

**THEOLOGY IN THE CONTEMPORARY CHURCH
COS #522
SYLLABUS**

**COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL OF OHIO
3081 Columbus Pike
Delaware, Ohio 43015**

Summer 2-Week Term, 2021

ON-LINE/ VIRTUAL

**August 2-6 & 9-12, 2021
Meeting on Zoom from 9:30-11:00 am EDT each day**

Rev. Dr. William H. Wilson (Bill)
#4 Cherokee Court, Huntington WV 25705
DrBillWilson@aol.com
(C) 304-633-0954

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION: COS 522 – Theology in the Contemporary Church

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.*

* Objectives, COS Revised Curriculum (2014)

II. TEXTBOOKS:

Required Reading:

Migliore, Daniel, *Faith Seeking Understanding*, Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2014
ISBN: 9780802871855.

Hordern, William E., *A Layman's Guide to Protestant Theology (revised edition)*,
Wipf/Stock Publishers, Oregon, 2002, (originally MacMillan, 1955); ISBN: 157910925X

(ALSO, the student will select one of three contemporary contextual theology books to read and use for a final paper.)

Reference: (Recommended)

Bettenson, Henry & Maunder, Chris: *Documents of the Christian Church*, Oxford
University Press, 2011; ISBN: 9780199568987.

Miller, Ed. L & Grenz, Stanley J., *Fortress Introduction to Contemporary Theologies*,
Augsburg/Fortress, Minneapolis, 1998; ISBN: 9780800629816.

REQUIRED SELECTIONS: for Final Paper (contemporary contextual theology)

NOTE: Student will select **one** of the following to review, reflect, and analyze in a paper:
(**selection of one is required reading, others supplemental**)

Cone, James, *A Black Theology of Liberation*, Orbis Books, New York, 1986 (original 1970); ISBN: 9781570758959.

Fiorenza, Elisabeth Schussler, *In Memory of Her (A Feminist Theological Reconstruction of Christian Origins)*, Crossroad, New York, 1990 (original 1983); ISBN: 0824506677

Gutierrez, Gustavo, *A Theology of Liberation – History, Politics, and Salvation*, Orbis Books, New York, 1988 (original 1973); ISBN: 0883445425

III. GOAL OF COURSE:

This course will seek to assist the student to understand significant individuals, movements, events and theological developments from the 19th century to the present. The intention will be to integrate learnings into the student's context of ministry, and assist in developing theological thinking in light of the integration. The course asks why, what is involved, what is learned from contemporary theologies that form and inform the work of professional ministry. The student will continue to develop the skill sets to think and work theologically as a pastoral leader.

IV. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

- The class will examine and discuss the significant individuals, movements, events and theological developments from the nineteenth century to the present.
- Students will improve their theological skills through biblical reflection, formative reading, focused dialogue and discussion, critical reflection, and discussion of contextual integration.
- The student will explore a variety of contemporary theologies, and specifically select one theology to review, reflect, examine analytically, and show how integrated into their own theology & practice of ministry.

V. CALENDAR OF CLASS & TOPICS AND READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS:

August 2 - 6, 2021

ASSIGNMENTS prior to the week:

- A. **Introduction-Theological Autobiography (ITA)** (due Mon, August 2, 8 pm, EDT)
(see detail of assignment – syllabus page 7, section VII.B)
- B. **Reflection paper #1 -“theology, revelation, Scripture”** (due Mon, August 2, 8 pm)
Migliore, Faith Seeking Understanding, Prefaces & pp.1-65
(see detail of assignment – syllabus page 7-8, section VII.C)
- C. **READ prior to & during first week of class:**
- Hordern, A Layman’s Guide to Protestant Theology - Intro & pp. 1-149
 - Migliore, Faith Seeking Understanding – Prefaces & pp. 1-66, 66-94; & Appendix B: pp. 390-403.

CLASS OUTLINE FOR THE WEEK: (on-line ZOOM, 9:30-11:00 am EDT each day)

Monday – August 2

➤ Class Session 1

Introductions
Syllabus review/assignments
Contemporary theology?
“theological method”

Tuesday – August 3

➤ Class Session 2

Orthodoxy –Growth & threats

Wednesday – August 4

➤ Class Session 3

Defense of Orthodoxy & Response

Thursday – August 5

➤ Class Session 4

Conservative vs Liberal
Pentecostal & Holiness movements

Friday – August 6

➤ Class Session 5

Response to Conservatism
Liberalism
Paul Tillich

August 9 – 12, 2021

ASSIGNMENTS prior to the 2nd week:

A. Written assignment due during the second week :

Reflection paper #2 - “ pluralism and hope” (due Monday, August 9, 8:00pm)

Migliore, Faith Seeking Understanding, pp.314-374

(see detail of assignment – syllabus page 7- 8, section VII.C)

B. READ prior to this week:

•Hordern, A Layman’s Guide to Protestant Theology - pp. 150-258

•Migliore, Faith Seeking Understanding, “new community”, pp. 259-285;
“pluralism and hope”, pp. 314-374

Monday – August 9

➤ Class Session 6

Karl Barth
Neo-orthodoxy

Tuesday – August 10

➤ Class Session 7

Reinhold Niebuhr
Dietrich Bonhoeffer
Neo-liberalism
“rediscovery of orthodoxy”

Wednesday – August 11

➤ Class Session 8

Feminist Theology
Liberation Theology

Thursday – August 12

➤ Class Session 9

Post modernism
Where are we?
Our task as pastor?
“theologian in residence”

**NOTE: Final paper due to instructor by Sunday August 22, 11:59pm by email or mail.
(see page 8-9, syllabus for instructions regarding the Final paper)**

SUMMARY OF DUE DATES FOR ALL ASSIGNMENTS

(SEE ADDENDUM, PAGE 11)

VI. CLASS STANDARDS:

A. Wesleyan “Rule of Life”:

- Do no harm
- Do good
- Attend to ordinances of God (spiritual discipline).

(General Rules, Discipline 2012)

B. Inclusive language

It is expected that students be committed to equality for women and men of every racial and ethnic background. Students and instructor are to use language which exemplifies respect, dignity and equality in conversations with colleagues, in public discourse, in classroom discussions and in writings. Class participants will be expected to use inclusive language in all writings and during class discussion & participation. If you have specific questions, please see the instructor. (Helpful resource, *Words that Hurt, Words that Heal (new edition)* (Cokesbury.com download, original 1980 resource)

C. Academic Integrity

Student integrity regarding all work assigned in this class is a basic expectation of the learning community. (see final page of this syllabus or page 31, *COS Student Handbook, 2013*–“Academic responsibility”) Also, guidelines for writing, page 25, *COS Handbook*.

D. Attendance

Instructor expects timely participation of students; tardiness is a sign of disrespect to others. Extenuating circumstances should be reported to instructor and COS Dean immediately. (see COS Attendance Policy – page 15, *COS Student Handbook, 2013*)

E Confidentiality

It is imperative that students do not share information that is confidential, privileged, or proprietary in nature. In addition, students are expected to honor the privacy and confidentiality of their classmates by not disclosing conversations with those outside of the classroom.

VII. ASSIGNMENTS, GRADING, AND EVALUATION:

Note: All assignments are due and expected on time. (If because of some extenuating circumstances you are unable to meet a given deadline, you must contact the instructor before the deadline in question is expected. Failure to do so will result in a lower grade for the assignment.) No Incomplete grade can be granted in this class.

- A. **Class participation (25% of final grade)** COS requires that students attend all class sessions in order to receive credit for the course. No “cuts” or “excused absences” are allowed for church, community, family or other business. In extreme cases, such as serious illness or a family emergency, an additional paper on the reading material of the missed session will be required and negotiated with the instructor.

NOTE: On-line discussion board assignments are factored into participation grading.

- a) Timely, careful reading and completion of assignments in preparation for class participation is expected.
- b) Class discussion through verbal contributions including any small group is expected; respectful and hospitable listening to contributions by others is a class norm. It is the duty of each class member to contribute regularly to discussions without monopolizing the time.

B. Introduction-Theological Autobiography (ITA) (20% of final grade) -- (due Monday, August 2 8:00pm EDT)

An autobiography (ITA) must be posted in Populi on Monday, August 2. The paper must be 6-8 pages long, double spaced. No more than 8 pages. The following guidelines are provided to help organize your thoughts: *(you do not need to use this order, but your paper must include these themes; be creative; those with an asterisk * must be answered)*

- What is briefly your family history? Family of origin?
- Describe succinctly any significant central events in your life.
- When were you first aware of God? How and who invited you to become a disciple of Jesus Christ? How did it happen? What have been a few of the major events in your walk with Christ?
- *What significant religious, spiritual, theological concepts have formed your calling into ministry?
- What influence has Scripture and the Church had on your life?
- *How would you describe your present basic theological position or stance?
- *Can you name individuals, movements, theologies and doctrines that have formed you to the present?
- *What theological & cultural biases, prejudices, and assumptions do you bring to this class?
- What are the growing edges of your life? How have your growing edges, and areas of change impacted your entry into and experience of ministry?

C. Reading reflection papers (two) (30% of final grade) - each paper 15%

Required reading: Migliore, Faith Seeking Understanding;

1. Both papers are to be individually 3-5 pages in length – no more than 5 pages;

2. based on reading, Migliore, Faith Seeking Understanding;

NOTE: Based on the assigned reading, these two papers should address the following questions:

- State a brief review of the topic of the assigned reading;
- What issue or issues are raised for you from the reading?
- What do you agree with in Migliore's writing?
- What do you disagree with and why?
- What one learning, for you, can you lift up from the assigned reading?

Reflection paper #1 - “theology, revelation, Scripture” (due Monday by 8:00pm EDT, August 2 in Populi)

Migliore, Faith Seeking Understanding, Prefaces & pp.1-65

Reflection paper #2 - “pluralism & hope” (due Monday by 8:00pm EDT, August 9 in Populi)

Migliore, Faith Seeking Understanding, pp.314 – 374

D. Final Paper – Book Review & Theological Overview (25% of final grade)

✓ **Paper due posted in Populi by Sunday, August 22 by 11:59pm**

1) Student is to select one of the following books to read, review, report and reflect by a report:

Cone, James, A Black Theology of Liberation, Orbis Books, New York, 1986 (original 1970); ISBN: 9781570758959.

Fiorenza, Elisabeth Schussler, In Memory of Her (A Feminist Theological Reconstruction of Christian Origins), Crossroad, New York, 1990 (original 1983); ISBN: 0824506677

Gutierrez, Gustavo, A Theology of Liberation – History, Politics, and Salvation, Orbis Books, New York, 1988 (original 1973); ISBN: 0883445425

2) Paper should be at least 8-10 pages in length; and no more than 10 pages.

3) The following issues and questions must be addressed in the paper:

- Give an overview of the basic concepts of the theology as presented by the author.
- What reason do you give for selecting the book?
- What aspects of the theological method, premise, concept and principles do you identify with?
- Where do you struggle or differ with the theology presented in the writing? Why?
- How might you integrate the concept of the theology into your practice of ministry?
- Any unanswered questions that the author left you with?

**E. Asynchronous learning requirement (for virtual/ on-line) 6.5 hours
Discussion Board & Video reflections (posted in Populi)**

(see addendum, page 9 - 10)

COS #522 – THEOLOGY V
Theology in the Contemporary Church
On-line, Summer 2021 – 2 Week COS
Dr. Bill Wilson

ADDENDUM TO SYLLABUS
(Asynchronous required 6.5 hours)

DISCUSSION BOARD & VIDEO REFLECTION (Populi)
July 25 – August 13

Discussion posting Instructions: Each required discussion question and video reflection - you are to post a response of 100 words or less; and, also reply/respond with no more than 100 words to at least two (2) of your fellow students and their response; throughout the class term, you must have responded to each of the class members.

Deadline for each daily question or video: post must be done by 8:00pm (EDT) daily unless otherwise noted. Class participation grade (25% of final grade) will be factored by full participation in the discussion board requirements.

Video instruction: You are to view the video clip, and then reflect and respond in 100 words or less to the questions asked; NOTE: feel free to discuss by reply to other class members, but for video responses, this is not required.

.....

Week before on-line class sessions (July 25-31): post by Sat, July 31 8:00pm

- **Discussion Question** – *What has been the most influential religious belief, cultural experience or personal/family issue that has influenced your ministry?*
- **View video – YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qMESAoFywKs>
“Wesley Quadrilateral” - theological method (30-minute video)
- **Respond to video:** *What one idea, insight was helpful? What is the one takeaway concept you like from the video clip? Any issues?*

Monday, August 2

- **Discussion Question** – *How do you experience using the theological method known as “Wesley Quadrilateral” in your preaching and teaching?*

Tuesday, August 3

- **Discussion Question** – *How do you interpret and explain to others as a pastoral theologian that the Bible is “the inspired Word of God” and has authority for us?*

Wednesday, August 4

- **Discussion Question** - *What do you consider “fundamental” to you theologically? Does it become “orthodox” for you? Where do you compromise? (Remember, you need to explain why.)*

Thursday, August 5 & Friday, August 6 (before Sunday, August 8 – 8:00pm)

- **View video: YouTube** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FnVkx2U9BhM>
“Reading Barth Together”: Willimon & Hauerwas discussion (one hour video)
- **Respond to video:** *What one idea, insight was helpful? What is the one takeaway concept you like from the video clip? Any issues?*

Monday, August 9

- **Discussion Question** – *One of the best known lines from Karl Barth’s teaching is – “we must hold the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other”. How do you see that comment related to our world, the culture and our experiences today?*

Tuesday, August 10

- **View video – YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dk7Ti8wmZxk>
“Bonhoeffer” – Prof. Tom Greggs, British Methodist theologian (25-minute video)
- **Respond to video:** *What one idea, insight was helpful? What is the one takeaway concept you like from the video clip? Any issues?*

Wednesday, August 11

- **View video: YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ABEuXQXQbs0>
“Postmodernism lecture”, Professor John Caputo (30-minute video)
- **Respond to video:** *What one idea, insight was helpful? What is the one takeaway concept you like from the video clip? Any issues?*

Thursday, August 12

- **View video: YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hZtpSN8Bsuc>
“The State of Contemporary Theology”, Dr. Jong Chun Park, Korea (10 min)
- **Respond to video:** *What one idea, insight was helpful? What is the one takeaway concept you like from the video clip? Any issues?*
- **Final Discussion Question** - *What is the most difficult task of ministry today dealing with our contemporary culture?*

SUMMARY OF COS 522/Theology ASSIGNMENT DEADLINES

(all assignments due by 8:00pm (EDT) on date, unless otherwise noted)

Saturday, July 31	Pre-class sessions discussion posting (Populi) Video reflection posting #1 “Wesley Quad”
Monday, August 2	“Introduction-Theological Autobiography” paper Reflection paper #1 (Migliore) “revelation/Scripture” Discussion question response (Populi)
Tuesday, August 3	Discussion question response (Populi)
Wednesday, August 4	Discussion question response (Populi)
Sunday, August 8	Video reflection posting #2 “Barth discussion”
Monday, August 9	Reflection paper #2 (Migliore) “pluralism”
Tuesday, August 10	Video reflection posting #3 “Bonhoeffer”
Wednesday, August 11	Video reflection posting #4 “Post-modernism”
Thursday, August 12	Video reflection posting #5 “Dr. Jong Chun Park” Final Discussion question response
Sunday, August 22 <u>(posted by 11:59pm)</u>	Final paper – contextual theological book selected - (Black, Liberation or Feminist theologies)

*God, give me grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed,
Courage to change the things which should be changed, and
Wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.
Living one day at a time,
Enjoying one moment at a time,
Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace,
Taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is,
Not as I would have it,
Trusting that You will make all things right,
If I surrender to Your will,
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life,
And supremely happy with You forever in the next.
(Reinhold Niebuhr, 1943)*

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.
(adapted version)

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 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.