

COS 122 – THEOLOGICAL HERITAGE I

MARCH – MAY 2021 ONLINE WV: EXTENSION

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.

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.umdiscipleship.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.umdiscipleship.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	March 12
2	Methodist Doctrine: The Essentials	April 3
3	Sermon on Grace	April 14
4	Living Our Beliefs: The UM Way	April 22
5	Sacraments Paper	May 15

ZOOM MEETING SCHEDULE FOR COS 122

Module 01 – Saturday, March 20, 9-11 AM:

Module 02 – Saturday, April 10, 9-11 AM:

Module 03 – Saturday, April 24, 9-11 AM:

Module 04 – Saturday, April 24, 1-3 PM:

Module 05 – Saturday, May 8, 9-11 AM:

**All Zoom meeting time are (EST)*

SESSION 01: INTRODUCTION (Complete the following prior to the March 20th Zoom Meeting. Please note additional deadlines on written assignments.)

1. **1ST WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT: Due March 12th:**

- a. 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**.
- b. In preparation for writing this paper, I encourage you to review the **COS Writing Help** section at the following link found on the Course of Study website: <http://coswv.org/resources/>.
- c. **Please submit** paper by March 12th, (**via email as a Word document**) to **greg.markins@gmail.com**.

2. In preparation for **Discussion Board Post**, listen to John Wesley's sermon, **On God's Vineyard**: follow link https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2C_JuTQiJw4

- a. While listening, try to identify a few aspects of Methodist organization in which he believed attributed to its success. Be prepared to share your findings when discussion board titled *On God's Vineyard* has been posted by the instructor.

SESSION 02: DOCTRINE & THEOLOGICAL TASK

(Complete the following prior to the April 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 April 3rd**)
 - 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. **Wesleyan Quadrilateral assignment.** Receive *Theological Dilemma* instructions during this Zoom session. (instructor will also provide link to video with additional instructions)

SESSION 03: UNITED METHODIST BELIEFS

(Complete the following prior to the April 24th Zoom Meeting. Please note additional deadlines on written assignments.)

1. Read the following sermons from **John Wesley's Sermons: An Anthology**.
 - o *Original Sin*
 - o *The Scripture Way of Salvation*
 - o *Justification by Faith*
 - o *Christian Perfection*
2. Review three short video/podcast lectures on *A Wesleyan Understanding of Grace* (link to be provided by instructor)
3. **3RD WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT – Due April 14th** - Select a scripture passage and **prepare a 3-4 page sermon**, double-spaced (not to exceed 4 pages) focused on Wesley's understanding of grace. The assigned sermons and video/podcast lectures listed in this session, should inform your sermon. Please include any citations for direct quotes and/or other references found within the sermon.
4. In class **Wesleyan Quadrilateral Assignment** - Pre-work instructions for this assignment will be provided by April 10th.

SESSION 04: THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION – PASTORAL MINISTRY

(Complete the following prior to the April 24th Zoom Meeting (Session 2 of the day). Please note additional deadlines on written assignments.)

1. Read ***Living Our Beliefs: The United Methodist Way*** – Chapters 1 thru 11
4th Written Assignment - Due April 22nd: 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.
 - o 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.
 - o ***The Means of Grace***: [click for sermon link](#)
 - o ***The Marks of New Birth***: [click for sermon link](#)

SESSION 05: THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION - SACRAMENTS

(Complete the following prior to the May 8th Zoom Meeting. Please note additional deadlines on written assignments.)

1. Review posted videos/podcast lectures on the Sacraments (link to be provided by instructor)
2. Read the following sermons by John Wesley:
 - o ***A Treatise on Baptism*** – see link (navigate to page 225 for sermon): https://truth4freedom.files.wordpress.com/2012/11/wes_ww10.pdf
 - o ***The Duty of Constant Communion*** – see John Wesley Sermons: An Anthology or you may listen to sermon at the following link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_CnPJKYJj4
3. Read [This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion](#) (pages 2-24)
4. Watch this video segment from the movie *Romero* (there will be a discussion board posting on this clip):
 - o <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=avLoQhGLtx4>
 - o Note: If you have an Amazon Prime account, the entire movie is available. I highly recommend watching in its entirety.
5. Read [By Water and the Spirit](#) (pages 1-15)

POST SESSION 05 WORK: SACRAMENTS PAPER

(The following assignment is **Due May 15th**)

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%