

CONTEMPORARY THEOLOGY
COS #522

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

Summer Term, 2022

ON-LINE/ VIRTUAL

June 24-25, 2022
July 15-16, 2022

Rev. Dr. William H. Wilson (Bill)
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(Cell) in syllabus on Popul

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

“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:*

- *Understand the origins and theological tenets of liberalism from the early 19th century to the present, including its influence on ecumenism and process theology.*
- *Understand and distinguish reactions to liberalism, including Fundamentalism, Neo-Orthodoxy, and Evangelicalism.*
- *Understand the historical development and theology of the Holiness Movement, Pentecostalism, and the Charismatic Movement.*
- *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 may be supplemental/reference**)

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:

NOTE: SEE “ADDENDUM” PAGE 11 – 12 DISCUSSION BOARD/ VIDEO SCHEDULE

JUNE 24, 2022 7:00 – 9:00 PM ZOOM SESSION #1

ASSIGNMENTS PRIOR TO WEEKEND #1 (JUNE 24-25) :

- A. DISCUSSION BOARD & VIDEO REFLECTION (SEE “ADDENDUM” FOR SCHEDULE)**
- B. INTRODUCTION-THEOLOGICAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY (ITA) -- (DUE FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 12NOON)**
(SEE THE DETAIL OF ASSIGNMENT – SYLLABUS PAGE 8, SECTION VII.B)
- B. READ PRIOR TO CLASS:**
 - **HORDERN, A LAYMAN’S GUIDE TO PROTESTANT THEOLOGY - INTRO & PP. 1-149**
 - **MIGLIORE, FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING- PREFACES & PP.1-94 & APPENDIX B: PP. 390-403**

ZOOM SESSION #1 (ZOOM WAITING ROOM OPEN BY 6:45 PM)

7:00 – 7:45 PM	INTRODUCTIONS SYLLABUS REVIEW/ASSIGNMENTS
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15-MINUTE ON-LINE BREAK

8:00 – 9:00 PM	CONTEMPORARY THEOLOGY? “THEOLOGICAL METHOD”
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JUNE 25, 2022 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM ZOOM SESSION #2

ZOOM SESSION #2 (ZOOM WAITING ROOM OPEN BY 8:45 AM)

9:00 – 9:45 AM	ORTHODOXY – GROWTH & THREATS
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15-MINUTE ON-LINE BREAK

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	DEFENSE OF ORTHODOXY & RESPONSE
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JUNE 25, 2022 1:00PM – 3:00PM ZOOM SESSION #3

ZOOM SESSION #3 (ZOOM WAITING ROOM OPEN BY 12:45 PM)

1:00 PM – 1:45 PM

**CONSERVATIVE VS LIBERAL
PENTECOSTAL & HOLINESS MOVEMENTS**

15-MINUTE ON-LINE BREAK

2:00PM – 3:00PM

**RESPONSE TO CONSERVATISM
LIBERALISM
PAUL TILLICH**

JULY 15, 2022 7:00PM – 9:00PM ZOOM SESSION #4

ASSIGNMENTS PRIOR TO WEEKEND #2 (JULY 15-16)

A. DISCUSSION BOARD & VIDEO REFLECTION (SEE “ADDENDUM” FOR SCHEDULE)

B. READ PRIOR TO CLASS:

- **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**

C. REFLECTION PAPER #1 - “THEOLOGY, REVELATION, SCRIPTURE” (DUE FRIDAY, JULY 1)

MIGLIORE, FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING, PREFACES & PP.1-65

(SEE DETAIL OF ASSIGNMENT – SYLLABUS PAGE 9 , SECTION VII.C)

REFLECTION PAPER #2 - “PLURALISM AND HOPE” (DUE BY FRIDAY, JULY 15)

MIGLIORE, FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING, PP.314-374

(SEE THE DETAIL OF ASSIGNMENT – SYLLABUS PAGE 9, SECTION VII.C)

ZOOM SESSION #4 (ZOOM WAITING ROOM OPEN BY 6:45 PM)

7:00PM – 7:45PM

**NEO-ORTHODOXY
KARL BARTH**

15-MINUTE ON-LINE BREAK

8:00PM – 9:00PM

KARL BARTH, CONTINUED

JULY 16, 2022 9:00AM – 11:00AM ZOOM SESSION #5

ZOOM SESSION #5 *(ZOOM WAITING ROOM OPEN BY 8:45 AM)*

9:00AM – 9:45AM

**REINHOLD NIEBUHR
DIETRICH BONHOEFFER
NEO-LIBERALISM
“REDISCOVERY OF ORTHODOXY”**

15-MINUTE ON-LINE BREAK

10:00AM – 11:00AM

**FEMINIST THEOLOGY
LIBERATION THEOLOGY
BLACK THEOLOGY**

JULY 16, 2022 1:00PM – 3:00PM ZOOM SESSION #6

ZOOM SESSION #6 *(ZOOM WAITING ROOM OPEN BY 12:45 PM)*

1:00 PM – 1:45 PM

**POST MODERNISM
DE-CONSTRUCTIONISM**

15-MINUTE ON-LINE BREAK

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

**REMNANT CHRISTIANITY
IN A POST CHRISTIAN WORLD**

**WHERE ARE WE?
OUR TASK AS PASTOR –
“THEOLOGIAN IN RESIDENCE”**

VI. CLASS STANDARDS:

A. Wesleyan “Rule of Life”:

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

(*General Rules, Discipline 2016*)

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 guidelines for writing, page 25, *COS Handbook*. And page 31, *COS Student Handbook, 2013* – “Academic responsibility”:

COSSO 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.

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*:

COSSO 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. Housing payment is non-refundable.

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.

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: Posting required reflection on the Discussion Board is the major factor in the participation grading. (see the Addendum for questions and video reflections postings)**
- 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. Each class member must contribute regularly to discussions without monopolizing the time.
- B. **Introduction-Theological Autobiography (ITA) (20% of final grade) -- (due Friday, June 24, 12noon EDT)**

An autobiography (ITA) must be posted in Populi by Friday, June 24.

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 Fri, July 1, 8:00 pm EDT posted in Populi)

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

Reflection paper #2 - “pluralism & hope” (due Friday, July 15, 12noon EDT posted 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 Monday, July 25 by 11:59pm EDT.

- 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) - 8 hours
Discussion Board questions posting & Video reflections (Populi)**

(see Addendum, page 11-12)

COS #522 – THEOLOGY V ADDENDUM TO SYLLABUS

(Asynchronous required 8 hours)

DISCUSSION BOARD & VIDEO REFLECTION (Populi)

June 12 – July 18, 2022

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) on Fridays 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.

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Week 1 (June 12 - 18)

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?

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

Week 2 (June 19 - 25)

Discussion question - What has been the most influential religious belief, cultural experience, or personal/family issue that has influenced your ministry?

1st weekend ZOOM class, June 24 & 25 (Sessions 1-3)

Week 3 (June 26 – July 1)

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

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?

Week 4 (July 3 - 9)

Discussion question - One of the best-known lines from Karl Barth 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?

View video: YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FnVvx2U9BhM>
“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?

Week 5 (July 10 - 16)

Discussion question - What is the most difficult task of ministry today dealing with our contemporary culture?

View video: YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ABEuQXQbs0>
“Postmodernism lecture”, Prof. 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?

2nd weekend ZOOM class, July 15 & 16 (Sessions 4-6)

Week 6 (July 17 - 18)

Discussion question - If we are living in these “post-modern & post-Christian times” with the concept that there are “no absolutes”, what is your role as preacher, teacher, and pastoral theologian?

SUMMARY OF COS 522/Theology ASSIGNMENT DEADLINES Summer MTSO – Weekend on-line

June 12 – July 18 DISCUSSION BOARD Reflection posting (Populi)
(Discussion weekly question posting due by Friday each week, 8:00 pm EDT)

Friday, June 17 Video reflection posting #1 “Wesley Quad”

Friday, June 24 “Introduction-Theological Autobiography” paper

Friday, July 1 Video reflection posting #2 “Bonhoeffer”

Friday, July 1 Reflection paper #1 “theology, revelation, Scripture”

Friday, July 8 Video reflection posting #3 “Barth discussion”

Friday, July 15 Reflection paper #2 “pluralism”

Friday, July 15 Video reflection posting #4 “Post-modernism”

Monday, July 18 Final Discussion Board posting response due

Monday, July 25 Final paper - theological book review analysis
(Black, Liberation or Feminist theologies)

**ANY QUESTIONS OR CLARIFICATION REGARDING THESE
INSTRUCTIONS SHOULD BE EMAILED TO INSTRUCTOR,
DrBillWilson@aol.com**