

United Methodist Doctrine
DENOM 601X Spring 2020
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Course Goals and Outcomes

Students will learn the historic beliefs of United Methodism through engagement with the works of John and Charles Wesley, contemporary scholars, the United Methodist Book of Discipline, and other resources through readings, lectures, and independent research.

By the end of the course, students will have outlined 25 of John Wesley's key sermons, read from multiple scholars on United Methodist Doctrine, and engaged in lectures and discussions around these beliefs.

Students will explore the “first order” theological tasks important the practical and contextual nature of United Methodist Doctrine including: worship, biblical study, spiritual practices, mission, and justice through their creative projects and class discussions.

Students will utilize the course texts and lectures along with outside research to develop an infographic that explains the ways in which a chosen “first order theological task” engages the scripture way of salvation and the renewal in the image of God.

Students will utilize knowledge of United Methodist beliefs and practices in their ministry settings through creative projects and discussions.

Along with classroom discussions, students will develop a project to engage a theological concept in their ministry settings, such as a sermon/worship series, service project, Bible study, advocacy/activist work, or creative endeavor.

Dates for Course

The course will become available shortly before February 3rd and be available through May 20th. During that time, please adhere to all the deadlines set within the Course Assignments section of the syllabus. While this course is online, it is the expectation of the instructor that it will take as much time as a regular, face-to-face course. You should plan on spending approximately six hours per week working on this course and assignments.

Instructor Interaction and Grading

The instructor will be a point of contact for students concerning the course and to review the lectures. In addition to this, the instructor may participate on the discussion

forums as needed. The instructor will do his best to respond to all emails within 24 hours of when they are sent. The instructor will be online several hours a week (excluding weekends and holidays) for digital office hours. The instructor will focus on the discussion forums for all groups. All grades are the final decision of the instructor. Keep in mind that the syllabus lays out in detail what is required for good grades. Deviation from the syllabus without conversation with the instructor will lead to a lower grade.

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. The instructor also has due dates that allow for turning in either of the two large projects on either of the two due dates listed. You still do one of each but turn them in as you need.

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 weeks to complete the work.

Course Texts

Required Primary Texts:

John Wesley. *John Wesley's Sermons: An Anthology*. Eds., Outler, Albert C. and Richard Heitzenrater. Nashville: Abingdon, 1991. ISBN 978-0687204953. Amazon: \$18.63.

I recommend owning this book for reference, but I will be posting the table of contents on Canvas and a link to most of the sermons online for the purpose of the outlines.

Randy L. Maddox. *Responsible Grace: John Wesley's Practical Theology*. Nashville, TN: Kingswood, 1994. ISBN-13: 978-0687003341. Amazon: \$24. 86.

S. T. Kimbrough, Jr. *Partakers of the Life Divine: Participation in the Divine Nature in the Writings of Charles Wesley*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2016. ISBN: 1498286828. Amazon: \$27.38.

The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016 (and errata/additions). Nashville: United Methodist Publishing House, 2016. ISBN: 9781501833212. Amazon: \$23.99.

If you do not already have a copy, borrow someone's or it's free online here:
<https://www.cokesbury.com/book-of-discipline-book-of-resolutions-free-versions>

**Required Area of Interest Texts:
(Obtain the texts in one of these areas)**

United Methodist Interpretations of Scripture

Gayle Carlton Felton, editor. *How United Methodists Study Scripture*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1999. ISBN-13: 978-0687084227. Amazon: \$20.79

Scott J. Jones. *John Wesley's Conception and Use of Scripture*. Nashville, Kingswood, 1995. ISBN-13: 978-0687204663. Amazon: \$18.14.

United Methodist Understandings of Politics

Theodore Webber. *Politics in the Order of Salvation: Transforming Wesleyan Political Ethos*. Nashville: Kingswood, 2001. ISBN-13: 978-0687316908. Amazon: \$26.08.

Ryan Nicholas Danker, editor. *Exploring a Wesleyan Political Theology*. Nashville: Wesley's Foundry Books, 2019. ISBN-13: 978-1945935626. Amazon: \$32.99

Theology in Hymns

Teresa Berger. *Theology in Hymns: A Study of the Relationship of Doxology and Theology According to A Collection of Hymns for the Use of the People Called Methodists (1780)*. Nashville: Kingswood, 1995. ISBN-13: 978-0687002818. Amazon: \$20.22.

S. T. Kimbrough. *Charles Wesley: Poet and Theologian*. Nashville: Kingswood, 1992. ISBN-13: 978-0687060962. Amazon: \$15.82.

Poverty and Justice

S.T. Kimbrough. *Radical Grace: Justice for the Poor and Marginalized—Charles Wesley's Views for the Twenty-First Century*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2013. ISBN-13: **978-1620321430**. Amazon: **\$20.00**

Joerg Rieger. *No Religion but Social Religion: Liberating Wesleyan Theology*. Nashville, Wesley's Foundry Books, 2018. ISBN-13: 978-1945935169. Amazon: \$21.49

Ecclesiology/Connectionalism

Russ Richey. *Doctrine In Experience: A Methodist Theology of Church and Ministry*. Nashville: Kingswood, 2009. ISBN-13: 978-1426700101. Amazon: \$11.03

Rex Matthews, Editor. *The Renewal of United Methodism: Mission, Ministry, and Connectionalism*. Nashville: United Methodist General Board of Higher Education. ISBN-13: 978-0938162612. Amazon \$14.99.

If you have a different area of theology you want to engage, please reach out and we will find you resources.

Assignments

1. Theological Reflections: 6 of these (30% of Final Grade Total)

For each of the units of the class in the class, please post a 400 word response or 5 minute audio recording in the forum that shows an application for your ministry setting (or hypothetical setting). This could include how the concept (or portion thereof) has influenced your ministry setting OR how the portion of doctrine (or portion thereof) impacts your view of ministry, the church, the world, etc. These are due the first week (by Sunday Night) of each unit with comments from colleagues by the end of the second week (by Sunday Night).

- Colleagues will be given time to comment on these reflections. You must comment on at least two other postings by the Saturday following the official due date, this is part of the grade.
- If you post a coherent, relevant posting by the due date, you receive an 80.
- If you comment on two other postings by that due date you receive the other 20 points to equal 100. If you on only post one, you receive a 90.

2. Wesley Sermons –20% (Due March 20th, Via Moodle)

Each student will read and outline 25 sermons from Outler/Heitzenrater Anthology. The sermons will become the theological foundation for future dialogue. The outline should contain the following: sermon title; date preached; the main theological themes (e.g. grace, nature, sin, nature of humanity, nature of God, etc.); a succinct one or two sentence summary of the sermon; and a paraphrased outline of the main points and sub-points. Each outline should be one page, single spaced. The outlines should follow John Wesley's outlining style identically, and be 12 pt font, Times New Roman. A sample outline is provided on Moodle. A rubric for grading and further instructions will be posted closer to the due date. Please reach out to the instructor with any questions.

3. Theological Connections - 20% (Due April 15th, Via Moodle)

2000-word paper or one 15-20 minute audiovisual presentation that should be divided three sections: 1) summary and reflection on the chosen areas of interest, 2) impact of the area on the United Methodist Church, 3) Impact of the

area of either your personal ministry (vocation and career) or the context in which you serve (church, chaplain, teacher, etc.). Cite all sources used in paper and include a resource list for audio recordings.

A rubric for grading and further instructions will be posted in Moodle closer to the due date. Please reach out to the instructor with any questions.

4. Creative Project 20% (Due May 15th Via Moodle– May 1st for Seniors Via Moodle)

Develop a project which allows you to engage the realities of United Methodist Doctrine through one of these four ways:

1. Develop a worship series of 3-4 Sundays with hymns, liturgies, creative responses, sermon outlines (or creative proclamations) to engage in a topic of doctrine.
2. Develop a 3-4 session study (or weekend retreat) which includes the use of scripture, creative activities, and tasks to engage between and after sessions.
3. Plan a mission or justice-oriented project through the lens of the doctrine project. Provide both a theological underpinning and an outline of events that includes intentional planning, execution, and reflection.
4. Creatively respond to the doctrinal topic through writing music (and recording it), creating art (uploading it), writing a drama (and providing a script), etc. Along with the piece, attach a 500-1000 word description of the theological and doctrinal reflection that went into the work. A rubric for grading and further instructions will be posted on Blackboard closer to the due date. Please reach out to the instructor with any questions.

A Note on Writing and Style

All writing should be written in Chicago/Turabian Style as suggested in the Garrett-Evangelical Student Handbook. If there is an issue regarding citation style, please contact the professor at least forty-eight hours before the assignment is due.

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary offers free assistance with writing both for quality and grammar. For quality and writing improvement contact Dr. Melanie Baffes melanie.baffes@garrett.edu in the Writing Center at least 1 week ahead of time, for grammar support, contact Ms. Krista McNeil (Registrar) registrar@garrett.edu.

The instructor is not responsible for proof-reading and writing assistance that is not completed by the due date. However, the instructor does grant extensions if contacted at least 48 hours ahead of time.

A Note on Technology

It is the responsibility of the student to maintain appropriate technology and resources for the class. That includes, being able to check email at least 4 times a week, being able to listen to audio recordings and view videos. Being able to type or input data into the Moodle portal.

If you have a computer crash or are experiencing issues with Moodle contact the instructor immediately. Alternative due dates can be worked out. If you are experiencing consistent issues with Moodle or other Garrett-Evangelical technology, please email the IT department computer.services@garrett.edu (they will get back to you on the next day the seminary is open).

Educational/Accessibility Accommodations

Should you need educational accommodations for dyslexia, hearing impairment, physical injury, etc. the professor is very willing to accommodate. Please contact the professor as soon as this need arises. If you have an ongoing need, please contact the registrar's office (registrar@garrett.edu). It is best that you contact them prior to the beginning of the semester for the proper paperwork to be completed.

Course Schedule and Due Dates

Dates of Unit	Title of Unit	Assignments for Unit
February 3 rd – February 9th	Doctrine as Framework for Engaging Ministry	Maddox Article 1. Listen to Assigned Lecture 2. Post in Forum 3. Email the Instructor with your preferred email address.
February 10th – February 23rd	The Nature of God & Heart of John Wesley's Teaching	Readings: Maddox 1-2 Kimbrough 3-8 Jennings Excerpt Theological Reflections - 16 th Responses Due – 23 rd
February 24th – March 8th	Sin, Evil, and the Scripture Way of Salvation	Readings: Maddox 3, 6-7 Kimbrough 4-9 LeClerc Excerpt Theological Reflections – 1 st Responses Due – 8 th
March 9 th -March 22nd	The Trinity, Sanctification, and the Means of Grace	Readings: Maddox 4-5, 8 Kimbrough 6

		<p>Blevins Articles</p> <p>Theological Reflections – 15th Responses Due – 22nd</p> <p>Sermon Outlines Due March 20th</p>
March 23 rd -March 29 th	Spring Break	No Assignments
March 30 th -April 12th	The Sacraments and the Scriptures	<p>Readings: Kimbrough Chapter 5 “This Holy Mystery” “By Water and the Spirit” Felton Excerpt ¶ 105 “Scripture” pp. 83-85</p> <p>Theological Reflections – 5th Responses Due the 14th (Extension for Easter)</p>
April 13 th -26th	United Methodist Doctrinal Heritage, Doctrinal Tasks, and the Global Connection	<p>Readings: Richey Excerpt ¶¶102-105 Maddox Excerpt Richey Excerpt Langford Excerpt</p> <p>Theological Reflections – 19th Responses Due – 26th</p> <p>Theological Connections Due April 15th</p>
April 27th – May 10th	Mission, Justice, and Eschatology	<p>Readings Maddox 9 Kimbrough 10-12 ¶¶160-166 Kimbrough Excerpt Rieger Excerpt Historical Applications – 3rd Responses Due – 10th</p> <p>Creative Project May 15th</p>

Grading Scale:

A: 93-100 | A- 90-92 | 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 |