

COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL OF OHIO at MTSO
On-Line April 17 and May 15, 2020
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 and 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 A. Campbell, *Methodist Doctrine: The Essentials*
Justo L. González and Zaida Maldonado Pérez, *An Introduction to Christian Theology*

Reference: *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (2016)

Students in COS 122 at MTSO during the 2020 spring term should become familiar with “A Brief History of The United Methodist Church” (pp. 12–24); and, in Part I, “The Constitution,” Division Two, Section III, “Restrictive Rules;” and all of Part III (paragraphs 102—105)

The United Methodist Hymnal

Supplementary: Robert Burtner and Robert Chiles, *John Wesley's Theology: A Collection from His Works*

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

Thomas Oden, *John Wesley's Scriptural Christianity: A Plain Exposition of His Teaching on Christian Doctrine*

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

Colin Williams, *Theology Today: A Study of the Wesleyan Tradition in the Light of Current Theological Dialogue*

Handouts: Supplemental materials and work-assignments prepared by the Instructor and mailed to each online student.

Pre-Course Assignments:

1. Read the two textbooks, and also Part III of the 2016 *Book of Discipline*
2. Write a 3-5 page paper on “The Wesleyan Quadrilateral.” Your paper must include...
 - Your personal understanding of the Quadrilateral; AND
 - Your use of the Quadrilateral in constructing your own theology of ONE of the following doctrines: CREATION, the CHURCH, or THE CHRISTIAN HOPE.
 - Mail your paper to the Instructor, or email it as a WORD document prior to April 17 (the first online day). See mail and email addresses above.
 - Please enclose a self-addressed, postage-paid envelop for return of hard copy.

In-Course Assignments:

1. For each online topic on the schedule shown below, the student is to do a work-assignment appropriate to each theological topic. Work-assignments consist of concerns, problems or areas of study suggested by the successive theological topics.
2. A full listing of work-assignments will be mailed to each student, who may then select the work-assignment on which he/she will work for at least one hour.
3. Compile a summary of your theological work, including main issues and/or unresolved questions. (Note: Writing your summary is included in the hour of work!)
4. When you have completed your work-assignment summaries, mail or email them to the Instructor. You will send five summaries the week after April 17 (the first online day) and four summaries the week after May 15 (the second online day).
5. You may, of course, do all of the work-assignments, but you are to send only one summary per topic to the Instructor.
6. Please enclose a self-addressed, postage-paid envelope for return of hard copy.

Mid-Course Assignment:

1. Re-read the relevant parts of the textbooks as listed in the online class plan below.
2. Keep notes that will help you write the final paper for this course (see below).
3. Select ONE of the pastoral situations listed below at #4, OR an actual pastoral situation you have faced. List the doctrines that provide a theological resource for you as the pastor in this situation. Write a paper showing how your theology helped you do pastoral ministry in this situation. This paper should be at least two pages but no more than three. No citations are required.
 - Mail or email your paper to the Instructor prior to May 15 (the second online day).
 - Please enclose your addressed and postage-paid envelope for return of hard copy.
4. Some Pastoral Situations:
 - You are to do the funeral of a faithful member of your congregation
 - You are to do the funeral of a person who, apparently, was not a believer
 - You are requested to baptize the new baby of an active church couple
 - You are requested to baptize the new baby of an inactive couple
 - A baby—long awaited by the couple and your congregation—is still-born
 - A couple's first child is born with Down syndrome
 - An active member is diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease)
 - A family of your congregation has a house fire, losing everything
 - You are doing a sermon about The Lord's Supper
 - You are preparing an evangelistic sermon
 - You are preparing a sermon about child abuse
 - You have become aware of an actual case of child abuse
 - You have learned that a respected leader in your congregation is guilty of marital infidelity

Post-Course Assignment:

Write a final paper, complete with appropriate citations, entitled "BASIC THEOLOGY."

In 8 to 12 pages, this paper should outline what you believe, at the present time, about faith, sin, salvation and grace. The paper should indicate your use of the Quadrilateral in arriving at your conclusions.

- Mail or email your paper to reach the Instructor no later than Saturday, June 6, 2020.
- Please enclose a self-addressed, postage-paid envelope for return of hard copy.

Citations in Pre-Course and Post-Course Papers:

When quoting or giving credit to a textbook, reference book or supplementary book, show the author's name and page number(s). To cite *The Book of Discipline*, write "Disc." and add the paragraph

number. You may put your citations in parentheses within the text of your papers; OR either as Footnotes or Endnotes.

Grading:

The Course of Study School of Ohio uses a traditional letter grading system and evaluation grid for each student. Dr. Campbell will return your papers with comments; and will submit your grade and evaluation to the Director of the COSSO by June 15, 2020. The basis for grading will be:

- 15% Pre-Course Paper
- 25% In-Course Work Summaries
- 25% Mid-Course Paper
- 35% Final Paper

Online Class Plan:

On the two dates shown here, the Instructor will offer lectures on the nine topics listed. Relevant textbook selections are listed with each topic. Handout materials will be referenced as appropriate.

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2020

1. Theology and Doctrine in Methodism

Campbell, Introduction and ch. 7; González and Pérez, ch. I;
Disc. Par. 103

2. Doing Theology as Wesleyans: The Quadrilateral

Campbell, ch. 1;

Disc. Par. 105, section 4; Art/Rel V and VI; and Conf/Art IV

Note: Art/Rel = Articles of Religion of The Methodist Church (Disc. pp. 65-72)

The Articles of Religion and General Rules are duplicated in Campbell,
“Appendix,” pp. 114 – 128

Conf/Art = The Confession of Faith of The Evangelical United Brethren Church
(Disc. pp. 72-77)

3. God: Revealed and Revealer—Our Trinitarian Faith

Campbell, ch. 2; González and Pérez, ch. II and IV;
Disc. Art/Rel I, II, IV; Conf/Art I – III

4. Life in God's Creation

Campbell, ch. 3; González and Pérez, ch. III
Disc. Art/Rel VII, VIII; Conf/Art VII

5. Jesus Christ, Savior and Lord

Campbell, pp. 44 – 47; González and Pérez, chapter IV;
Disc. Art/Rel II, III, XX; Conf/Art II, VIII

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2020

6. The Wesleyan Vision of Salvation

Campbell, ch. 4;

Disc. pp. 49 – 54 in par. 102; Art/Rel IX – XII plus the article “Of Sanctification” (p. 72); Conf/Art IX – XI

7. The Family of God

Campbell, ch. 5; González and Pérez, ch. V, VI

Disc. Art/Rel XIII – XIX; Conf/Art V, VI, XIII, XIV

8. The Christian Hope

Campbell, ch. 6; González and Pérez, ch. VII

Disc., Conf/Art XII

9. Theology as a Resource for Ministry

Campbell, ch. 7;

Disc. Par. 102, pp. 54 – 56; Art/Rel XXI, XXIII – XXV and the article “Of the Duty of Christians to the Civil Authority;” and “The General Rules of The Methodist Church” (Disc. pp. 77 – 80); Conf/Art XV, XVI