

COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL OF OHIO at MTSO

2020 Spring

April 17-18, May 15-16

COS 522 – Theology in the Contemporary Church

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lancaster

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This course covers significant individuals, movements, events, and theological developments from the nineteenth century to the present. Students will read selected primary sources.

Students will be able to:

1. Understand the origins and theological tenets of liberalism from the early 19th century to the present, including its influence on ecumenism and process theology.
2. Understand and distinguish reactions to liberalism, including Fundamentalism, Neo-Orthodoxy, and Evangelicalism.
3. Understand the historical development and theology of the Holiness Movement, Pentecostalism, and the Charismatic Movement.
4. Understand the origins and tenets of Liberation and Contextual theologies.

TEXTS:

John Caputo, *What Would Jesus Deconstruct?*

Ed. L Miller and Stanley J Grenz, *Fortress Introduction to Contemporary Theologies*

Cynthia L. Rigby, *Holding Faith*

Reference:

Henry Bettenson & Chris Maunder, *Documents of the Christian Church*

Supplementary:

Henry H Knight, *From Aldersgate to Azusa Street*

Pre-Course assignments:

FIRST WEEKEND:

Before the first weekend, read *Holding Faith*, Part One (chapters 1-2) and *Fortress Introduction to Contemporary Theologies*.

Recommended reading is Part II starting from Section XIV in *Documents of the Christian Church* and *From Aldersgate to Azusa Street*. Keep a journal of your reflections on these three topics: 1) issues on which you have been challenged to think further, 2) issues on which you have been helped to think more clearly, 3) issues you want to know more

about. These three points should be covered for every chapter you read in the *Fortress Introduction*. The journal will not be graded, but it must be completed for you to pass the assignment.

Short paper: Identify the figure or theological issue you encountered in the *Fortress Introduction to Contemporary Theologies* reading that is of most relevance to you in your current ministry setting. Write a paper of 3-4 pages that includes a description of what you have learned about the figure or issue, why it is important for your ministry setting, and what you would say to your congregation about it. The paper will be graded and must be submitted before class meets. It is not necessary to do further research for this paper, but it might be helpful to you to do so. If you do research, be sure to use academic sources, not just rely on information on the internet.

Bring your journal with you to class to show that the work has been completed. Turn the short paper in on Populi by April 3.

SECOND WEEKEND:

Before the second weekend, finish reading *Holding Faith* (Rigby) and read *What Would Jesus Deconstruct* (Caputo).

Short paper:

Write a paper of 3-4 pages that identifies theological topics that your congregation has made too easy or tame and needs to deconstruct. Turn the short paper in on Populi (slancaster@mtso.edu) by the time class meets on May 15.

FINAL ASSIGNMENT;

Open book final exam to be turned in on Populi. The exam will be given out at the last meeting of the course. Due to me by May 25.

GRADING;

Short papers: together they count as 40% (20% each)

Final assignment: 30%

Participation: 30%

Class Plan:

First weekend.

Friday, April 17, class 1: Get acquainted and talk about journaling. What things came up as you did the reading? Are we finding common concerns or themes?

Friday, April 17, class 2: Lectures on the theological landscape of the 20th century.

Saturday, April 18, class 1: Discussion of figures and movements in *Fortress Introduction to Contemporary Theologies*. Also discuss reading from Rigby's *Holding Faith*.

Saturday, April 18, class 2: Continue discussion of *Holding Faith* and *Fortress Introduction*. Some introduction to deconstruction for the next weekend's reading

Second weekend.

Friday, May 15, class 1: Focus on the theological topics in *Holding Faith*.

Friday, May 15, class 2: Continue discussion of *Holding Faith*.

Saturday, May 16, class 1: Thinking about deconstruction and the kingdom of God.

Saturday, May 16, class 2: Connecting contemporary theology to local congregations. (Bring a *Book of Discipline* with you to look at “Our Theological Task”)

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 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) 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.