

COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL OF OHIO at MTSO

2020 Fall

October 2-3 and October 23-24

COS 122 –Theological Heritage I: Introduction

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lancaster

slancaster@mtso.edu

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"

(https://www.whdl.org/sites/default/files/publications/EN_John_Wesley_043_scripture_way_of_salvation_0.htm)

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>

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 will be of little help.

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 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 paper on sin to reflect how the reading deepened your understanding. **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 **September 28**.
Note that for the first weekend you will turn in two papers (original and revised) to me.

For the second weekend, read "The Scripture Way of Salvation." Find Wesley's definitions of "salvation," "faith," "justification," and "perfection," and compare them to your own understanding of those words. Write how your current ideas are alike or different to Wesley's as your assignment. Submit your paper through Populi by **October 19**.

Asynchronous Online work: On Populi, I will create Lessons for the two weekends; lessons need to be completed by the time of our Zoom meetings. The lesson for the first weekend should be completed before we meet by Zoom on Friday. The second lesson should be completed by the Friday Zoom meeting on the second weekend. You will find in the lessons Discussion Boards for this class. I will divide you into Groups for discussion (I will contact you by email to let you know what group you are in). 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 and paragraph (for instance II.2)

Class Plan:

First weekend.

Friday, October 2, 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, October 3, class meets by Zoom 9:00-11:00 am. Review reading: *Introduction to Christian Theology*, chapter 2 and *Methodist Doctrine* chapter 2.

Saturday, October 3, class meets by Zoom 1:00-3:00. Review reading: *Introduction to Christian Theology*, chapter 3 and *Methodist Doctrine*, chapter 3.

Second weekend.

Friday, October 23, 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, October 24, class meets by Zoom 9:00-11 am. Review reading: *Introduction to Christian Theology*, chapters 5 and 6. *Methodist Doctrine*, chapter 5, *By Water and the Spirit, This Holy Mystery*.

Assignment Deadlines:

September 28: Turn in your original paper on sin along with your revised version. (Two papers total)

October 19: Turn in your paper on ideas in “The Scripture Way of Salvation”

October 31: Turn in open book final open book exam, to be posted and explained the last weekend.

All assignments should be turned in as Word documents on Populi. Do not use Pages--there have been problems posting and opening Pages on Populi. If you 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 paper)

Open book final exam: 30%

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.