# "WBUlogo"

WBUonline

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 NUMBER & NAME:** PHIL 5307--VC01 Environmental Ethics

**TERM:** Summer 2025

**INSTRUCTOR:** J. Jeffrey Tillman

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Office phone: 940-448-0845

WBU Email: james.tillman@wayland.wbu.edu

**OFFICE HOURS, BUILDING & LOCATION:**

M/T/W/TH 3-6PM CST, Building 402, Suite 321, Sheppard Air Force Base.

**COURSE MEETING TIME & LOCATION:**

 Online Course

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

Research into the philosophical and theological resources available for the analysis and deliberation of ethical issues pertaining to the interaction between humans and the natural environment.

**PREREQUISITES:** None

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND RESOURCES**:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Title** | **Editor/Author** | **Publisher** | **Ed** | **Year** | **ISBN** |
| *Environmental Ethics: Theory in Practice* | Ronald Sandler | Oxford University Press | 1st | 2017 | 9780199340729 |

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

**COURSE OUTCOME COMPETENCIES:**

1. List and define major theories of ethics.
2. Identify Christian resources relevant to environmental ethics
3. Identify major environmental ethical issues
4. Identify competing ethical values in play in environmental issues
5. Apply theories of ethics and Christian resources to the analysis of environmental ethical issues
6. Conduct background research on a specific environmental ethics case and provide an analysis of the competing arguments and values at play with a proposed resolution of the issue.

**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. No use of any generative AI tools permitted. i. 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.
* All assignments must be fully created, designed, and prepared by the student(s).
* 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**:

All assignments, unless otherwise stated, are due on the Saturday of the week they are assigned at 11.59 P.M. C.S.T. The major exception is the last week, when assignments are due by 11:59 PM CST Wednesday of that week.

Feedback: All assignments will be completed/uploaded to the designated tab on the Blackboard course page. Feedback on assignments will be provided through the same platform.

Chapter Question Discussions: Each week has a dedicated discussion on Blackboard with a series of discussion questions. An assignment list will be posted in the Announcements during the first week indicating which students should answer which two questions. Each question should have an answer of at least 300 words, but many questions will require more words for complete credit, and may require follow up submissions in response to comments that I make on the Discussion. The text of the question being answered should appear before the answer. These answers/responses should be posted by the Wednesday of each week at 11:59 PM C.S.T.

By Saturday at 11:59 P.M. C.S.T. each student should submit at least a 100 word response to another student’s response. **These should be critical comments regarding the other student’s success and failure in addressing the assigned question in terms of the content of the text.** Each group of posts and responses is worth 20 points.

Discussion Post to the Professor’s Comments on Your Weekly Chapter Discussion: There are 7 of the Discussions which involve each student posting a reaction to my comments on his/her discussion for the previous week. The student should begin with a summary of what my statement is that he/she is responding to, and then address the question or concerns These are due the week after the respective Discussion is due, and therefore there is no Discussion of this type for the reading for the last week. Each Discussion is worth 10 points.

Research paper— This project is a written analysis of a specific case in environmental ethics. The student should gather relevant research material to address the importance and complexity of the issues in the case. Specific attention should be given to a presentation of the competing ethical arguments involved and their evaluation. This assignment should be at least 15 pages in length and prepared in Turabian style according to the instructions at these university link: [Link](https://www.wbu.edu/academics/schools/school-of-christian-studies/documents/Revised-SRPWritingStyleGuide2016.pdf). This assignment will be graded on the basis of quality of research, quality and accuracy of presentation, and the sophistication of analysis involved. [See this link for criteria by which to identify quality sources](https://wbuwf.com/online/Courses/rswr3345/source_evaluation.pdf). The specific case should be submitted to the designated discussion board by the first week of the term, and later reviewed for the professor’s comments. This is worth 5 points. A working bibliography and paper outline should be uploaded to the designated discussion board by the end of the third week and is worth 10 points. See this link for the rubric according to which the assignment will be graded: [Rubric](http://wbuwf.com/online/Courses/RLGN5323/RLGN5323PaperRubric.docx). The research paper is due the last Friday of the term and is worth 100 points. The student should carefully view the professor’s comments on each of the successive assignment submissions in order to make progress in preparing a high quality paper.

**A. Measurement Instruments and Grading Chart**

Chapter Question Discussion Posts—20 points times 8 160 points

Response to Professor’s comments—10 points times 7 70 points

Research Project

 Case Study Choice - 5 points

 Working bibliography and outline- 10 points

 Research paper— 100 points

Total points for research project 115 points

Total points for course 345 points

**As per the University Grading System listed below, points earned in the course will result in the following final grades:**

 A—311-345; B—276-310; C—242-275; D—207-241; F—206-0

**B.Grading Scale**

 90 – 100% A

 80 – 89% B

 70 – 79% C

 60 – 69% D

 Below 60% F

**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

All assignments, unless otherwise stated, are due on the Saturday of the week they are assigned at 11.59 P.M. C.S.T. The major exception is the last week, when assignments are due by 11:59 PM CST Friday of that week.

| Dates | Chapter Reading in Sandler | Assignments Due |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Week 1 – June 2-7 | 1-2 and [Christian Ethics](http://media.sabda.org/alkitab-2/Religion-Online.org%20Books/Harkness%2C%20Georgia%20-%20Christian%20Ethics.pdf)-Chapter 1 | Discussion 1 Post Ethics Case Study Submitted |
| Week 2 – June 8-14 | 3-4 | Discussion 2 Post Discussion on Professor’s Comments on Your Chapter Discussion for Week 1 |
| Week 3 – June 15-21 | 5-6  | Discussion 3 Post Discussion on Professor’s Comments on Your Chapter Discussion for week 2 Working Outline and Bibliography |
| Week 4- June 22-28 | 7-8 | Discussion 4 Post Discussion on Professor’s Comments on Your Chapter Discussion for Week 3  |
| Week 5-June 29-July 5 | 9-10 | Discussion 5 Post Discussion on Professor’s Comments on Your Chapter Discussion for Week 4 |
| Week 6 – July 6-12 | 11-12 | Discussion 6 Post Discussion on Professor’s Comments on Your Chapter Discussion for Week 5  |
| Week 7**-** July 13-19 | 13-14 | Discussion 7 Post Discussion on Professor’s Comments on Your Chapter Discussion for Week 6  |
| Week 8**-** July 20-26 | 15-16 | Discussion 8 Post Discussion on Professor’s Comments on Your Chapter Discussion for Week 7Research paper |