

United Methodist Polity
DENOM 602X Spring 2020
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Course Goals and Outcomes

Students will engage the structure and mission of the United Methodist Church using *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, *The Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church*, the course texts, and other resources from the denomination.

By the end of the course, the students will understand the basic structure of the United Methodist Church through course lectures, readings, and assignments.

Students will learn the historical and theological underpinnings for the structure and mission of the United Methodist Church

Students will complete assignments related to the historical and theological nature of our denominational structure.

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 rethink polity as a resource for ministry.

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 Dates:

February 3rd – May 8th

Course Texts

Required Primary Texts:

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: 978-1-4267-6717-3. Amazon: \$34.00.

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

Diaconal Ministries

Margaret Ann Crain. *The United Methodist Deacon: Ordained to Word, Service, Compassion and Justice*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2014. ISBN: 978-1426776113. Amazon: \$15.00.

Mary Agnes Theresa Dougherty. *My Calling to Fulfill: Deaconesses in the United Methodist Tradition*. New York: United Methodist Women, 1997. ISBN: ASIN: B0006QRKEC Amazon: \$45.95 (used copies are available online as well).

Global United Methodism

Elaine Robinson and Amos Nascimento. *Global United Methodism: Telling the Stories, Living the Realities*. Nashville: Wesley's Foundry Books, 2019. ISBN-13: 978-1945935459. Amazon: \$20.40.

Kathy A. Armistead, editor. *Misero Dei and the United States: Toward a Faithful United Methodist Witness*. Nashville: General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, 2018. ISBN-13: 978-1945935374. Amazon: \$39.99.

Ministry Orders

Rex D. Matthews. *Ministerial Orders and Sacramental Authority in the United Methodist Church and Its Antecedents, 1784-2016*. Nashville: Wesley's Foundry Books, 2018. ISBN-13: 978-1945935190. Amazon: \$4.69.

William B. Lawrence. *Ordained Ministry in the United Methodist Church*. Nashville: United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, 2011. ISBN-13: 978-0938162698. Amazon: \$14.99.

The Future of The Connection

David N. Field. *Bid Our Jarring Conflicts Cease: A Wesleyan Theology and Praxis of Church Unity*. Nashville: Foundry Books, 2017. ISBN-13: 978-0938162247. Amazon: \$9.80.

William B. Lawrence. *A Methodist Requiem: Words of Hope and Resurrection for the Church*. Nashville: Foundry Books, 2017. ISBN-13: 978-0938162469. \$24.99.

Assignments

1. **Connectional Connections: 6 of these (40% 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. **Infographic (10% of Final Grade) - Due March 20th, Via Moodle**

Utilize <https://www.visme.co/> or another tool to create an infographic to be used as a bulletin insert, Facebook Post, or other resource for education in your ministry setting. It should explain a concept of United Methodist particular, such as a particular structure, reason for a particular practice, General agency, etc.

3. **Polity Connections (25% of Final Grade) - 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 Reimagining (25% of Final Grade) - Due May 15th Via Moodle– May 1st for Seniors Via Moodle)**

Using United Methodist Doctrine, History, and the reality of the 21st century, rethink an area of United Methodist Polity (such as ordination, local church structure, Social Principles, theological task, etc.) for the future of the church. This should be a 2000 word paper or 20 minute presentation. It should provide

the following: A) a statement of the issue or topic you want to rethink, and why it should be rethought, B) your rationale for rethinking including history, theology, social sciences, etc., C) Your suggested plan for rethinking this, including timeline and steps for implementation (along with required steps: General Conference petitions, Constitutional Amendments, local church impacts). D) How this impacts the local church, Annual Conference, and General Church.

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.

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 9 th	The Ministry of All Christians	¶¶ 120-143 of the Discipline 1. Listen to Assigned Lecture 2. Post in Forum 3. Email the Instructor with your preferred email address.
February 10 th – February 23 rd	The History of Our Mission and Ministry	Readings: <i>Discipline</i> pp. 1-24, ¶¶1-105 Warner Chapters 1-2 Richey Chapters 1-2 Connectional Connections - 16 th Responses Due – 23 rd
February 24 th – March 8 th	Contemporary Doctrines, Tasks, Social Principles, and Resolutions	<i>Discipline</i> ¶¶160-166 Book of Resolutions Bishops’ Initiatives Warner Chapter 3 Richey Chapter 10 Connectional Connections – 1 st Responses Due – 8 th
March 9 th -March 22 nd	Leadership and the Connectional Mission	<i>Discipline</i> ¶¶126-143, ¶¶ 301-450 Warner Chapters 4-5 Richey Chapters 4-6 Connectional Connections – 15 th Responses Due – 22 nd Infographic Due March 20th
March 23 rd -March 29 th	Spring Break	No Assignments
March 30 th -April 12 th	The Local Church and the Global Mission	<i>Discipline</i> ¶¶120-125, ¶¶201-269, ¶¶2501-2511, ¶¶2525-2552 Warner Chapter 6 Richey Chapters 7-9

		<p>Connectional Connections – 5th Responses Due the 14th (Extension for Easter)</p>
April 13 th -26 th	<p>Conference, Connections, Cooperation</p>	<p>Readings: <i>Discipline</i> ¶¶501-2401, ¶¶2512-2524, ¶¶2601-2719 Warner 7-8 Richey 3, 11, 13</p> <p>Connectional Connections – 19th Responses Due – 26th</p> <p>Polity Connections Due April 15th</p>
April 27 th – May 10 th	<p>New, Different, Missional</p>	<p>Richey 12, Conclusion</p> <p>Connectional Connections – 3rd Responses Due – 10th</p> <p>Creative Reimagining Due 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 |