

- a. Read “Restrictivism” by Ronald Nash in *Three Views* (and responses)

Week 7 – Two Particularist Approaches (Post-Enlightenment and Evidentialist)

- a. Read “A Particularist View: A Post-Enlightenment Approach” by Alister McGrath in *Four Views* (and responses)
- b. Read “A Particularist View: An Evidentialist Approach” by Douglas Geivett and Gary Phillips in *Four Views* (and responses)

Week 8 – Historical Views on Religions and Revelation

- a. Since the destiny of the unevangelized and the nature of revelation through nature/in other religions are related issues, students will look at views of select Christians on revelation and other religions
- b. Each student reads assigned **chapter** (provided in Blackboard) and writes a **review** for classmates

Week 9 – Insights Christians Can Gain from Other Religions

- a. If other religions contain elements of truth (through God's act of revelation), they might contain concepts or practices that might inform the Christian faith, so students will look at possible insights made by select theologians
- b. Each student reads assigned **chapter** (provided in Blackboard) and writes a **review** for classmates

Book Review Due

Week 10 – Discussion of Book Reviews

Discussion of Reviews

Personal Position Paper Due

Week 11 – Final Considerations on the Destiny of the Unevangelized

Discussion of Position Papers

Final Examination