

COS 122 – THEOLOGICAL HERITAGE I

SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER 2020 ONLINE WV: EXTENSION

Instructor

Rev. Greg Markins

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COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This course introduces the student to theological reflection in the Wesleyan tradition. Basic terms, tasks, and methods of Christian theology will be introduced. Representative classical themes will be defined and illustrated. The course provides a foundation for further historical and theological study.

OBJECTIVES (*students will be able to*):

Examine their understanding of faith, sin, salvation, grace, and the place of doctrine in the life of the Church.

Use and understand classical theological terms and themes.

Critically consider the sources of theological reflection, including scripture, tradition, experience and reason.

Reflect theologically as a resource for pastoral ministry.

REQUIRED TEXT

- **Methodist Doctrine: The Essentials, 2nd Edition**, Ted A. Campbell.
- **An Introduction to Christian Theology**, Justo L. Gonzalez and Zaida Maldonado.
- **Living Our Beliefs: The United Methodist Way**, Kenneth L. Carder.
- **John Wesley's Sermons: An Anthology**, edited by Albert C. Outler and Richard P. Heitzenrater.

REFERENCE TEXT (*you should already have these texts as part of your personal library*)

- **The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2016**,
UM_Publishing_House, Nashville, TN.
- **United Methodist Hymnal**

SUPPLEMENTARY TEXT/RESOURCES

- **The New Creation: John Wesley's Theology Today**, Ted Runyon
 - **The Theology of John Wesley: Holy Love and the Shape of Grace**, Ken Collins
 - **This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion**,
Gayle Carlton Felton. Downloadable PDF version is also available at this link.
<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/this-holy-mystery-a-united-methodist-understanding-of-holy-communion>
 - **By Water and the Spirit: Making Connections/Identity & Ministry**,
Gayle Carlton Felton. Downloadable PDF version is also available at this link.
<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/by-water-and-the-spirit-full-text>
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WRITTEN COURSE ASSIGNMENTS: (details provided below within each module)

Assignment No.	Description	Due Date
1	Intro Theology Paper	Sept 9, Sept 21
2	Methodist Doctrine: The Essentials	October 3
3	Sermon on Grace	October 17
4	UM Beliefs	October 26
5	Sacraments Paper	December 5

ZOOM MEETING SCHEDULE FOR COS 122

Module 01 – Saturday, Sept 26, 9-11 AM:

Module 02 – Saturday, Oct. 10, 9-11 AM:

Module 03 – Saturday, Oct. 31, 9-11 AM:

Module 04 – Saturday, Oct. 31, 1-3 PM:

Module 05 – Saturday, Nov. 14, 9-11 AM:

**All Zoom meeting time are (EST)*

SESSION 01: INTRODUCTION (Complete the following prior to the September 26th Zoom Meeting. Please note additional deadlines on written assignments.)

1ST WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT: (**Part 1 is due Sept. 9th; Part 2 - the revision - is due September 21st**) This first assignment has a **two-part submission**. The first submission will be sent to writing coach. After feedback and opportunity to revise, the second submission to be sent to the instructor.

Review the **COS Writing Help** section at the following link found on the Course of Study website: <http://coswv.org/resources/>.

Part 1: Read **An Introduction to Christian Theology** and write a **three to five page** paper, double spaced, (not to exceed 5 pages) describing your understanding of theology and how it plays a part in your role as pastor of a local congregation. **Email your paper to Mark Jarrett, the Course of Study writing coach, at logosian1@gmail.com.**

The writing coach will evaluate this first assignment from a written standpoint and will provide feedback as it pertains to structure, aspects of argumentation, and proper formatting - the Modern Language Association (MLA) formatting style. The writing

coach **will return your paper with comments/recommendations**. The writing coach will not issue a grade. This exercise is intended to expose you to writing tools and to aid in the crafting of higher quality written work. It is my belief that a higher quality of writing will translate into a higher quality of preaching.

Part 2:

After receiving feedback from writing coach, **revise paper and submit** (via email as a Word document) to **greg.markins@gmail.com** by September 21st.

SESSION 02: DOCTRINE & THEOLOGICAL TASK (Complete the following prior to the October 10th Zoom Meeting. Please note additional deadlines on written assignments.)

1. Read ***The Book of Discipline 2016 – Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task*** (paragraphs 102 thru 104).
2. Read ***The Methodist Doctrine: The Essentials*** – Chapters 1 thru 7 (**Due October 3**)
 - o **2ND WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT**: Write a one-page response on each chapter of the above text. This will be a total of seven pages compiled in a single document (12 font, single or double spaced is acceptable).
 - o Each chapter response should include the following:
 - What you believe to be the MAIN IDEA?
 - Include one or two quotes you found significant, puzzling, or something in which you do not agree. Explain why.
 - Be prepared to discuss in class and/or in discussion board.
3. Review posted video/podcast lecture (link to be provided by instructor).
4. Complete open book test on basic terms (link for test to be provided by instructor).

SESSION 03: UNITED METHODIST BELIEFS (Complete the following prior to the October 31st Zoom Meeting. Please note additional deadlines on written assignments.)

1. Read the following sermons from ***John Wesley's Sermons: An Anthology***.
 - o *The Scripture Way of Salvation* and *Salvation by Faith*.
2. **3RD WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT** Select a scripture passage and **prepare a 3-4 page sermon**, double-spaced (not to exceed 4 pages) focused on grace as generally described by John Wesley (**hint**: prevenient, justifying, sanctifying). Please include any citations for direct quotes and/or other references found within the sermon. **Sermon is due October 17th**.

3. Review posted videos/podcast lecture on the Wesleyan Quadrilateral (link to be provided by instructor)

SESSION 04: THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION – PASTORAL MINISTRY

(Complete the following prior to the October 31st Zoom Meeting. Please note additional deadlines on written assignments.)

1. Read ***Living Our Beliefs: The United Methodist Way*** – Chapters 1 thru 11
4th Written Assignment - Due October 26th: Write short responses (1 or 2 paragraphs – not to exceed 2 paragraph) to the following questions found at the end of each chapter in the Carder book, *Living Our Beliefs: The United Way*. Be prepared to discuss in class and/or discussion board.
 - Chapter 1, Q#2; Chapter 2, Q#2; Chapter 3, Q#3 & 4; Chapter 4, Q#1; Chapter 5, Q#1; Chapter 6, Q#1 & 3; Chapter 7, Q#1 & 4; Chapter 8, Q#1; Chapter 9, Q#1 & 2; Chapter 10, Q#4; Chapter 11, Q#2;
2. Listen to the following John Wesley's sermons. Select link beside each sermon title.
 - *On Christian Perfection*: [click for sermon link](#)
 - *The Means of Grace*: [click for sermon link](#)
 - *The Marks of New Birth*: [click for sermon link](#)
3. Theological Dilemma Presentations – Pre-work instructions for this assignment will be provided by October 15th.

SESSION 05: THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION - SACRAMENTS

(Complete the following prior to the November 14th Zoom Meeting. Please note additional deadlines on written assignments.)

1. Sacraments Presentations – Pre-work instructions for this assignment will be provided by November 1st.
2. Read [This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion](#) (pages 2-24)
3. Watch this video segment from the movie *Romero* (there will be a discussion board posting on this clip):
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=avLoQhGLtx4>
 - Note: If you have an Amazon Prime account, the entire movie is available. I highly recommend watching in its entirety.
4. Read [By Water and the Spirit](#) (pages 1-15)

POST SESSION 05 WORK: SACRAMENTS PAPER

(The following assignment is due December 5th)

5TH WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT:

Write a 4-page paper (*not counting works cited page*) **describing the role of the sacraments in the church**. The readings and discussions from this class should inform your paper. However, make sure you do not merely write "about" the sacraments (i.e. biblical, historical, and the "how-to" aspects of the sacraments), even though it may be helpful.

GUIDELINES FOR PAPERS:

Your papers should be shaped by your theological identity. In other words, tell how you understand God in relation to the world. Your papers should reference the readings which have helped shape your thinking. Whether using supporting texts for the course, other readings, and/or Scripture, use care to avoid "proof texting." Be sure to give analysis that supports your argument(s). Footnote when necessary according to the Modern Language Association (MLA) formatting style. All written work, unless otherwise stated, should be in a Word document, 12 font, and double-spaced.

Please submit all papers via email and as a Word document. This allows me greater ease/flexibility to provide you with detailed feedback within your papers.

If you have any questions, please contact me. My goal is to help you take steps to grow in your theological identity through the lens of our shared Methodist Heritage.

GRADING BREAKDOWN:

Assignment 1	20%
Assignment 2	5%
Assignment 3	25%
Assignment 4	5%
Assignment 5	30%
Class Participation	15%