

COS 422 - Theological Heritage IV: Wesleyan Movement
September 21-23 and November 16-18, 2018
Spring Heights Education Center
Spencer, WV
Course Syllabus
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Course Description (Goals and Objectives)

This course covers the significant individuals, decisive events, and theology of the Methodist movement. Utilizing categories of grace, faith, and holiness, the student will appropriate the Wesleyan heritage.

Students will be able to:

1. Understand and reflect on the movements, major figures, and events that led to the eighteenth century revivals, especially the lives and ministries of John and Charles Wesley.
2. Understand and articulate the vision of holiness and the theology of grace as it shaped the Wesleys, and the structures of the Methodist movement.
3. Identify and discuss significant theological and historical developments in American Methodism, including ordination and episcopacy.
4. Reflect theologically on their Wesleyan heritage and identity.

Textbooks

Required Texts:

1. Richard Heitzenrater: Wesley and the People Called Methodists, Second Edition
2. Russ Richey, Ken Rowe, Jeanne M. Schmidt: American Methodism: A Compact History
3. Randy Maddox: Responsible Grace

References:

1. The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016
2. The United Methodist Hymnal
3. John Wesley's Fifty-three Sermons or Wesley's Sermons, An Anthology: edited by Outler and Heitzenrater

Supplementary:

1. John Wigger: Taking Heaven by Storm

Assignments

September 21-23, 2018 (Read, Reflect, Write, Articulate, and Pray)

READ

Read pages 11 - 146 (par. 1 - 166) in the 2016 Book of Discipline.

Charles Wesley's 51 hymns, and John Wesley's 4 hymns that are included in The United Methodist Hymnal. You can easily locate them in the index of authors.

Select and read at least three of John Wesley's sermons in his Fifty-three Sermons or the Anthology from the following list: I. Salvation By Faith; II. The Almost Christian; IV. Scriptural Christianity; V. Justification By Faith; VI. The Righteousness Of Faith; XII. The Means Of Grace; XXXV. Christian Perfection; or any of his thirteen sermons on the Sermon on the Mount.

Richard Heitzenrater's, Wesley And The People Called Methodists, Second Edition, chapters one, two, and three.

REFLECT

Reflect on what you are reading. What interests you the most about what you are reading? What theological themes emerge in what you are reading? What would you identify as the central theology of the Wesleyan Movement? What would you identify as the central doctrines of the movement? What strikes you the most about our history, formation, or the organization of the Methodist Movement?

WRITE

Write a two page double spaced paper on your understanding of one of these themes: John Wesley's concept of God, his theology of love, his doctrine of grace, or his thoughts about faith, salvation, or holiness.

Write a sermon on the theme that we are saved by Grace through Faith in Jesus Christ. Be sure to draw upon Wesley's sermons. (The length of the sermon should reflect your ability to preach it in fifteen to twenty minutes.)

Write a Bible Study on our Doctrinal Standards, Theological Task, Mission and Ministry of the Church or Social Principles. Be sure to accurately reflect what is taught in the Book of Discipline. (The length of the study should reflect your ability to teach the material in a forty-five minute class.)

Write a two page double spaced paper on your grasp of the events that resulted in the rise of the Methodist Movement. Be sure to cite the first three chapters of Heitzenrater's textbook.

ARTICULATE

As you prepare for class, be able to articulate your understanding of the reading assignments. Class discussion is an important part of the process of theological education. This class, however, is not about your personal opinions, but rather about being able to understand and articulate the theological themes of John Wesley and the Wesleyan Movement.

PRAY

Pray for the COS. Pray for your classmates, instructors, and administrators. Pray for the hospitality staff of Spring Heights. Pray for your churches, and their role in your theological education.

November 16-18, 2018

Follow the same process as outlined above. For this session, the reading will focus on the two other required textbooks, and the supplementary textbook listed above.

READ and REFLECT upon the three textbooks, and WRITE a five page paper on John Wesley's theology of grace (be sure to include all categories), or choose a topic that you are excited about from what you have read, and write on that topic. Examples are the Social Gospel, the struggle over slavery or segregation, clergy rights for women, inclusiveness, or holiness. Do not be limited by these examples.

Choose a topic that gets you excited, and that you want to dig into a little more deeply. Just be sure that I approve your topic before you begin writing. Also, don't put off reading until it's almost time for our November session or you will become overwhelmed. My hope is for you to develop or deepen your love for Wesleyan theology, that will enrich your ministry through the years as it has mine. Again, prepare to come to class ready to ARTICULATE what you are learning. And remember to PRAY for the COS, that we all might grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.