

## **United Methodist Polity Online**

DENOM 602X-Summer 2020

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### **SPECIAL NOTE**

**This is the last time the courses DENOM 600X, DENOM 601X, and DENOM 602X will be taught in this format at Garrett-Evangelical. If you have already taken courses in this sequence, this is your last chance to complete this sequence. If you have not already begun this sequence, it is recommended that you wait until Fall of 2020 to begin these courses.**

### **Course Description**

Through engaging in the historical, theological, and structural realities of the United Methodist Church, this course will help students begin to grasp the realities of United Methodism's global in scope and local in thrust mission. This course engages the Book of Discipline, the Book of Resolutions, and other connectional resources to help students find their place in the greater church. This course meets the requirements for Basic Graduate Theological Studies and UM Certifications.

**Course Dates:** This course begins June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 and runs until August 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **Course Format**

This course will utilize the Moodle Online Learning Platform, YouTube, and potentially other online resources. It requires that students have access to high speed Internet and the ability to check email and Moodle at least once a week.

### **Course Goals**

- Students will explore the historical, theological, and structural realities which form the polity and structure of United Methodism through engaging with the Book of Discipline, the Book of Resolutions, and supplemental resources.
- Students will explore the importance of the structure of the church for furthering the local and global mission.
- Students will learn how to engage the structures to work for their ministries. This improvising improvising within them, altering them, and rethinking them.
- Students will develop ways to teach and communicate about the structure and nature of the church.

## Course Outcomes

- Students will develop a familiarity with the Book of Discipline, The Book of Resolutions, and other denominational resources through course readings and activities.
- Students will develop resources for communicating and teaching about the structures of the denomination through class activities during each unit.
- Students will develop an understanding of the legislative and judicial structures of the church and how to work within those systems to improvise and make changes through a research/innovation project.
- Students will offer collegial thoughts on one another's work through course unit participation.

## Academic Policies

All students are required to abide by the academic policies detailed in the [Academic Handbook](#) for the current academic year. The following policies are of particular importance to the successful completion of one's coursework:

### Writing

- Academic integrity and [plagiarism](#): (See 19-20 Handbook, 12, 78-83) All professors are required to respond to all suspected incidents of academic dishonesty, especially plagiarism. Repeated incidents of plagiarism or academic dishonesty may result in dismissal from the school.
- Writing and citations: The *Turabian Manual for Writers* and the *Chicago Manual of Style* footnote/bibliography format provide the standard formats for all introductory courses. Basic information on these formats is available online [here](#). In advanced courses an instructor may require another style guide appropriate to the discipline (such as APA). (19-20 Handbook, 84)
- Writing Support: The Writing Center at Garrett-Evangelical offers programs to support all students' theological research and writing. See <https://www.garrett.edu/studentlife/student-services> "Writing Center" for more detailed information.

### Attendance and Class Participation

- Inclusivity/Diversity: The basic commitments of the seminary to mutual love and searching for the truth in Christ lead to a principle that in the classroom and in course assignments, persons are always to be respected and ideas are to be freely discussed.... All participants in the teaching-learning process have an obligation to honor and respect varying perspectives on relevant issues. (See 19-20 Handbook, 9)
- Attendance and lateness policies: Attendance is required. Students who miss more than 20% of the class sessions (e.g., more than 2 classes in the weekly schedule, a proportionate amount for other class formats) should not expect to pass the class. (19-20 Handbook, 19)

- Some faculty may limit on the usage of electronic devices such as cell phones during class. At the least, all cell phones should be silenced during the whole of a class session.

### **A Note on Online Teaching Style**

The instructor acknowledges students are taking other classes, tending to family and personal matters, and serve in ministry settings. Instead of assigning one pathway for success in this class, the instructor has curated a space for you to explore the facets of United Methodism you find interesting and most relevant to you. While there may be multiple readings and lectures each unit, the instructor understands that the time is often scarce. Therefore, the instructor allows for you to select the readings and lectures that resonate with you the most. If you are unsure of what readings and lectures to begin with, the instructor gives a suggested starting point in each unit.

According to educational standards, for a two-hour class, students should expect to read approximately 70 pages per week of class and do six hours of course work. However, this course is divided into units, not weeks. Therefore, there may be over 100 pages to read but you will have two-three weeks to complete the work.

### **Academic Accommodations**

- Student accommodations for documented conditions should be developed and requested before the beginning of the semester. See the *Accessibility, Special Needs, and Disabilities* policy and process set out in the Academic Handbook (19-20 Handbook, 12). Such accommodations are developed in consultation with the Registrar.
- Extensions: For Masters students, extensions, if granted, are normally for four weeks following the last day of class in spring and fall semesters or the final due date for coursework for January and summer terms. Extensions may not exceed three months following the end of the term. (19-20 Handbook, 20)

### **Technology Requirements**

- It is the responsibility of the student to maintain appropriate technology and Internet access.
- Should you have issues with Moodle, email, or other Garrett-Evangelical technology issues, please contact IT: [computer.services@garrett.edu](mailto:computer.services@garrett.edu).

### Required Texts:

*All prices are listed for paperback edition. Kindle/Ebook editions are acceptable as well.*

- *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016* (and errata/additions). Nashville: United Methodist Publishing House, 2016. ISBN: 9781501833212. Amazon: \$23.99.
- *The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church, 2016*. Nashville: United Methodist Publishing House, 2012. ISBN 9781501833243. Amazon: \$21.19.
  - If you do not already have copies, borrow someone's or it's free online here: <https://www.cokesbury.com/book-of-discipline-book-of-resolutions-free-versions>
- Russell Richey. *Methodist Connectionalism: Historical Perspectives*. Nashville, TN: United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, 2009. ISBN: 9780938162858. Amazon: \$18.99
- Lacey Warner. *The Method of Our Mission: United Methodist Polity and Mission*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2014. ISBN: 9781426767173. Amazon: \$27.98.
- Gordon MacKenzie. *Orbiting the Giant Hairball: A Corporate Fools Guide to Surviving with Grace*. New York: Viking, 1998. ISBN: 9780670879830. \$15.15.
- *Missio Dei and the United States: Toward a Faithful United Methodist Witness*. Nashville: General Board of Higher Education and Mission, 2018. ISBN: 978-1945935374, Amazon: \$39.99

### Course Assignments

#### 1. Connections and Creations

During each unit there will be an assignment which asks students to respond to the topic of the Unit. This can be through written, visual, or recorded responses. These responses are not simply reflections, but ways to communicate the way our church works. Each unit will vary in its requirements

- a. Unit 1: Heritage, Theology, and Practice (12% of Final Grade)
  - i. Select a portion of the *Discipline* covered in this Unit. Develop a lesson plan for teaching this in your congregation. This might be a history lesson, a constitutional connections activity, Articles of Religion study, or something else. This includes sharing your context. I do not need full minute by minute expectations, but do want goals, activities, and outcomes.
  - ii. Between 300-500 words (or audio/visual equivalent)
  - iii. Cite all sources used (not just direct quotes)
  - iv. Initial Post Due: June 12<sup>th</sup>, Colleague Feedback Due: June 21<sup>st</sup>.

- b. Unit 2: The Ministry of All Christians Infographic (12% of Final Grade)
  - i. Select a section from the Ministry of All Christians, The Social Principles, or The Ministry of the Ordained Examples to create an Infographic. Examples and free tools will be provided in Moodle.
  - ii. Cite all sources used (not just direct quotes)
  - iii. Initial Post Due: July 3rd, Colleague Feedback Due: July 12th.
  
- c. Unit 3: Local Church Committee (12% of Final Grade)
  - i. Design a new local church committee/council/team (could be new to your local setting or new to the church in general). Develop a Committee Description, explain how you would go about creating this committee in your local, setting goals for the first year and first five years of the committee.
  - ii. Cite all sources used (not just direct quotes)
  - iii. Initial Post Due: July 24th, Colleague Feedback Due: August 2nd.
  
- d. Unit 4: The Global Church and its Local Mission (12% of Final Grade)
  - i. Select a global aspect of the United Methodist Church (such as a board or agency, a pan-Methodist Council, a para-church organization, etc.) and explore how that organization can benefit your local setting (Treat it as a newsletter article, church announcement, brief YouTube video. This can be written, audio recorded, or visual mapping
  - ii. Between 300 and 500 words (or audio/visual equivalent)
  - iii. Cite all sources used (not just direct quotes)
  - iv. Initial Post Due: August 14th, Colleague Feedback Due: August 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  
- e. Unit 5: Balancing, Creating, Thriving (12% of Final Grade)
  - i. Create a plan for your ministry setting that engages the realities of “the hairball” and creates space for the connectional structures (local and global) to allow for creative and innovative ministries in your setting. This can be written, audio recorded, or visual mapping.
  - ii. Between 300 and 500 words (or audio/visual equivalent)
  - iii. Cite all sources used (not just direct quotes)
  - iv. Initial Post Due: August 30th, No Colleague Feedback.

## 2. Colleague Commentary (15% of Final Grade)

Collegial work is important. This is not simply a “post and response” style course. Instead, these engage all of us as mutual colleagues. While the instructor may or may not provide feedback, students are expected to share their learning. You likely read different writings and explored different resources than your colleagues. This is your chance to offer constructive and useful feedback to your colleagues through sharing your experience of their work and how it impacts your work.

- a. Between 100-200 words.
- b. Respond to at least two colleagues by the due date listed for each Unit.
- c. Each unit is worth 25% of your “Colleague Commentary” score. Missing one drops you to a 75, missing two a 50, etc.

## 3. Navigating the Process (30% of Final Grade)

Identify a component of the Annual, Jurisdictional/Central, or General Conference Structure you think should be changed in some way (could be Constitutional, could be board or agency, could be ordination requirements, could Social Principles or Resolutions. Do the research to determine what is necessary to implement this change, if this has been attempted in the past, if there are Judicial Council Decisions regarding this issue, and the biblical, theological, moral, and structural reasons for this change. In a four-section paper (along with introduction and conclusion) do the following:

- a. Provide the biblical/ethical/theological/or structural reasons for this change.
- b. Provide the history of this issue in the Methodist connectional tradition (General Conference minutes, Annual Conference minutes, Judicial Council Rulings, etc.) and how that impacts your work.
- c. Outline the steps to completing this task
- d. Provide the legislation in the appropriate format for your setting

This paper will be between 1000 and 2000 words. Please cite all sources (not just direct quotes). Please provide a solid introduction and conclusion. Include a thesis statement. It is Due August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

### Grading Scale:

| A 93-100 | A- 92-90 | B+ 87-89 | B 83-86 | B- 80-82 | C+ 77-79 | C 73-76 | C- 70-72 | D+ 67-69 |  
| D 60-66 | F 0-59 |

## Course Schedule

Dates	Unit Name	Assignment
June 1 <sup>st</sup> -June 14 <sup>th</sup>	Heritage and Theology	Readings: <i>Discipline</i> : pp.v-24, ¶¶1-61 (and errata), ¶¶101-105 Warner: Chapters 1-2, 3: 45-52. Richey: Chapters 1-2, 10 Articles and Resources on Moodle  Assignments: a. Introductory Forum b. Lesson Plan
June 15 <sup>th</sup> – June 27 <sup>th</sup>	The Ministry of All Christians	Readings: <i>Discipline</i> : ¶¶120-143, ¶¶160-166, ¶¶301-369 The Book of Resolutions Warner Chapters 3:53-68, Chapter 4 Articles and Resources on Moodle  Assignments: a. Infographic
June 29 <sup>th</sup> -July 5 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Fourth of July Break</i>	
July 6 <sup>th</sup> -July 26 <sup>th</sup>	The Local Church and Its Global Mission	Readings: ¶¶201-269, ¶¶2501-2552 Warner Chapter 6 Richey Chapters 7-9 Articles and Resources on Moodle Assignments: a. Local Church Committee

<p>July 27<sup>th</sup> – August 16<sup>th</sup></p>	<p>The Global Church and Its Local Impact</p>	<p>Readings:  ¶¶401-450, ¶¶501-672,  ¶¶701-2401, ¶¶2601-2719  Warner Chapters 5, 7-8  Richey Chapters 3, 11, 13  Articles and Resources on Moodle</p> <p>Assignments:  a. Global Church Local Impact</p>
<p>August 17<sup>th</sup> – August 28<sup>th</sup></p>	<p>Balancing, Creating, Thriving</p>	<p>Readings:  Misseo Dei Text  Mackenzie Text  Richey Chapter 12  Articles and Resources on Moodle</p> <p>Assignments:  a. Balancing, Creating, Thriving Plan  b. Navigating the System</p>