

COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL OF OHIO at MTSO

2024 Fall

September 13-14 and October 11-12

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, 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 Campbell, *Methodist Doctrine: The Essentials*

Justo González & Zaida Pérez, *An Introduction to Christian Theology*

John Wesley, "The Scripture Way of Salvation,"

<https://www.whdl.org/en/browse/resources/7056>

Make sure you read the sermon in John Wesley's original language. DO NOT work with it in an updated language version.)

By Water and the Spirit, GBOD, <http://www.gbod.org/resources/by-water-and-the-spirit-full-text>

This Holy Mystery, GBOD, <https://s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/gbod-assets/generic/THM-BYGC.PDF>

Note: If you don't know words in any of the reading, make sure you use the theological dictionary listed below to understand theological words. Regular dictionaries (like Merriam-Webster) will be of little help.

Reference: *2016 Book of Discipline** I do not know when the *2024 Book of Discipline* will be available. If it is published by the time our course meets, we will reference it. But for pre-reading the *2016 Book of Discipline* will work. The relevant paragraphs have not changed.

*United Methodist Hymnal**

Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms, Second Edition: Revised and Expanded, Donald McKim

Supplementary: 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-course Assignments:

Before you read anything, write a 1-2 page paper of your current understanding of sin. This paper will be uncovering your “embedded theology” (the theology you have already learned from life). Read *Methodist Doctrine* and *An Introduction to Christian Theology*. It would be a good idea to reread the relevant chapters (listed below in the class plan) just before the weekend that we meet. Also read for the first weekend paragraphs 102-105 in the 2016 *Book of Discipline*. For the first weekend, after you have done this reading, revise your paper on sin to reflect how the reading deepened your understanding. (This assignment allows you to reflect on your embedded theology in light of what you have learned from the reading). **Submit both the original and the revised versions as your assignment.** For the revised paper, be sure to refer (either by footnote or by reference in parentheses) to the places where the reading has informed your thoughts. Submit your original and revised papers to me through Populi by **September 6**.
Note that for the first weekend you will turn in two papers (original and revised) to me.

For the second weekend, read “The Scripture Way of Salvation.” Find Wesley’s definitions of “salvation,” “faith,” “justification,” and “perfection,” and compare and contrast them to your own understanding of those words. *Please note* I do not want you to write simply that you agree or disagree with Wesley. I want you to state his ideas and your own, and then show how they are alike or different. Submit your paper through Populi by **October 4**.

Asynchronous Online work: On Populi, I will create Lessons for the two weekends; lessons need to be completed by the time of our Zoom meetings. The lesson for the first weekend should be completed before we meet in person on Friday. The second lesson should be completed by the Saturday Zoom meeting on the second weekend. You will find in the lessons Discussion Boards for this class. I will divide you into Groups for discussion (I will contact you by email to let you know what group you are in). Make sure you post both your own thoughts and reply to others in this discussion. There may also be lectures or videos posted there for you to watch.

Citing readings for papers: There are some special conventions for citing the *Discipline* and Wesley. Do not use page numbers for either of them. The *Discipline* should be cited by paragraph number (and you can add a heading in a long paragraph, for instance ¶105, Tradition). Wesley should be cited by section and paragraph (for instance II.2)

Class Plan:

First weekend.

Friday, Sept. 13, class meets in person 3:30-6:00 pm and 7:00-9:00 pm. Review reading:
Introduction to Christian Theology, chapter 1. *Methodist Doctrine*, introduction, chapters 1 and 7; 2016 *Book of Discipline* ¶105

Saturday, Sept. 14, class meets in person 8:00-11:00 am. Review reading: *Introduction to Christian Theology*, chapter 2 and *Methodist Doctrine* chapter 2.

Saturday, Sept. 14, class meets in person 1:00-3:15. Review reading: *Introduction to Christian Theology*, chapter 3 and *Methodist Doctrine*, chapter 3.

Second weekend.

Friday, Oct. 11, class meets by Zoom 3:00-5:00 pm. Review reading: *Introduction to Christian Theology*, chapter 4, *Methodist Doctrine*, chapter 4, *The Scripture way of Salvation* (Bring hymnal)

Saturday, Oct. 12, class meets by Zoom 9:00-11 am. Review reading: *Introduction to Christian Theology*, chapters 5 and 6. *Methodist Doctrine*, chapter 5, *By Water and the Spirit, This Holy Mystery*.

Populi Discussions:

In addition to our class meetings online by Zoom, you will need to participate in online work through Populi. I have posted discussions (I will divide you into groups and notify you of which group you are in) to get you to think about the reading before we meet. You must post at least twice (your own comment and a response to someone else) in each discussion to which you are assigned—this is a minimum, you are welcome to post more.

Assignment Deadlines:

September 6: Turn in your original paper on sin along with your revised version. (Two papers total)

October 4: Turn in your paper on ideas in “The Scripture Way of Salvation”

October 25: Turn in final open book exam, which will be posted and explained the last weekend.

All assignments should be turned in as Word documents on Populi. Put your last name as the first word of the name of your document when you save it. Do not use Pages--there have been problems posting and opening Pages on Populi. I do not want a PDF. If you must post a PDF, I will not make comments throughout the paper, but only at the end.

Grading:

Papers (Original and revised paper on sin, Wesley sermon paper): 40% (20% each paper)

Open book final exam: 30%

Participation: 30%

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.

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 the synchronous course time (whether in-person or on Zoom), 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. Students are to provide back-up coverage at the local church while attending COS classes.)

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 \$50.00 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 \$300.00 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 \$50.00 no show fee is charged, and the student will receive an "F" in the class.