

COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL OF OHIO at MTSO

2026 Summer

July 10-11 and July 31-Aug 1

COS 122 –Theological Heritage I: Introduction

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lancaster

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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.

Required Texts:

Ted Campbell, *Methodist Doctrine: The Essentials*

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

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

John Wesley, "The Scripture Way of Salvation," <https://wesley.nnu.edu/john-wesley/the-sermons-of-john-wesley-1872-edition/sermon-43-the-scripture-way-of-salvation/>

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, <https://gbod-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/drint/resources/english/bywaterandthespirit.pdf>

This Holy Mystery, GBOD,

<https://www.minnesotaumc.org/files/websites/www/By+Water+and+the+Spirit.pdf>

Note: If you don't know words in any of the reading, make sure you use the theological dictionary to understand theological words. Regular dictionaries (like Merriam-Webster) will not give you the meaning you need.

Reference: 20120/24 Book of Discipline*

United Methodist Hymnal*

Pre-course Assignments:

Before you read anything, write a 1-2 page paper of your current understanding of sin. (Due July 1)

Read Methodist Doctrine and An Introduction to Christian Theology (Read both the whole books!). 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 paper on sin to reflect how the reading deepened your understanding (Also due July 1 with original pre-reading paper). 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. **Submit your original and revised papers to me through Populi by July 1.**

Note that for the first weekend you will turn in two papers (original and revised) to me.

For the second weekend, read John Wesley's sermon "The Scripture Way of Salvation." Find Wesley's definitions of "salvation," "faith," "justification," and "perfection," and compare and contrast them to your own understanding of those words. Please note I do not want you to write simply that you agree or disagree with Wesley. I want you to state his ideas and your own, and then show how they are alike or different. **Submit your paper through Populi by July 17.**

Asynchronous Online work: On Populi, I will create **Lessons** for the two weekends; lessons need to be completed by the day before our Zoom meetings. The lesson for the first weekend should be completed Thursday before we meet by Zoom on Friday. The second lesson should be completed Thursday before the Friday Zoom meeting on the second weekend. You will find in the lessons **Discussion Boards** for this class. Make sure you post both your own thoughts and reply to others in this discussion. There may also be lectures or videos posted there for you to watch.

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 (Roman numeral) and paragraph (Arabic numeral) (for instance II.2)

Class Plan:

First weekend.

Friday, July 10, class meets by Zoom 3:00-5:00 pm. Review reading: *Introduction to Christian Theology*, chapter 1. *Methodist Doctrine*, introduction, chapters 1 and 7; 2016 Book of Discipline ¶105

Saturday, July 11, class meets by Zoom 9:00-11:00 am and 1:00-3:00 p.m.. Review reading: *Introduction to Christian Theology*, chapter 2-3 and *Methodist Doctrine* chapter 2-3.

Second weekend.

Friday, July 31, class meets by Zoom 3:00-5:00 pm. Review reading: *Introduction to Christian Theology*, chapter 4, *Methodist Doctrine*, chapter 4, *The Scripture way of Salvation* (Bring hymnal)

Saturday, August 1, class meets by Zoom 9:00-11:00 am and 1:00-3:00 pm. Review reading: *Introduction to Christian Theology*, chapters 5 and 6. *Methodist Doctrine*, chapter 5, *By Water and the Spirit, This Holy Mystery*.

Populi Discussions:

In addition to our class meetings online by Zoom, you will need to participate in online work through Populi. I have posted discussions to get you thinking about the material before we meet.. You must post at least twice (your own comment and a response to someone else) in each discussion to which you are assigned—this is a minimum, you are welcome to post more.

Assignment Deadlines:

July 1: Turn in your original paper on sin along with your revised version. (Two papers total)

July 17: Turn in your paper on ideas in “The Scripture Way of Salvation”

August 8: Turn in final open book assignment, which will be posted and explained the last weekend.

All written assignments should be turned in preferably as Word documents on Populi. Put your last name as the first word of the name of your document when you save it. Do not use Pages-- there have been problems posting and opening Pages on Populi. If you must post a PDF, I will not make comments throughout the paper, but only at the end.

Grading:

Papers (Original and revised paper on sin, Wesley sermon paper): 40% (20% each assignment)

Open book final exam: 30%

Participation: 30%

COSSO Academic Honor Policy

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 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 sanctions: (1) warning; (2) failing grade for the assignment and/or course; (3) probation; (4) suspension; (5) dismissal from the Course of Study School of Ohio. In severe or repeat cases (regardless of the sanctions) a letter will be sent to the student's District Superintendent and Board of Ordained Ministry representative.

COSSO Attendance Policy

National policy from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) states that a student is expected to attend every class session. Unexcused absences may be cause for loss of credit or dismissal from the school. A student missing 20% or more of the class sessions shall not receive credit for the class. In the event of extenuating circumstances which require the student to miss up to 20% of the synchronous course time (whether in-person or on Zoom), the student should contact both the instructor and the Director prior to the start of the class to get approval and discuss make-up work. (Extenuating circumstances include emergency situations,

illness, and dire circumstances, for example. Students are to provide back-up coverage at the local church while attending COS classes.)

Students attending online are required to show their faces the entire class time in order to be considered present, unless internet bandwidth issues or emergency circumstances (e.g., a power outage) necessitate turning off one's camera or calling in to class by phone. You are expected to attend class as you would in a face-to-face classroom (e.g, not driving). During asynchronous class time, faculty may monitor time used in posting and responding to colleagues to track your participation.

CANCELLATION AND WITHDRAWAL: Student must notify the COSSO office if they will be unable to attend class for which they are registered. Although there is no penalty when withdrawing more than two weeks in advance of the beginning of a term, registration fees are nontransferable and nonrefundable and unpaid registration fees are still due if withdrawing past the registration deadline. A \$50.00 late withdrawal fee is charged for all withdrawals within two weeks of the start of a class. All tuition and housing payments are applied to a future term.

Students withdrawing after the start of a term will be assigned a grade of AW (Administrative Withdrawal) and will be responsible for the full \$300.00 tuition amount. Any annual conference scholarship applied to the student billing record becomes the student's responsibility and is due by the end of the term. Housing payment is non-refundable.

NO SHOWS: Except in cases of immediate and dire emergencies, if a student misses any class without notifying the COSSO office, tuition and housing fees are due immediately, a \$50.00 no show fee is charged, and the student will receive an "F" in the class.