

# COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL OF OHIO at MTSO

## 2018 Winter

February 9-10, March 9-10

Makeup dates: February 16-17, March 16-17

### ***COS 122 –Theological Heritage I: Introduction***

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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.

Students will be able to:

1. Examine their understanding of faith, sin, salvation, grace, and the place of doctrine in the life of the Church.
2. Use and understand classical theological terms and themes.
3. Critically consider the sources of theological reflection, including scripture, tradition, experience and reason.
4. Reflect theologically as a resource for pastoral ministry.

**Texts:** Ted Campbell, *Methodist Doctrine: The Essentials*

Justo González & Zaida Pérez, *An Introduction to Christian Theology*

John Wesley, "The Scripture Way of Salvation" (This sermon is available in a number of formats. I recommend finding it on the GBGM website <http://www.umcmission.org/Find-Resources/John-Wesley-Sermons/Sermon-43-The-Scripture-Way-of-Salvation> or at the Wesley Center Online <http://wesley.nnu.edu/john-wesley/the-sermons-of-john-wesley-1872-edition/>)

*Make sure you read the sermon in John Wesley's original language. **DO NOT** work with it in an updated language version.)*

*By Water and the Spirit*, GBOD, <http://www.gbod.org/resources/by-water-and-the-spirit-full-text>

*This Holy Mystery*, GBOD, <http://www.gbod.org/resources/this-holy-mystery-a-united-methodist-understanding-of-holy-communion1>

**Reference:** *2016 Book of Discipline\**

*United Methodist Hymnal\**

*Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms, Second Edition: Revised and Expanded*, Donald McKim

**Supplementary:** Ted Runyon, *The New Creation: John Wesley's Theology Today*  
Ken Collins, *The Theology of John Wesley: Holy Love and the  
Shape of Grace*

**Pre-course Assignments:**

Before you read anything, write 1) a 1-2 page paper of your current understanding of Wesley's quadrilateral and why it is important for The United Methodist Church and 2) a 1-2 page paper of your current understanding of sin.

Read *Methodist Doctrine* and *An Introduction to Christian Theology*. It would be a good idea to reread the relevant chapters (listed below in the class plan) just before the weekend that we meet.

Also read for the first weekend paragraphs 102-105 in the 2016 *Book of Discipline*.

For the first weekend, after you have done this reading, revise your two papers on the quadrilateral and sin to reflect your deepened understanding of these issues. Submit both the original and the revised versions as your assignment. For the revised paper, be sure to refer (either by footnote or by reference in parentheses) to the places where the reading has informed your thoughts.

For the second weekend, read "The Scripture Way of Salvation." Find Wesley's definitions of "salvation," "faith," "justification," and "perfection." State them and compare them to your own understanding of those words. Submit this paper as your assignment, referring (either by footnote or by reference in parentheses) to the paragraphs in the reading where Wesley states his ideas.

**Citing readings for papers:** There are some special conventions for citing the *Discipline* and Wesley. Do not use page numbers for either of them. The *Discipline* should be cited by paragraph number (and you can add a heading in a long paragraph, for instance ¶105, Tradition). Wesley should be cited by section and paragraph (for instance II.2)

**Class Plan:**

*First weekend.*

Friday, February 9, class 1: *Introduction to Christian Theology*, chapter 1. *Methodist Doctrine*, introduction, chapters 1 and 7. Focus on Prolegomena, Doctrine and Theology

Friday, February 9, class 2: Paragraphs 102-105 in 2016 *Book of Discipline*. Focus on quadrilateral.

Saturday, February 10, class 1: *Introduction to Christian Theology*, chapters 2-3. Focus on God and creation.

Saturday, February 10, class 2: *Methodist Doctrine*, chapter 3. Focus on theological anthropology.

*Second weekend.*

Friday, March 9, class 1: *Introduction to Christian Theology*, chapter 4. *Methodist Doctrine*, chapter 2. Focus on Jesus Christ.

Friday, March 9, class 2: *Methodist Doctrine*, chapter 4. Sermon 43, "The Scripture Way of Salvation." Focus on soteriology. (Bring hymnal)

Saturday, March 10 class 1: *Introduction to Christian Theology*, chapters 5 and 6. *Methodist Doctrine*, chapter 5, *By Water and the Spirit, This Holy Mystery*. Focus on ecclesiology.

Saturday, March 10, class 2: *Introduction to Christian Theology*, chapter 7. *Methodist Doctrine*, chapter 6. Focus on eschatology. (Bring hymnal)

**Assignment Deadlines:**

January 19: Turn in your original papers on the quadrilateral and sin along with your revised versions.

February 16: Turn in your paper on ideas in "The Scripture Way of Salvation"

March 17: Turn in open book final exam, to be given out and explained in class.

*All assignments should be turned in as Word documents to [slancaster@mtso.edu](mailto:slancaster@mtso.edu). If it is not possible for you to work on a computer or on the internet, contact me early to make other arrangements. Even if delivery method is different, the due date will be the same.*

**Grading:**

Pre-course papers (Original and revised papers, sermon outline): 30%

Open book final exam: 40%

Participation: 30%

## **Academic Honor**

The Course of Study School of Ohio requires that all material submitted by a student in fulfilling his or her academic requirements be the original work of the student.

Violations of academic honor include any action by a student indicating dishonesty or lack of integrity in academic ethics. Violations in this category include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly passing off work of another as one's own.

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 as one's own work with the work of another whether published or unpublished (including the work of another student). A writer's work should be regarded as his or her own property. Any person who knowingly uses a writer's distinctive work without proper acknowledgement is guilty of plagiarism.

A student found guilty of a violation of the academic honor code, 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) grade of Fail for the course. Regardless of the outcome, a letter will be sent to the student's District Superintendent and Board of Ordained Ministry representative.