

### 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>

**HYBRID FORMAT:** This course is taught using the Hybrid format. A hybrid course is comprised of at least 50% of the class taught on campus (at the Spring Heights Camp and Retreat Center in Spencer, WV) and no more than 50% of course taught computer-mediated. All computer-mediated content will be administered through **Teachable** (our LMS/learning management system). Once your registration has been processed, you will receive a link to set up your **Teachable** account.

**WRITTEN COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:** *(details provided below within each section)*

Assignment No.	Description	Due Date
1	Intro Theology Paper	March 3
2	Methodist Doctrine: The Essentials	March 17
3	Sermon on Grace	March 24
4	Living Our Beliefs: The UM Way	April 11
5	Sacraments Paper	April 29

## SCHEDULE FOR COS 122

**Section 01:** Introduction - VIA **Teachable**, the Learning Management System (LMS)

**Section 02:** Theological Foundation (VIA Zoom<sup>1</sup> Video Conferences)

Saturday, March 11, 9:00 – 11:00 AM and 1:00 – 3:00 PM

**Section 03:** Doctrine & Our Theological Task Part I – VIA Teachable (LMS)

**Section 04:** Doctrine & Our Theological Task Part II – VIA Teachable (LMS)

**Section 05:** Doctrine & Our Theological Task Part III – VIA Zoom

Saturday, March 25, 9:00 – 11:00 AM and 1:00 – 3:00 PM

**Sections 06 - 09:** Theological Reflection – At Spring Heights Camp & Retreat Center

Friday, April 14, 2023 through Sunday, April 16, 2023

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<sup>1</sup> All Zoom meeting times are Eastern Standard Time; Instructor will provide students with meeting links prior to sessions.

## SECTION 01: INTRODUCTION

1. **ORIENTATION LECTURE** – Log into Teachable (LMS)
2. **GOALS & OBJECTIVES LECTURE** – Teachable (LMS)
3. **1<sup>ST</sup> WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT: *Due March 3<sup>rd</sup>***
  - 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, 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 3<sup>rd</sup>, (**via email as a Word document**) to **greg.markins@gmail.com**.
4. In preparation for **Discussion Board Post** (found on Teachable), listen to John Wesley's sermon, **On God's Vineyard**: see link on Teachable (LMS)
  - a. While listening, identify a few aspects of Methodist organization in which he believed attributed to its success.
  - b. Be prepared to share your findings when discussion board titled **On God's Vineyard** has been posted by the instructor.

## SECTION 02: THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION

1. **ZOOM SESSIONS** Instructor will provide Zoom links via email and/or Teachable (LMS). The text *An Introduction to Christian Theology* will be the focus of discussion.
  - a. **INTRODUCTIONS**
  - b. **FUNCTIONS OF THEOLOGY**
  - c. **THEOLOGY IN PRACTICE**

## SECTION 03: DOCTRINE & OUR THEOLOGICAL TASK - PART I

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 March 17<sup>th</sup>**)
  - **2<sup>ND</sup> 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).
  - 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. **WHAT IS DOCTRINE LECTURE** - Log into Teachable (LMS)
4. **ELEMENTS OF DOCTRINE LECTURE** - Log into Teachable (LMS)

## SECTION 04: DOCTRINE & OUR THEOLOGICAL TASK – PART II

1. Read the following sermons from **John Wesley's Sermons: An Anthology**.
  - *Original Sin*
  - *The Scripture Way of Salvation*
  - *Justification by Faith*
  - *Christian Perfection*
2. **A WESLEYAN UNDERSTANDING OF GRACE** - Review three short video/podcast lectures on (located in Teachable LMS)
3. **3<sup>RD</sup> WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT – Due March 24<sup>th</sup>** - 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.

## SECTION 05: DOCTRINE & OUR THEOLOGICAL TASK – PART III

1. **ZOOM SESSIONS** Instructor will provide Zoom links via email and/or Teachable (LMS).
  - a. The Wesleyan Quadrilateral
  - b. Small group assignment

## SECTIONS 06 - 09: THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION (ON-CAMPUS @ SPRING HEIGHTS)

(Complete the following prior to the on-campus sessions. Please note additional deadlines on written assignments.)

1. Listen to the following John Wesley's sermons. See link on Teachable (LMS).
  - o **The Means of Grace** and **The Marks of New Birth**
2. Read **Living Our Beliefs: The United Methodist Way** – Chapters 1 thru 11  
**4<sup>th</sup> Written Assignment - Due April 11th**: 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
3. Read the following sermons by John Wesley:
  - o **A Treatise on Baptism** – see link on Teachable (LMS) (navigate to page 225 for sermon):
  - o **The Duty of Constant Communion** – see John Wesley Sermons: An Anthology or you may listen to sermon at the link posted on Teachable (LMS):
4. Read [This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion](#) (pages 2-24)

## POST SECTION WORK: SACRAMENTS PAPER

(The following assignment is **Due April 29<sup>th</sup>**)

### **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	25%
Assignment 2	5%
Assignment 3	20%
Assignment 4	5%
Assignment 5	25%
Class Participation	20%