

**UNITED METHODIST COURSE OF STUDY**  
**Course of Study School of Ohio**

**COURSE 522 – Theology in The Contemporary Church**  
**Fall 2015**

**Meeting Dates:**       **ON Campus – October 9-10, 2015**  
                                  **ONLINE – October 12- November 20, 2015**

**Instructor:**   **Professor Scott Kisker, Ph.D.**  
                          **Professor of the History of Christianity, United Theological Seminary**  
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**Course Description:**

This course covers significant individuals, movements, events, and theological developments from the nineteenth century to the present. Students will read selected primary sources.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Understand the origins and theological tenets of liberalism from the early 19th century to the present, including its influence on ecumenism and process theology.
2. Understand and distinguish reactions to liberalism, including Fundamentalism, Neo-Orthodoxy, and Evangelicalism.
3. Understand the historical development and theology of the Holiness Movement, Pentecostalism, and the Charismatic Movement.
4. Understand the origins and tenets of Liberation and Contextual theologies.

**Required Readings:**

Justo Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity* (volume 2). (ISBN: 9780061855894)

Stanley Grenz and Roger Olson, *20th Century Theology: God and the World in a Transitional Age*, IVP Academic, 1993.

Supplementary:       Henry H Knight, *From Aldersgate to Azusa Street*  
                                  Daniel Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding*  
                                  John Caputo, *What Would Jesus Deconstruct?*

**MODULE ONE – ON CAMPUS, October 9-10**

**SESSION 1: *Beginnings of Modernity***

**Read:** Gonzales, Ch. 22.

**SESSION 2: *The 18th Century: Reason and Revival***

**Read:** Gonzales, chs. 24, 25.

Grenz and Olson, *20<sup>th</sup> Century Theology*, ch. 1.

**SESSION 3: *Second Great Awakening in America***

**Read:** Gonzalez, ch. 25, 27.

**SESSION 4: *Origins of Secularism and Liberalism***

**Read:** Gonzalez, chs. 28, 31.

Grenz and Olson, *20<sup>th</sup> Century Theology*, ch. 2.

**MODULE TWO – ONLINE October 13 - October 20**

***American Responses to Liberalism***

**Read:** Gonzalez, ch. 27, 36.

Grenz and Olson, *20<sup>th</sup> Century Theology*, ch. 3.

**View:** PPT, Liberalism and Fundamentalism in America

**MODULE THREE – ONLINE October 21 - October 28**

***Holiness Movement***

**Read:** Gonzalez, ch. 27.

**View:** PPT, Holiness Movement in America

**MODULE FOUR – ONLINE – October 29 - November 4**

***Pentecostalism***

**Read:** Gonzalez, ch. 27, 36.

Excerpt Bartleman's *Azusa Street*

**View:** PPT, Holiness to Pentecostalism

**MODULE FIVE – ONLINE – November 5 – November 12**

***Global Mission and Non-Western Christianity***

**Read:** Gonzalez, ch. 33, 37.

Grenz and Olson, *20<sup>th</sup> Century Theology*, chs. 3, 4, 5.

**View:** PPT, Global Mission and Non-Western Christianity

**MODULE SIX – ONLINE -- November 13 - November 20;**

***The Collapse of Western Hegemony***

**Read:** Gonzales, chs. 35, 36.

Grenz and Olson, *20<sup>th</sup> Century Theology*, chs 6,7, and 9

**View:** PPT, Greece is Bankrupt

**Submit:** Final Project by December 11, 2015.

## METHOD OF DETERMINING GRADE:

### 1. CLASS PARTICIPATION:

- For the community of learning to be most effective, we all need to be engaged. Online engagement has been delineated above and will be graded for level and depth of participation.
- Absences are, frankly, not possible for the online portion of the class. You have seven days for each module. You must find time during those seven days. In in-class sessions cannot be excused.
- **Church duties are not an excuse for absence.** Your appointment to a local church takes into account the need for school preparation. As part of your appointment, you are expected to be present. If this creates a problem, please speak to me as soon as possible.
- Part of each in-class session will be devoted to a group discussion. Your participation in the group discussion will determine a portion of the grade.

### 2. FINAL PROJECT:

1. **Create a timeline from AD 1800-Present.** From readings, lectures and class discussion, select 15 people that you think are important for the history of Christianity on your timeline, indicating their lifespan (birth to death) with a line above or below the timeline.
2. Attach an annotated list of those people in order of their birthdate. Next to each name, identify each person in 1-3 sentences, include dates, main accomplishments, and a brief reason you think each is important.
3. Write a 1 page, theologically grounded explanation of **your** criteria for what you understand to be central to Christianity and what you consider Christian faithfulness. Be specific. There must be people who fall outside your definition.
4. Select 3 people whom **you** see as being **most faithful to what you understand to be central to Christianity**. These people should reflect the aspects you articulated in section 3. Be sure to give examples from their thoughts and lives that illustrate your choice.

### 4. GRADE CALCULATION

The grade will be calculated in the following way:

|                               |            |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Class Contributions           | 20%        |
| Response Posts on Course Site | 20%        |
| Semester Project              | <u>60%</u> |
| Total                         | 100%       |

## **5.ACADEMIC HONOR POLICY**

The Course of Study School of Ohio requires that all material submitted by a student in fulfilling academic requirements must be the original work of the student. Violations of academic honor include any action by a student indicating lack of integrity in academic ethics. Violations include, but are not limited to, cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes seeking, acquiring, receiving or passing on information about the content of an examination prior to its authorized release or during its administration. Cheating also includes seeking, using, giving or obtaining unauthorized assistance in any academic assignment or examination. Plagiarism is the act of presenting the published or unpublished words or ideas of another [including online resources] as if it were one's own work. A writer's work should be regarded as his or her own property. Any person who knowingly (whether intentionally or unintentionally) uses a writer's distinctive work without proper acknowledgement is guilty of plagiarism. A student found guilty of a violation of the academic honor policy, after a review of the case, may be subject to one or more of the following actions:

- (1) warning
- (2) probation
- (3) suspension for the remainder of the course
- (4) dismissal from the Course of Study School of Ohio
- (5) failing grade for the course.

Regardless of the outcome, a letter will be sent to the student's District Superintendent and Board of Ordained Ministry.

Online Schedule:

To be sit during on campus discussions.