



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

**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:**

THST 5160 VC01      Readings in Christian Spirituality: C.S. Lewis

**TERM & DATES:**

Fall 2 2026              Oct 12—Dec 12, 2026

**INSTRUCTOR:**

Dr. J. M. Givens Jr.  
Professor of Theological Studies  
Ben and Bertha Mieth Professor of Missions

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Office phone: 806.291.1166 (assistant 806.291.1160)  
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Mobile phone: 806.292.3957 (please reserve for emergencies)

**OFFICE HOURS, BUILDING & LOCATION:**

Flores Bible Building office suite  
Office Hours will be posted in the Instructor Info section of Blackboard

**COURSE MEETING TIME & LOCATION:**

Asynchronous interaction with specific deadlines managed through [Blackboard](#)

**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. Note: May be repeated when content varies.

The readings for this session are from the works of C.S. Lewis.

**PREREQUISITE:**

MNST 5301 or THST 5301 or similar undergraduate courses

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND RESOURCE MATERIAL:**

Title – One of the First Two	Editor/Author	Publisher	Year	ISBN
<i>The C.S. Lewis Signature Classics (8-Volume Box Set)</i>	C.S. Lewis	HarperOne	2017	9780062572561
Bible	Any modern translation recognized by mainstream Christianity			

**NOTE:** There is an Automatic eBook already in the Blackboard classroom – click on the menu link for information. Should you wish to purchase a print copy (listed above) remember to opt out by the date listed in Blackboard.

- **INTERNET EQUIPPED COMPUTER**
  - A. Must conform to [minimum recommended settings](#) identified by WBUonline
  - B. Should use compatible browser and have [correct settings](#) as recommended by Blackboard
  - C. Must utilize WBU [student email account](#) for official university communications
- **WBU BLACKBOARD COURSE MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE**
  1. All assignments and other class issues will be available through [Blackboard](#).
  2. WBUonline technical support can assist you with log in issues, such as username and password.
  3. Contact to technical support is available on the login page of Blackboard. Support is 24/7 support by phone and available also by chat or creating a case.
- **WBU MABEE LEARNING RESOURCES CENTER**
  1. Use the [LRC website](#) to search for book (sent via priority mail), articles, online articles and e-books, and other resources.
  2. The website also has tutorials for using their services.
  3. [Email](#) the Distance Learning Librarian with questions on LRC and assistance identifying/securing resources for papers.

**COURSE OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCIES:**

The student will

1. Describe the spiritual significance and benefits to the Christian faith of devotional and/or contemplative spirituality, focused on the text examined for the term.
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 of the impact of devotional and/or contemplative reflection upon daily life.
3. Reflect on how the practices and concepts within the assigned text impact their lives in their daily decisions and relationships.

**ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:**

- Attendance for online courses is defined fully in the [university catalog](#).
- Students are expected to participate in all required instructional activities in their courses.
- Student “attendance” in an online course is defined as active participation in the course as described in the course syllabus (completing weekly assignments).

- 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 2 or more weeks of an 8 week term, may receive an F for that course.
- Any student who has not actively participated in an online class prior to the census date for any given session 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.
- A student with excessive non-participation may also have a Predict Report filed with student’s WBU email and appropriate administrative personnel.

**STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

Read Wayland Baptist University’s [policy on academic integrity](#), as you will be held to it in this course. There is a no tolerance for plagiarism or academic dishonesty.

**No use of any generative AI tools permitted.**

1. Students are required to create and produce all work themselves or with assigned group members. Any work submitted that has used an AI generative tool like ChatGPT will be in immediate violation of the academic integrity policies for the course and WBU.
2. All assignments must be fully created, designed, and prepared by the student(s).
3. Any work that uses generative AI will be treated as plagiarism.

**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:**

1. *Discussion Boards.* Students will read assigned materials and participate in discussion with classmates and professor each week.
2. *Personal Journal.* Students will keep a reflective journal in Blackboard discussing how the texts relate to the Christian life and personal experience. Journal entries will be for both class-assigned readings as well as students’ selection of additional Lewis readings. See the Course Info section of Blackboard for additional information on assignment.

**GRADING CRITERIA**

1. **University Grading Scale**      NCr   No Credit  
     Cr    Credit

- |                                      |                       |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----|
| 2. <b>Computation of Final Grade</b> | a. Weekly Discussion: | 50% |
|                                      | b. Journal Entries:   | 50% |

**The grade for this formation course is Credit/Non-credit.** The grade for each individual assignment, however, will be based on the university grading scale. Timely work is essential. **Students must complete the course with a minimum average of 70 for the assignments.**

**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**

Specific assignments will be posted weekly in Blackboard.

Week	Topic	Assignments
1	Reading from <i>Mere Christianity</i>	Discussion and journal
2	Reading from <i>The Screwtape Letters</i>	Discussion and journal
3	Reading from <i>The Great Divorce</i>	Discussion and journal
4	Reading from <i>The Problem of Pain</i>	Discussion and journal
5	Reading from <i>Miracles</i>	Discussion and journal
6	Reading from <i>A Grief Observed</i>	Discussion and journal
7	Reading from <i>The Abolition of Man</i>	Discussion and journal
8	Reading from <i>The Four Loves</i>	Discussion and journal