



WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
VIRTUAL CAMPUS
SCHOOL OF RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY

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 Title and Number: RLED/RLGN 5308—Evangelism

Term: Summer 2016

Name of Instructor: Dr. Ben D. Craver

Office Phone Number and WBU Email Address: 210-826-7595; craverb@wbu.edu

Office Hours, Building, and Location: Office at 11550 IH 35 North; Room 116;
Hours: Monday – Thursday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm; Friday, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Class Meeting Time and Location: Virtual Campus class

Catalog Description: Research into the history and methods of evangelism with special attention to contemporary expression.

Prerequisites: None

Required Textbook(s) and/or Resource Material:

- Jerram Barrs, *The Heart of Evangelism*, Crossway Books, (2005): ISBN: 978-1581347159.
- Michael Green, *Evangelism in the Early Church*, Eerdmans (2004); ISBN: 978-0802827685.

NOTE: If you have not received credit for *RLGN 0001 Theological Research and Writing Lab*, it would be in your best interest to enroll this term. The class teaches you how to perform research on theological topics and, most importantly, the proper format in which the paper must be written. **Neither APA nor MLA will be accepted.**

Course Outcome Competencies:

1. Students will have an understanding of the New Testament strategy of evangelism
2. Students will understand the importance of the Holy Spirit, prayer, compassion, and patience in evangelism
3. Students will be equipped to share their personal testimony.
4. Students will be proficient in sharing the Gospel in a systematic manner
5. Students will know how to approach non-Christians with a view of sharing the Gospel with them
6. Students will know how to be sensitive to those around them

Attendance Requirements: 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 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 [and likely WILL] receive an F for that course. Instructors may also file a Report Of Unsatisfactory Progress (ROUP) 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.

Course Requirements:

1. **Report** of a witnessing/evangelistic encounter, successful or unsuccessful
2. **Evangelism Comparison/Contrast** of some popular approaches to evangelism
3. **Book Analysis** of the textbook, *Evangelism in the Early Church*
4. **Research Paper** on a particular evangelism topic of contemporary significance
5. **Final Examination**

DETAILS FOLLOW IN THE SYLLABUS!

Schedule:

PART ONE: Mission to the World	
1 – w/o* 23 May	<i>^THOE</i>, Introduction
2 – w/o 30 May	<i>THOE</i>, Chapters 1 – 6
3 – w/o 6 June	<i>THOE</i>, Chapters 7 – 13
PART TWO: The Kindness and Perseverance of God	
4 – w/o 13 June	<i>THOE</i>, Chapters 14 – 16
5 – w/o 20 June	<i>THOE</i>, Chapters 17 – 19
PART THREE: Barriers in the Way of Communicating the Gospel	
6 – w/o 27 June	<i>THOE</i>, Chapters 20 – 23
7 – w/o 4 July	<i>THOE</i>, Chapters 24 – 26
PART FOUR: Making the Gospel Known	
8 – w/o 11 July	<i>THOE</i>, Chapters 27 – 31
9 – w/o 18 July	<i>THOE</i>, Chapters 32 – 35
10 – w/o 25 July	<i>THOE</i>, Chapters 36 – 38
11 – w/o 1 August	<i>Wrap it Up!</i> FINAL EXAMINATION
<i>*w/o = week of; ^THOE = The Heart of Evangelism</i>	

Written Assignments (ALL submitted via the assignments links on the Blackboard class website)

1. REPORT of a witnessing/evangelistic encounter—

DUE FRIDAY, 3 JUNE; TOTAL POINTS 50

The report will be written in a *narrative* format of between 900 – 1,200 words (Times New Roman), 12 pt font, double spaced) *structured in three paragraphs* following the pattern below:

- ¶ **1 The person with whom you had the encounter.** For confidentiality’s sake, provide initials or a fictional name of the person (do not write about family members, as joyous as that may be!). Do provide an authentic but brief description of the relationship you have with him/her. What is the person’s gender and approximate age? Disclose whether or not you have invited the person to worship or other events and if/how the person experienced those activities.
- ¶ **2 The actual witnessing or evangelistic encounter.** NOTE: It is NOT necessary that the report be about a person who actually received Christ as Savior. When and where did the encounter take place? Did you utilize a prewritten piece of literature or a tract? Were the circumstances tense or comfortable for you (and the person)? What issues arose around which the person had difficulty either comprehending or accepting as truth. What was your response? Did you sense the Holy Spirit’s movement and presence? How? In general, what was the person’s final response to your presentation?
- ¶ **3 The evaluation of the encounter.** How did you leave the encounter? If the person received Christ, what did you suggest should happen next? If the person did not, what was the outcome? Will you plan a return visit? What were strong points of your presentation; and the areas needing improvement? What do you hope to do next relative to this person? What is the single greatest lesson you learned here?

2. VIDEO ASSIGNMENT: “Just Walk Across the Room”—

DUE FRIDAY, 24 JUNE; TOTAL POINTS 50

Watch the following video featuring Willow Creek Community Church pastor **Bill Hybels**, on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a9K9Fbt-scQ>.

In five paragraphs of 125 – 150 words each, offer a personal response to the following questions:

1. What is the role of “emotion” as it relates to persons who are far from God?
2. What is the “lead card” in any evangelistic conversation?
3. What is your “job” in any evangelistic conversation?
4. Which of Hybels’ five stories is the “most interesting” to you? Why? Have you had any similar experiences?
5. What is the lesson to be learned from just walking across the room, cul-de-sac, or, well, you name it?

This assignment will be like any other; that is, in proper form according to the WBU Style Guide.

3. BOOK ANALYSIS—

DUE FRIDAY, 15 JULY; TOTAL POINTS 75

The review shall be at least 1,500 and no more than 1,800 words (TNR, 12 pt font) in a double-spaced, typewritten paper. The book is entitled, *Evangelism in the Early Church*. Guidelines for the book analysis follow in this syllabus.

4. RESEARCH PAPER—

DUE FRIDAY, 29 JULY; TOTAL POINTS 100

The papers must be between 3,600 – 5,200 words (TNR, 12 pt font, double spaced) typewritten and based on information found from research. Sources must be scholarly in nature and include not only your textbooks, but other books and scholarly articles as well. Guidelines for the paper follow in this syllabus.

5. FINAL EXAMINATION—

DUE NOT LATER THAN SUNDAY, 7 AUGUST—TOTAL POINTS 100

ALL exam questions will be based on your readings in *The Heart of Evangelism* textbook. You will have four questions, each worth 25 points. My concept will be to determine if you understand evangelism, more as a discipline, rather than to memorize data and terms. Thus, the exam will be discussion at heart and hopefully allows you to integrate the textbook with “real-world” evangelistic scenarios. Not only do I want to see concepts, I want to see that you can logically and reasonably provide responses and use proper grammar and spelling.

No review will be given; be familiar with your book and where to find information BEFORE you take the exam. You’re on the honor system; do the work yourself! No outside assistance! You will have a total of 120 minutes to complete the exam. Any time over and above 120 minutes will be penalized as follows:

121-125 minutes—2 points
126-130 minutes—4 points
131-135 minutes—5 points

136-140 minutes—7 points
141 minutes and above—10 points

GRADING CRITERIA—Method of Determining Final Course Grade

Of a TOTAL of **375** possible points:

A	375-338 points	I	INCOMPLET**
B	337-301 points	WP	WITHDRAWAL PASSING
C	300-263 points	WF	WITHDRAWAL FAILING
D	262-226 points	W	WITHDRAWAL
F	BELOW 226 points		



Academic Honesty

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 someone else's work as one's own work. See current Wayland Baptist University Catalog, for penalties that may be applied to individual cases of academic dishonesty.)

NOTE: 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.

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.”



Guidelines for book analysis and research paper follow; keep reading!

RLGN 5308—EVANGELISM GUIDELINES FOR BOOK ANALYSIS

These guidelines are to be used in preparing your analysis of *Evangelism in the Early Church* by Michael Green. Carefully consider each directive as the review progresses.

The review shall be at least 2,000 and no more than 2,300 words (TNR, 12 pt font) in a double-spaced, typewritten paper. For matters of style and form, consult the most recent edition of *The WBU Style Guide*. (**Exception:** no need to use formal footnotes *unless you cite a source* other than the Green textbook; see first paragraph below). Be sure to include a cover page, although it is NOT necessary to have a Table of Contents, since this is a relatively brief paper. Be sure to include page numbers in proper form.

**As religion students, you must follow this prescribed format.
APA or MLA will NOT be accepted for any assignment!**

- Remember the due date: **FRIDAY, 15 JULY** at the end of the day

It should be descriptive in approach that is, describe what you're reading. Focus on Green's thinking and conclusions. As you write, select quotes which adequately characterize what he states about early Christian evangelism. To reference the quote, simply put page numbers in parentheses at the end of the sentence (76); **no formal footnote for the Green book is required.**

Order your paper *exactly* as follows, with the subheadings below in place:

Introduction

Introduce the author and explain why he is competent to write the textbook. What is his stated purpose for writing the book? What are his assumptions? Allow for no more than 300 words.

Chapter Summaries

Summarize each of the ten chapters. Which of the ten did you find to be most interesting? Why? Allow for approximately 1,200 – 1,500 words.

A Critical Assessment of the Book

For the remainder of the paper, interact with the author. What does he not cover adequately? What does he fail to explain to your satisfaction? Is this book be a good text for an evangelism class? Make your concluding paragraphs an estimate of the overall contribution the book makes to apologetic studies. Allow for no more than 500 words.

Because none of us are theological scholars, you'll want to check out what other reviewers may have written about this book and the authors' conclusions. To do so, visit the Wayland LRC (use link below) and look for other book reviews. Most scholarly journals contain these sorts of reviews, too, if you have them nearby. Please reference in formal footnotes the various other reviewers you read and complete a bibliography.

http://www.wbu.edu/academics/academic_resources/wayland_learning_resource_center_library/default.htm

RLGN 5308—EVANGELISM GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH PAPER

These guidelines are to be used in preparing your **Research Paper**. Carefully consider each directive as the paper progresses.

The paper shall be at least 3,600 and no more than 5,200 words (TNR, 12 pt font) in a double-spaced, typewritten paper. For matters of style and form, consult *WBU's Digest of Writing Instructions for Papers and Research Projects in the Division of Religion & Philosophy*. **APA or MLA will NOT be accepted for any assignment!! A model paper is available for your review on the Blackboard class home page. Form, style, content, and punctuality will be heavily considered in the grade.**

- Remember the due date: **FRIDAY, 29 JULY** at the end of the day

Sources are absolutely essential. **You must utilize at least 10 sources**. Select them with great care; they must be of a scholarly nature and support your topic. Be sure to utilize and cite sources that specifically address the topic directly, not indirectly. **Your textbooks are key sources—use them!** The Bible, albeit it is the source of theological study, will not count as a source.

- **The following TOPIC is the assignment for EVERYONE in the course:**

EVANGELISM: A BIBLICAL, HISTORICAL AND CONTEMPORARY ANALYSIS

Biblical

Review the missionary journeys of the Apostle Paul in Acts 13 – 21. Make note of the means and methods he employed to evangelize these cities or provinces. Using your textbooks, other academic books, biblical commentaries, and journals, analyze Paul's evangelistic method in two (2) specific cities or provinces. This will be simply a brief exposition.

Historical

Review the life and work of two (2) of the prominent evangelists in history. Choose from Billy Sunday, Dwight L. Moody, Billy Graham, Luis Palau, Oral Roberts, or Anne Graham Lotz. Others may be considered. *Caution: the person must be known as an evangelist, not merely a famous preacher. Joel Osteen, Rick Warren, or Beth Moore, will not be considered.* Any person other than those mentioned must be approved in advance by me.

Contemporary

Next, dig into two (2) of the following contemporary issues in evangelism. Select from: the new atheism; religious pluralism; evil and suffering; or the postmodern critique of religion. Describe them in significant detail, paying attention to how these groups or movements treat the church, the place they give to Jesus Christ, etc. This is more of an apologetics approach.

Application

Put the evangelistic witness all together. Using biblical truths and historical insights, create an evangelistic witness to one (and only one) of the two contemporary issues you studied. What biblical truths from the Acts accounts apply; what techniques from the life of the historic evangelists did you discover that might work today? Most of this is purely creative.

Additional Paper Guidelines

The WBU style guide for papers is provided in the student resources section of the school website at:

- http://www.wbu.edu/academics/schools/religion_and_philosophy/student_help/default.htm

Research papers have the following requirements regarding **sources**:

- You have access to abundant resources through WBU library's electronic texts and databases as well as physical texts via Priority Mail in U.S. *They are absolutely free!*
- Internet sources must have approval of professor prior to use (e-books or e-journals are not "Internet sources" if they are available in print or are peer-reviewed)
- You are also required to use at least *three scholarly journal articles* among the ten sources in your paper

GRADING RUBRIC

As explained in the syllabus, the following were "heavily considered when determining the grade":

Form—how the preliminary parts, text, and reference matters within the paper adhere to acceptable scholarly standards as noted above (you will be double-spacing these pages).

25 points

Style—how the paper complies with proper rules of grammar, syntax, punctuation, and spelling

25 points

Content—how the paper incorporates and makes good use of relevant, scholarly data related to the topic. Included here will be the number of sources required—books and journal articles, adequate and judicious use of sources as footnotes, and the length of the paper.

40 points

Punctuality—late papers will be penalized 10 points per week—no exceptions for any reason

10 points

FINAL GRADE: