

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

**COURSE 122 – Theological Heritage 1: Introduction**  
**Winter 2017**

**Meeting Dates:** ON Campus – January 6-7, 2017  
ONLINE – January 9- February 18, 2017

**Instructor:**

Professor Scott Kisker, Ph.D.

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**Course Description:**

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.

**Course 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 Readings:**

Ted Campbell, *Methodist Doctrine: The Essentials*

Justo Gonzalez and Zaida Perez, *An Introduction to Christian Theology*

*The United Methodist Book of Discipline, 2012*

*United Methodist Hymnal*

**Supplementary Readings:**

Ken Collins, *The Theology of John Wesley: Holy Love and the Shape of Grace*

Ted Runyon, *The New Creation: John Wesley's Theology Today*

## **COURSE PLAN**

### **MODULE ONE – ON CAMPUS, January 6-7**

SESSION 1: Doctrine in the Wesleyan Tradition

SESSION 2: The Vision of Wesleyan Theology

SESSION 3: Creation, God's Order, and the Mission of God

SESSION 4: What is the Gospel? Matthew Mark, and Luke

### **MODULE TWO – ONLINE January 9 - January 14**

What is the Gospel? John and Paul

### **MODULE THREE – ONLINE January 16 - January 21**

Soteriology: Salvation in the Wesleyan Tradition

### **MODULE FOUR – ONLINE – January 30 - February 4**

Ecclesiology and Soteriology: Community and the Process of Salvation

### **MODULE FIVE – ONLINE – February 6 – February 11**

Soteriology and Eschatology: Love Justice and Judgment

### **MODULE SIX – ONLINE -- February 13 - February 18;**

The Practices of Wesleyan Theology

Submit: Final Essays due by February 25, 2017.

### **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-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. PRE-CLASS ASSIGNMENT

In your own words, with reference to the assigned texts, define the following theological topics. Your answers should be three to four sentences (approximately 200 words) each. You must be succinct, direct, and thoughtful. You may single space your answers.

The Trinity	Kingdom of God	Sanctification
The Word / Logos	Sacrament	Revelation
Holy Spirit	Mission	Scripture
Human	The Gospel	Tradition
Sin	Grace	Church
Salvation	Justification	Eschatology

## 3. FINAL ESSAYS:

Having read the textbook materials, and reflected on lectures and discussions, answer the following questions. Your answers are to be in your own words, while reflecting the main ideas that are found in the assignments. Each of your answers should be two to three double-spaced, typewritten pages, for a total of no more than 15 pages. Essays must be footnoted.

1. **The Problem of Authority:** How would you answer a teenager's question, "How do you know Christianity is true?" What is the role of revelation and in a Christian epistemology (how we know what we know)? Be sure to consider the role of Scripture, tradition, reason and experience (see Book of Discipline and assigned texts).
2. **The Nature of Ultimate Reality:** A couple, faithful members in your church, gave birth to a baby who lived for a week and then died. They have no other children and for the last fifteen years have sought medical help in order to conceive. When making arrangements with you for the funeral service, one of them asks, "Why did God allow our baby to die?" You are their pastor and a theologian of the Church of Jesus Christ. What do you say? Be sure to discuss issues of creation, sin, salvation, and justice.
3. **The Nature and Role of Jesus Christ:** Who do you say Jesus Christ is? Over the centuries some have argued that Jesus is a perfect human, an example for all humans, and others that he is simply divine, not really human at all. Followers of Islam believe he is a prophet and final judge of the world. Be sure to reference assigned texts including the Book of Discipline. Your essay should touch on incarnation, atonement, resurrection, and grace.
4. **The Goal and Purpose of Creation:** A person who has visited your church three weeks in a row asks you after service, "What is the

gospel?" Define the Gospel and relate it to the Mission of God? Your answer should address issues of Christology, soteriology and eschatology.

5. **The Church and Religious Life:** How do you understand the nature and purpose of the church? Be sure to consider to the "mission statement" in the Book of Discipline, and the role of the Holy Spirit in the community. Essay should address issues of soteriology, pneumatology, missiology, sacraments.

#### 4. GRADE CALCULATION

The grade will be calculated in the following way:

Pre-Class Assignment	20%
In-Class Participation	10%
Online Discussion Posts	20%
Final Essays	50%
Total	100%

#### 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.