

COS 422 - Theological Heritage IV: Wesleyan Movement
 September 30, 2023 (9-11 am and 1-3 pm zoom classes);
 October 28, 2023 (9-11am and 1-3 pm zoom classes);
 November 17-19, 2023 (In Person Classes)
 Held at Spring Heights Camping and Retreat 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 become familiar with Our 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/Recommended:

1. John Wigger: Taking Heaven by Storm
2. Robert G. Tuttle, Jr., John Wesley: His Life and Theology

Videos: I have seven videos on Vimeo that you can watch at any time. They will help reinforce your reading and writing assignments as well as our class discussions. The password to be able to access the videos is "John Wesley".

- 01 <https://vimeo.com/457814594>

- 02 <https://vimeo.com/457963008>
- 03 <https://vimeo.com/458238159>
- 04 <https://vimeo.com/458784263>
- 05 <https://vimeo.com/458789242>
- 06 <https://vimeo.com/459167187>
- 07 <https://vimeo.com/459177540>

ASSIGNMENTS

(Read, Reflect, Watch, Write, Articulate, and Pray)

READ

For September 30 zoom classes: Read pages 11-146 (par. 1-166) in the 2016 Book of Discipline, and 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.

For October 28 zoom classes: Richard Heitzenrater's, Wesley And The People Called Methodists, Second Edition, chapters one, two, and three, and American Methodism: A Compact History by Richey, Rowe, and Schmidt.

For November 17-19 in person classes at Spring Heights: Select 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, and read Responsible Grace by Randy Maddox.

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

You will write a total of twenty pages for this course.

WRITE a six page paper on one of the following topics: Our Doctrinal Standards, Our Theological Task, Mission and Ministry of the Church, or The Social Principles. Be sure to accurately reflect what is taught in the Book of Discipline. (Please double space and use size 14 font.) Please mail or email this to me one week prior to our September 30 zoom class.

WRITE a six 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. (Please double space and use a size 14 font.) Please mail or email this to me one week prior to our October 28 zoom class.

WRITE an eight page sermon on the theme that we are saved by Grace through Faith in Jesus Christ. Be sure to draw upon Wesley's sermons. (Please double space and use size 14 font.) Bring this to class with you in November.

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 is 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 17-19, 2023

Our November class sessions will focus on the Randy Maddox textbook reading assignments and Wesley Sermon assignments.

Please do not put off reading until it's almost time for our class sessions or you will become overwhelmed. My hope is for you to develop or deepen your interest and love for Wesleyan theology that will enrich your ministry through the years as it has mine.

Prepare to come to class ready to ARTICULATE what you are learning.

Please PRAY for the COS, that we may all grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 3:18)