



**WBUonline**  
**School of Christian Studies**

**Wayland 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 Prefix, Number, & Name/Title**

THST 5160 Readings in Christian Spirituality – Christ Among the Classes

**Term and Year**

Fall-1 2024

**Name of Instructor**

Dr. Ben D. Craver

**Office Phone and WBU Email Address**

210-590-5621; [craverb@wbu.edu](mailto:craverb@wbu.edu)

**Office Hours, Building, and Location**

8300 Pat Booker Rd, Live Oak; Room A 228; Hours: 2:00 – 6:00 pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays

**Class Meeting Time and Location**

Asynchronous online delivery

**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.

**Prerequisite**

MNST 5301 or THST 5301 or similar undergraduate courses

**Required Textbook and Resources\***

Title	Editor/Author	Publisher	Ed	Year	ISBN
<i>Christ Among the Classes: The Rich, the Poor, and the Mission of the Church</i>	Al Tizon	Orbis Books	1 <sup>st</sup>	2023	978-1570752063

\*This course includes Automatic eBooks. Opt out date is the 8<sup>th</sup> day of class (second Monday of the session). Click on the menu link for more details.

**Optional Materials**

Other materials may be presented from time to time by the instructor at no cost to the student.

**Course Outcome Competencies:**

1. Understand, describe, and incorporate the spiritual benefits of corporate spiritual disciplines of the Christian faith.
2. Demonstrate an appreciation for Christianity as 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 corporate spiritual disciplines within community can impact and enhance their lives and ministry.

**Attendance Requirements: WBUonline**

1. Attendance for WBUonline courses is defined fully in the university catalog: [http://catalog.wbu.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=80#Class Attendance - Online](http://catalog.wbu.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=80#Class_Attendance_-_Online)
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 2 or more weeks of an 8-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—*that is, more than 2 absences*—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**

<http://catalog.wbu.edu/content.php?catoid=7&navoid=446>

**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 Disability Services Coordinator and Academic Coach serves as the coordinator of students with disabilities and must be contacted concerning accommodation requests (office (806) 291-1057. Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.

**Course Requirements and Grading Criteria**

- **Discussion Boards (DBs):** Weekly DBs interacting with the readings is a major part of this course. DBs will follow the reading schedule and include your original substantive post plus interaction with all students in the course. **20 pts each x 8 = 160 pts**
- **Final Reflective Essay:** Students will complete a reflective essay defining the importance of corporate spiritual disciplines within their lives. The essay should integrate previous reflections from Origen's writings and at least three additional works that deal with corporate spiritual disciplines. The reflective essay represents half of the course grade. **100 pts**
- **Required First Assignment:** **2 pts**

**Final Course Grade:** Pass/fail; must earn **70%** for credit.

**262 total pts x 70% = 183 pts**

**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 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.

**Schedule:**

Week	Readings	Assignments Due
Week 1	CAC – Introduction & Chapter 1	Discussion Board 1
Week 2	CAC – Chapter 2	Discussion Board 2
Week 3	CAC – Chapter 3	Discussion Board 3
Week 4	CAC – Chapters 4 & 5 Review related Appendices I. and II.	Discussion Board 4
Week 5	CAC – Chapter 6 Review related Appendix III.	Discussion Board 5
Week 6	CAC – Chapter 7 Review related Appendix IV.	Discussion Board 6 <b>Reflective Essay due</b>
Week 7	CAC – Chapters 8 & 9 Review related Appendices V. and VI.	Discussion Board 7
Week 8	CAC – Chapters 10 & 11, & Conclusion Respond personally to the <b>CACI Assessment</b>	Discussion Board 8
<i>CAC = Christ Among the Classes: The Rich, the Poor, and the Mission of the Church</i>		

**Teaching Note:** In this course, it is not my intention to “teach” in the traditional sense of defining the meaning of the texts we will be reading. Rather, it is completely up to each of you to read the texts and respond to each other on a weekly basis. Certainly, if some topic is especially difficult for you, ask about it in the DB. I’m not an Origen expert, but I’ll certainly work on it with you.

I may make comments in the Discussion Boards from time to time, but not every time and not necessarily to every student. So, please don’t be upset if I never “pick on” you; just consider yourself “lucky.”