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***WBU Online***

**School of Christian Studies**

**WAYLAND BAPTIST 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 NAME: MNST 4373

**TERM:** Summer term 2025

**INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Michael Dain**

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** (806) 742-9537 dainm@wbu.edu

**OFFICE HOURS, BUILDING, AND LOCATION:** WBU Online: Instructor is available for zoom or other meeting hours as requested by students

**CLASS MEETING TIME AND LOCATION**:Asynchronous online course

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** Selected issues in understanding, development, and practice of Christian spirituality and formation. This course examines British Baptist Spirituality from John Bunyan to Charles Spurgeon

**PREREQUISITE:** RLGN 1301 and RLGN 1302

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND RESOURCES**:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Title** | **Editor/Author** | **Publisher** | **Ed** | **Year** | **ISBN** |
| *The Pilgrim's Progress and Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners* | John Bunyan | Random House |  | 2004 | 9780307429193 |
| *Spurgeon on Prayer and Spiritual Warfare* | Charles Spurgeon | Whitaker House |  | 1998 | 0883685272 |
| *Bible* any translation |  |  |  |  |  |

**This course includes an Automatic eBook.  Opt out date is the 8th day of class (third Monday of the session).**

**OPTIONAL MATERIALS:**

Peter Morden, *Communion with Christ and his People: The Spirituality of C. H. Spurgeon*,

 Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2014.

**COURSE OUTCOME COMPETENCIES**:

1.            Be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of current approaches, topics, and resources available for Christian spirituality and formation in relation to the area of British Baptist Spirituality from Bunyan to Spurgeon.

2.            Be able to gain skills in the area of observation and evaluation for the purpose of synthesizing characteristics of effective spiritual formation as these pertain to the setting or parameters of British Baptist spirituality from Bunyan to Spurgeon.

3.            Value personal development as a disciple of Jesus and corporate investment in developing other disciples of Jesus in the church for effective spiritual formation within the parameters of British Baptist Spirituality from Bunyan to Spurgeon.

**ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS**: Students enrolled at Wayland Baptist University should make every effort to attend all class meetings. All absences must be explained to the satisfaction of the instructor who will decide whether the omitted work may be made up.

Regardless of course format (face-to-face, online, or hybrid), it is the student's responsibility to understand and meet the attendance requirements set forth in the course syllabus.

Student “attendance” in an online course is defined as active participation in the course as described in the course syllabus. 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. 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 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.

**STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM & ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

Please click on this link to [WBU’s Statement on Academic Integrity](https://www.wbu.edu/academics/writing-center/Academic%20Integrity%20Statement%20Pol%208.4.1%20Attch%20Oct%2020222.pdf) to understand policies concerning plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. All work must be the work of the student. In addition to normal means of plagiarism, the following policy concerning AI generated works also applies:

* + 1. Generative AI tools permitted in specific context and with proper citations. Students are allowed to use, reference, or incorporate generative AI tools into specific assignments for this course. When used, students must properly cite the generative AI tool in their submitted work.
* While there is no true substitute for direct help and instruction for your instructor, students may be allowed to use generative AI tools to provide further explanations of course content, readings, and other assignments. Any use of generative AI tools to help further explain or translate content must be properly referenced and cited.
* Specific parameters for generative AI usage are provided by the instructor.
* Any use of generative AI tools outside of the approved instructor parameters will be considered a form of plagiarism and academic dishonesty.

**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. **Reading Assignments**: Students will read chapters as listed in the schedule of readings and tests. Assigned textbook readings as indicated in the schedule must be completed on a weekly basis in order for you to participate meaningfully in discussion board activities. Active participation in an online forum is measured by posting at least **four substantial comments** per forum (not including the Prayer Requests & Praise forum). Comments may be replies to posted questions or to the responses of other students. Participation in discussion board forums will count for 100 points.

1. **Reflective Critique Written Assignment**: Students will submit via Blackboard a 5-10 page (double-spaced), reflective essay (critical evaluation) based on one of the writings of either John Bunyan or Charles Spurgeon. The paper should include a title page and a bibliography page. References must be cited in Turabian style. The paper will consist of three parts: (1) a summary/highlights of the writing; (2) critical evaluation of the writing; and (3) personal application of the writing to student's life. 200 points.
2. **Personal Devotional/Contemplative Project:** As you are reading through the devotional writings of both Bunyan and Spurgeon, I hope you would have the urge to jot down your own devotional or contemplative thoughts about your personal faith and your life in Christ. So, to help you with that project, please submit a 2-3 page essay expressing those thoughts and ideas. Upload the essay via Blackboard for grading. And if you feel led, please feel free to share it with your classmates via the Discussion Board. 100 points.
3. **Measurement Instruments and Grading Chart**
4. Reading Assignments 100pts
5. Reflective critique 200pts
6. Personal devotional/contemplative Project 100pts
7. Total 400 points

1. **Grading Scale**

A= 360 to 400 pts

B= 320-359 pts

C= 280-319 pts

D= 240-279 pts

F= 239 and below 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**

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:**

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| **DATES** | **TOPIC** | **READINGS (Read before class each week.)** |
| Week 1 | IntroductionsBunyan and Spirituality  | *Pilgrim’s Progress* |
| Week 2  | 18th century Baptist Spirituality | *Pilgrim’s Progress* |
| Week 3 | Personal Conversion/Assurance of Salvation in Baptist writings | *Grace Abounding* |
| Week 4 | Centrality of the Bible in Baptist Spirituality | *Grace Abounding* |
| Week 5 |  Prayer in Baptist Spirituality |  Spurgeon *The Power of Prayer* |
| Week 6 | Theology of the Cross in Baptist Writings | Spurgeon *Praying Successfully* |
| Week 7 | Personal Holiness in Baptist Spirituality | Spurgeon *The Golden Key of Prayer***Personal Devotional Contemplative Project due** |
| Week 8 | Mission and devotion in Baptist life | Spurgeon *Finding Peace in Life’s Storms, Spurgeon on Praise***Reflective Critique Due** |