

# COS 122 – THEOLOGICAL HERITAGE I

MARCH 18-20 AND APRIL 22-24, 2022

SPRING HEIGHTS EXTENSION SCHOOL

## Instructor

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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.

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## REQUIRED TEXT

- **Methodist Doctrine: The Essentials, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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>

## COURSE EXPECTATIONS

### A. Wesleyan “Rule of Life”:

- Do no harm
- Do good
- Attend to ordinances of God (spiritual discipline).

(*General Rules, Discipline 2016*)

### B. Inclusive language

It is expected that students be committed to equality for women and men of every racial and ethnic background. Students and instructor are to use language which exemplifies respect, dignity, and equality in conversations with colleagues, in public discourse, in classroom discussions, and in writings. Class participants will be expected to use inclusive language in all writings and during class discussion & participation. If you have specific questions, please see the instructor. (Helpful resource, *Words that Hurt, Words that Heal (new edition)* (Cokesbury.com download, original 1980 resource)

### C. Academic Integrity

Student integrity regarding all work assigned in this class is a basic expectation of the learning community. (see page 30, *COS Student Handbook, 2021-22* – “Academic responsibility”) Also, guidelines for writing, page 24, *COS Handbook*. (see link for handbook: [Course of Study \(coswv.org\)](http://coswv.org))

### D. Attendance

National policy (from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry) states that a student is expected to attend every class session. Unexcused absences may be cause for loss of credit or dismissal from the term. A student missing more than 20% of the classroom work shall not receive credit for those classes. In the event of extenuating circumstances which require the student to miss up to 20% of a course, the student should contact the Director of the West Virginia Extension School before the class is scheduled to meet. (Extenuating circumstances include emergency situations, illness and dire circumstances, for example). Students are encouraged to provide back-up coverage at the local church while the pastor is away. (see *COS Attendance Policy* – page 13, *COS Student Handbook, 2021-22*)

### E. Confidentiality

It is imperative that students do not share information that is confidential, privileged, or proprietary in nature. In addition, students are expected to honor the privacy and confidentiality of their classmates by not disclosing conversations with those outside of the classroom.

## COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

### PRECOURSE WORK

**1<sup>ST</sup> ASSIGNMENT:** (*Part 1 is due March 4<sup>th</sup>; Part 2 (the revision) is due March 17<sup>th</sup>*)

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 is 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-page** paper, double spaced, (not to exceed 3 pages – not counting Works Cited Page) 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](mailto: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](mailto:greg.markins@gmail.com)** by March 17<sup>th</sup>.

## MARCH 18-20 SESSION

Read the following prior to 1<sup>st</sup> weekend sessions:

- ***The Book of Discipline 2016*** – *Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task* (paragraphs 102 thru 104).
- ***The Methodist Doctrine: The Essentials*** – Chapters 1 thru 7
- ***John Wesley's Sermons: An Anthology*** – on *Original Sin, The Scripture Way of Salvation, The Almost Christian, Justification by Faith, Salvation by Faith, and New Birth*.

**2<sup>ND</sup> ASSIGNMENT:** (Due Friday upon arrival at first session – early submission accepted)

- Write a one page response on each chapter of Campbell book, ***The Methodist Doctrine: The Essentials***. This will be a total of seven pages (**in a single document**), 12 font, single or double spaced is up to you. Each response paper 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.

**3<sup>RD</sup> ASSIGNMENT:** (Due Friday upon arrival at first session – early submission accepted)

- 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.

## **APRIL 22-24 SESSION**

Read the following prior to 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend sessions:

- ***Living Our Beliefs: The United Methodist Way*** – Chapters 1 thru 11
- ***John Wesley's Sermons: An Anthology*** – on *Christian Perfection, The Means of Grace, Spiritual Worship, The Marks of New Birth, The Duty of Constant Communion, and The Good Steward.*

**4<sup>TH</sup> ASSIGNMENT:** (Due April 21<sup>st</sup> – early submission accepted)

Write short (**1 or 2 paragraphs – not to exceed 2 paragraphs, in a single document**) responses to the following questions at the end of each chapter in the Carder book, ***Living Our Beliefs: The United Methodist Way***. Be prepared to discuss in class.

- 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;

**5<sup>TH</sup> ASSIGNMENT:** (Due May 2<sup>nd</sup>)

Write a 4-page paper (**not counting works cited page**) **describing the role of the sacraments in the church.** The readings from this class should inform your papers. 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 paper should be shaped by your theological identity. In other words, tell how you understand God in relation to the world.** Your paper 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. Assignments 1, 3 and 5 should include a Works Cited Page.

**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	15% of final grade
Assignment 2	5% of final grade
Assignment 3	25% of final grade
Assignment 4	5% of final grade
Assignment 5	30% of final grade
Class Participation	20% of final grade