

COS 122: Theological Heritage 1 - Introduction
Summer 2025 Hybrid Course Syllabus
July 11 – August 2

Faculty Information

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About me: I am a professor of historical theology at Indiana Wesleyan University, where I teach undergraduate and graduate courses in systematic theology and church history. I've been teaching at IWU for 11 years and I love it. I am also an adjunct professor at Wesley Seminary and an instructor in the Indiana Extension Course of Study. I earned a BA in Religion (Whitworth University), an MDiv (Princeton Theological Seminary) and a PhD in Religion, Politics, and Society (Baylor University), all with the intent of responding to God's call on my life to teach in service of the Church. I am also the author of *Faithful Politics: 10 Approaches to Christian Citizenship and Why It Matters* (August 2024, IVP Academic). I live in Fishers, IN with my husband, Jonathan, and our daughter, Renata (5 years).

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 Outcomes

By the end of this course the student should 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.

Course Resources

The following textbooks are required:

- Campbell, Ted. *Methodist Doctrine: The Essentials*. 2nd Edition.
- Gonzales, Justo and Zaida Maldonado-Perez. *An Introduction to Christian Theology*
- Additional readings and videos posted on Populi

Course Assignments

- **DIY Read & Watch Quiz** (3 x 100 points = 300 points): Each week you'll have reading from *Methodist Doctrine*, *An Introduction to Christian Theology* and sometimes additional articles. You'll also watch several video lectures each week. Create a quiz for

yourself based on the assigned reading and videos. The quiz should consist of 10 questions and answers. Questions should be open-ended, inviting several sentences in response. Answers should be in complete sentences and should demonstrate strong understanding of the reading and videos. Quizzes should be uploaded to Populi with the questions numbered and the questions and answers clearly differentiated. Due Fridays July 18, July 25, and Thursday July 31.

- **Weekly Discussion** (3 x 80 points = 240 points): Discuss theology with your colleagues each week. Post 3 questions prompted by the reading and/or videos, then respond to at least 5 questions from your colleagues by the dates/times listed on the assignment schedule. All questions and responses should engage the reading/videos deeply and directly, including direct citations, and should invite your colleagues into thoughtful discussion of theology and its application in ministry. These should not simply be comprehension questions or questions from your DIY quizzes. All responses should be at least 150 words in length.
- **Synchronous Session Preparation and Participation** (6 x 10 points = 60): Prepare for, attend and actively participate in each online synchronous session.
- **Doctrine Papers** (4 x 100 points = 400 points): The purpose of theology is faithful and fruitful communication of the Gospel. One of the best ways to develop one's communication skills is writing. You'll write 4 papers examining the core doctrines of the Christian faith from a Methodist perspective: Doctrine of God, Christology, Pneumatology, and Ecclesiology. Each paper will include several sub-topics. More details about each paper are posted on Populi. Papers should be 5 pages, double-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font, 1-inch margins, and cite from the Bible and the assigned reading with appropriate citation. See below for due dates.
- Check Populi for more details and grading rubrics.

Course Policies:

- **Students with disabilities** should inform me as soon as possible so appropriate accommodations can be arranged.
- **Attendance** 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 class sessions 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 encouraged to provide back-up coverage at the local church while the pastor is away.
- **Submit assignments** by uploading them to the designated dropbox on Populi by midnight on the due date.
- **Late work** can be submitted for partial credit until August 8th.
- **Statement on Plagiarism from the COS Handbook:**
 - 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 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.

Course Grading Scale:

Grade Scale:

Outstanding Work: A+: 97-100% A: 93-96.9% A-: 90-92.9%

Good Work: B+: 87-89.9% B: 83-86.9% B-: 80-82.9%

Work Meeting Minimum Standards: C+: 77-79.9% C: 73-76.9% C-: 70-72.9%

Substandard but Passing Work: D+: 67-69.9% D: 63-66.9% D-: 60-62.9%

Failing Work or No-Show: F: 0-59.9%

Course Meeting and Assignment Schedule

Instructions for all writing assignments and links to articles and videos are posted on Populi.

Pre-Work	Week of July 7
Read: Campell Pgs. 9-51, Gonzalez Pgs. 9-49, Syllabus and assignment instructions	
Zoom Sessions 1 and 2 – Scripture and the Trinity	Friday July 11, 3-5 and Saturday July 12, 9-11 & 1-3
Read: Pre-reading, Wright article posted on Populi	Complete before the session.
Chapel via Zoom	Saturday July 12, 11:15am
Week 1 - Creation & Humanity	July 14-18
Read: Gonzalez Pgs. 55-76; Campbell Pgs. 52-54; Articles posted on Populi	
Watch: Week 1 Videos	
DIY Quiz 1	Submit by midnight Friday (July 18)
Discussion 1	Post questions Tuesday, responses Thursday.
Paper 1: Doctrine of God	Submit by midnight Friday.
Week 2 – Christology	July 21-25

Read: Gonzalez Pgs. 77-90; Campbell Pgs. 45-46; articles posted on Populi.	
Watch: Week 2 Videos	
DIY Quiz 2	Submit by midnight Friday.
Discussion 2	Post questions Tuesday, responses Thursday.
Paper 2: Christology	Submit by midnight Friday.
Week 3 – Pneumatology & Soteriology	July 28-August 1
Read: Gonzalez Pgs. 90-96; Campbell Pgs. 46-48 and 54-71; Articles posted on Populi	
Watch: Week 3 Videos	
DIY Quiz 3	Submit by midnight Thursday.
Discussion 3	Post questions Tuesday, responses Thursday.
Paper 3: Pneumatology	Submit by midnight Thursday.
Zoom Sessions 3 & 4 – Ecclesiology and Eschatology	Friday August 1, 3-5pm and Saturday August 2, 9-11 & 1-3
Read: Gonzalez Chs. 5-7; Campbell Ch. 5-6	Complete before the session.
Watch: Session 3 and 4 Videos	Complete before the session.
Paper 4: Ecclesiology	Submit by midnight Friday August 8.

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 class sessions 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.)

Students attending online are required to show their faces the entire class time in order to be considered present, unless internet bandwidth issues or emergency circumstances (e.g., a power outage) necessitate turning off one's camera or calling in to class by phone. You are expected to attend class as you would in a face-to-face classroom (e.g, not driving). During asynchronous class time, faculty may monitor time used in posting and responding to colleagues to track your participation.

- **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 and unpaid registration fees are still due if withdrawing past the registration deadline. 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.