

COS 122 Theological Heritage I: Introduction
Course of Study School of Ohio
Fall Term 2021 (September 24-25 & October 22-23)

Rev. Paul Barton, Ph.D.
Pbarton9200@gmail.com
512-922-8815

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

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.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

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 Maldonado-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.)

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

SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS:

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-Class Assignments (30 percent of total class grade)

The total grade of the pre-class work accounts for 30 percent of the final course grade. All pre-class assignments are due on September 23.

1. Write a book review consisting of 700-750 words (three pages, double space, Times or Times New roman, 1” margins) of Justo L. González and Zaida Maldonado Perez’ *Introduction to Christian Theology*. The review needs to include the following:
 - a) Identify the principal themes and arguments of the book
 - b) Questions the book raises for your theology
 - c) Issues or doctrines you would like to explore further
 - d) Theological points made by the authors that challenged your existing theology, or the theology of members of your church

Criteria for evaluation of this assignment is based on

1. Student’s following instructions for the assignment
2. Submission of the assignment by the deadline
3. The ability of the student to interact critically and thoughtfully with the authors
4. Quality of writing

This assignment accounts for 20 percent of the total course grade.

2. After having read Campbell’s *Methodist Doctrine: Fundamentals*, write an essay of 2-3 pages responding to the following questions:

- a) What is Campbell’s vision of Methodist theological tradition?
- b) How does Campbell distinguish Methodist theology from other forms of Christian theology?
- c) Are there doctrines or teachings that are unique to the Methodist tradition? If so, how are these doctrines or theological teachings distinctively Wesleyan?

This assignment accounts for 5 percent of the total course grade.

3. Theology in Ministry

- a) Write a two-page essay that recounts an instance in which you employed theology to address the practice of ministry. (This might have been related to worship, preaching, teaching, pastoral care, Christian education, evangelism, social justice, finances, etc.) What resources did you use? (Book of Discipline, Bible, United Methodist resource, book or article, learning or advice from someone, etc.) What impact did theology make in this particular case?

This assignment accounts for 5 percent of the total course grade.

Coursework during Class (September 24 through October 23)

1 Weekly Online Participation and Response: (20 percent of course grade)

Students are expected to be fully present online.

Weekly online participation and response is an essential and vital aspect of learning. In this fully-online format, the student's role requires more active and self-disciplined participation. Online participation may include: turning in an assignment, posting an initial response and subsequent postings to the discussion board, and other communication reflecting ongoing learning in the course. (See **Populi** each week for the assignment and online activity.) If no student response occurs during a week of the term, the student is considered absent. Lurking (reading only) does not earn credit, nor does it contribute to the class learning and community.

It is important to manage your time.

Because online courses move quickly and require self-discipline, it is important to efficiently manage time. It would include not waiting until the last minute to turn in assignments or responses. Technology is not fail-proof; you would need to allow time for unforeseen problems.

2. Group Presentation (25 percent of course grade)

Students are assigned in groups of five or six to collaborate on a 30-minute presentation they will provide to the rest of the class during the second weekend of synchronous class meetings. The group assignments are below. Each group will present on one of the doctrines scheduled for the second weekend of class meetings. Each group has flexibility in how they want to structure and address the doctrine assigned to their group. Just to start your imagination, groups can consider the following, among many other, options for presenting the doctrine to the class:

1. Inclusion of music
2. Inclusion of video(s)
3. Interviews with others
4. Dramatization
5. Panel discussion
6. Puppet show (yes, one group once did a puppet show)
7. Dance
8. Debate
9. Game show

The group presentation needs to include in their presentation the following content:

1. A summary of the issues and debates related to the doctrine
2. Three-to-five questions to stimulate group discussion after the presentation
3. Methodist position(s) on the doctrine

The group will submit a plan for their presentation to the professor by October 8, 2021

Evaluation Criteria: The group presentation will be based upon the following criteria:

1. Creativity
2. Scholarship
3. Participation of All Members
4. Stimulation of Discussion
5. Following Instructions for the Assignment

Check the [syllabus on Populi](#) to see which group you are assigned to

Group Presentation 1: Doctrine of Salvation (Soteriology)

Group Presentation 2: Doctrine of the Church (Ecclesiology)

Group Presentation 3: The Church's Relationship with the World

Group Presentation 4: Doctrine of the Last Things (Eschatology)

3. Doctrine Paper (25 percent of course grade)

Students will write an integrative paper on one of the theological doctrines covered in this course. The length of the paper is 1,000 words (approximately four pages double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12pt font, 1" margins on all sides) **not counting** notes and bibliography. The paper is due November 2, 2021.

The paper needs to consider the following questions:

1. What have important theologians throughout the history of Christianity said about this doctrine?
2. What have been the debates and different positions regarding this doctrine?
3. What is the United Methodist position on this doctrine?
4. How does a thorough understanding of this doctrine impact your ministry and the ministry of your church?

Since the length of your paper is limited, it needs to be succinct, coherent, and clearly organized.

The doctrine paper needs to address a doctrine different from the one the student addressed in the group presentation.

Summary of Assignments During Class

Dates	Assignment
Due on Sept. 23	All Pre-Class Assignments
Due on Sept. 30	Discussion Board Post
Due on October 7	Discussion Board Post

Due on October 8	Group Presentation Plan
Due on October 14	Discussion Board Post
Due on October 23-24	Group Presentation
Due on November 2	Doctrine Paper

EVALUATION:

- 30% Pre-Class Assignments
- 20% Discussion Board Posts
- 25% Doctrine Paper
- 25% Group Presentation

COURSE SCHEDULE

Zoom Sessions

Fri., September 24, 2–4 pm (1)	
Topics	Required Readings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Introductions · Overview of the Course · Writing Workshop · What is Theology? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Introduction to Christian Theology, ch. I.

Fri., September 24, 7:00–9:00 pm (2)	
Topics	Required Readings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The Task(s) of Theology · Sources for Theology · Doctrine of God 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Methodist Doctrine, ch. 1 · Methodist Doctrine, ch. 2 · Introduction to Christian Theology, ch. II

Sat., September 25, 8:30–10:30 am (3)	
Topics	Required Readings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Doctrine of Creation and Theological Anthropology · Doctrine of Christ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Introduction to Christian Theology, ch. III · Introduction to Christian Theology, ch. IV · Methodist Doctrine, ch. 2 · Methodist Doctrine, ch. 3

Fri., October 22, 7:00–9:0 pm (4)	
Topics	Required Readings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Group Presentation 1: Doctrine of Salvation (Soteriology) · Group Presentation 2: Doctrine of the Church (Ecclesiology) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · John Wesley, “The Scripture Way of Salvation” · Methodist Doctrine, ch. 4 · Introduction to Christian Theology, ch. V and ch. VI · Methodist Doctrine, ch. 5

Sat., October 23, 8:30–10:30 am (5)	
Topics	Required Readings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Group Presentation 3: The Church’s Relationship with the World · Group Presentation 4: Doctrine of the Last Things (Eschatology) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Introduction to Christian Theology, ch. VI · Introduction to Christian Theology, ch. VII · Methodist Doctrine, ch. 6

WRITTEN WORK:

All written work must be typed with Times or Times New Roman 12-point font, double-spaced, with 1” margins. It will be evaluated on the basis of (1) clarity of the writing, (2) critical interaction with the text, and (3) the student’s own integrative reflection. There will be a **penalty for late assignments** commensurate with the degree of lateness and the adequacy of the excuse.

All written work needs to include the following

Name of the course

Summer 2021

Name of professor

Name of student

Title of assignment

Page numbers

INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE:

All students are expected to use gender inclusive or gender-neutral language in their writing and in the classroom discussions when referring to human beings.

COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL OF OHIO 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 classroom work shall not receive credit for the class. In the event of extenuating circumstances which require the student to miss up to 20% of a course (4 hours for an in-person class or 20% of synchronous time on Zoom for an online course), 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.

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. A \$25.00 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 \$270 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.

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 \$25.00 no show fee is charged, and the student will receive an “F” in the class.

COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL OF OHIO 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 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 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.

GRADING STANDARDS:

- A+ (97%), A (93%), A- (90%):

Outstanding work that demonstrates a profound commitment to the course material, and excellence in thinking and performance as well as depth of insight.

- B+ (87%), B (83%), B- (80%):

Good work that completely fulfills all the requirements of the course in a conscientious and dedicated manner, and that demonstrates good mastery of the course content.

- C+ to C-:

Satisfactory work that fulfills all the requirements of the course in an acceptable manner, but that falls short of demonstrating rigor and mastery.

- D+ to D-:

Unsatisfactory work that reflects poor thinking and performance as well as lack of clear comprehension and understanding of the subject.