

United Methodist Doctrine: DENOM-601X, Fall 2017

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

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Digital Office Hours (All Times Central):

Monday 1pm-4pm, Tuesday 8am-10am, Wednesday 8am-10am

Course Description

This course is designed to make the student familiar with the theology of John Wesley by becoming familiar with his sermons, a doctrinal standard in the United Methodist Church. This will become a starting point for understanding Methodist theology in general, which is characterized by a theological method that seeks to contextualize the Christian faith in a connectional structure of the church. The students will further begin to explore how Wesleyan and United Methodist Doctrine influences the structure and practice of ministry in our tradition.

Course Objectives

The course will engage the students with:

Being

- a participant in the mission of The United Methodist Church
- a participant in the structures of The United Methodist Church
- in ministry in a distinctively Methodist and Wesleyan way
- concerned about the reform of the church

Doing

- theology from a Wesleyan and Methodist perspective
- articulating the reason that they are members of The United Methodist Church
- Wesleyan doctrine and Methodist Sacraments as Christian formation

Knowing

- The sermons of John Wesley
- The hymnody of The United Methodist Church
- Sources for Methodist theology
- Ways in which theology influences the life and work of ministry

Dates for Course

The course will become available shortly before **Tuesday, September 5th** and be available through **Friday, December 15th**. 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.

Required Readings

Jones, Scott. *United Methodist Doctrine: The Extreme Center*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2011. ISBN 068703485X.

Kimbrough, S. T. *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.

Maddox, Randy. Editor. *Rethinking Wesley's Theology for Contemporary Methodism*. Nashville: Kingswood Books, ISBN-13: 978-0687060450

Oden, Thomas C. *John Wesley's Scriptural Christianity*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994. ISBN 978.0310753216.

Wesley, John. *John Wesley's Sermons: An Anthology*. Eds., Outler, Albert C. and Richard Heitzenrater. Nashville: Abingdon, 1991. ISBN 978.0687204953.

Wingeier-Rayo, Philip. *The Worldwide Nature of the United Methodist Church: Mission and Stewardship in the 21st century*. (Posted on Moodle)

By Water and the Spirit: A United Methodist Understanding of Baptism.

<http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/by-water-and-the-spirit-full-text>

This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion.

<http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/this-holy-mystery-a-united-methodist-understanding-of-holy-communion1>

- I. **For a more comprehensive bibliography of Methodist material please consult:**

Rowe, Kenneth E. and Anderson, Christopher J. *United Methodist Studies: Basic Bibliographies*. 5th edition. Online at http://www.drew.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/70/UM_Biblio_5th_ed.pdf

Jarboe, Betty. *John and Charles Wesley: A Bibliography*. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1987.

II. Online Resources

Care needs to be expressed when using online material.

<http://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/search-resources/guide-to-special-collections/methodist/> (The Methodist Archives, John Rylands Library, The University of Manchester.)

<http://www.aamhc-umc.org/> (African-American Methodist Heritage Center)

<http://wesley.nnu.edu/> (The Wesley Center Online. It is possible to download some of Wesley's works here.)

<http://www.gcah.org/> (The General Commission on Archives and History)

<http://depts.drew.edu/lib/books/200Years/200UM/homepage.htm> (The Story of Methodism in America)

<http://www.umcmission.org/Find-Resources/John-Wesley-Sermons/The-Wesleys-and-Their-Times> (General Board of Global Ministry)

<http://www.mwrc.ac.uk/> (Wesley and Methodist Studies Research Center, Manchester, England)

<https://www.methodistreview.org/index.php/mr> (The Methodist Review)

<https://divinity.duke.edu/initiatives-centers/cswt/> (The Center for Studies in the Wesleyan Tradition, Duke Divinity School)

<http://wesley.nnu.edu/wesleyan-theological-society/wesleyan-theological-journal/> (Wesley Theological Journal of the Wesley Theological Society)

<https://archive.org/details/americanmethodism> (The American Methodism Project)

Course Structure and Assignments

This course is divided into six units of two weeks a piece with an opening and closing week for the course. Each unit covers a significant portion of United Methodist Doctrine. The first week focuses on historical content, the second week focuses on implications and application of this history.

1. Group Engagement with the Unit (50% of Final Grade)

- a. During Week 1 of each Unit, students will watch the provided lecture and read the assigned texts for the unit. They will then post a response (300 words +/- 10%) to the reflection question assigned by Thursday of that week at 10:00pm Central Time. They will then respond (100 words +/-

10%) to one another by Saturday of that week at 10:00pm Central Time (you must respond to at least two other people in your group).

Simplified:

a. Post a response to the assigned reading and lecture by Thursday at 10pm CT

b. Respond to colleagues posts by Saturday at 10pm CT

NO LATE POSTINGS ACCEPTED

- b. During Week 2, the students must select a significant event, implication, or idea from the previous weeks readings and provide a description of how this affects their ministry. This should be a description of how this information will impact how they engage in ministry in the United Methodist Church. The student should provide a 50 word description of the topic followed by a 300 word explanation of how this impacts their understanding and approach to a particular portion of their ministry (worship, preaching, education, mission, fellowship, administration, evangelism, etc.). This is due by Thursday at 10:00pm Central Time. Students will then respond to colleagues' posts by Saturday at 10:00pm with thoughts, implications, and discussion by.

Simplified:

a. Post an implication this Unit's reading has on your ministry by Thursday at 10pm CT

b. Post a response to your colleagues' implications by Saturday at 10pm CT

NO LATE POSTINGS ACCEPTED

2. Sermon Outlines (25% of Final Grade)

- a. Read and outline each of the sermons in the 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 take less than one page, single spaced. A sample outline is provided on Moodle. Each document uploaded should contain a set of 5 outlines, named using the template below and uploaded weekly to Turnitin where it is indicated near the top of the Moodle page for the course(30% of final grade). Sermon Outlines are **DUE on Saturdays at 10:00 pm CT.**

Simplified:

1. Outline the five sermons listed in Moodle for that week following the outline provide.

2. These sermons must be in one document and uploaded to the appropriate weeks Turn-it-In page
3. They are due by the Saturday listed at 10:00pm CT.
4. Late postings will drop one letter grade per day.

3. Theology in Ministry Project (25% of Final Grade)

Using the readings from the course, particularly the sermons, craft a project which incorporates a portion of Wesley’s theology/UM Doctrine into your ministry context. This can take the form of a sermon series, a Christian formation study, a way of restructuring leadership for your church, an evangelism plan, a trajectory for missions, a rethinking of worship. If you are a Deacon, missionary, or other person in ministry serving beyond the church, this will take the form of how you implement your Wesleyan theology in your work. The plan should be fully prepared, with a theological description and contextual description of no more than 500 total words included at the beginning of the plan. If you are doing a series (worship, study, sermons, etc.), I want full outlines, not simply: “Sermon on Prevenient Grace” or “Lesson on Sermon on Mount III” etc. Instead I want sermon outlines, lesson plans, etc. The lengths and structure of these will vary. However, I want quality work which provides a clear grasp of the content of the course and how you look to implement it in your ministry.

Simplified:

1. Complete a project which incorporates a portion of Wesley’s Theology into your ministry context.
2. Include a 500 theological and contextual context portion
3. Turn in by **November 4th at 10:00pm CT**

Course Schedule

Dates	Topic	Assignments
Sept 4-9 Opening Week	Course Introduction	Introduce Yourself Discussion Forum
Sept 10-23 Unit 1	The Heart of Wesley’s Teachings The Heart of Methodism	Oden Chapters 1-2, 8 Maddox 1-2 Discussion Forum Ministry Implications Sermons A & B
Sept. 24-Oct. 7 Unit 2	Sin, Evil, and Sanctification	Oden 4-5, 10 Maddox 5 Discussion Forum Ministry Implications Sermons C & D

Oct. 8-21 Unit 3	The Scripture Way of Salvation And the Sacraments	Jones 5-7 Maddox 6-7 By Water and The Spirit This Holy Mystery Discussion Forum Ministry Implications Sermons E & F
Oct 22-Nov 4 Unit 4	Christology, Pneumatology, and Trinitarian Thought	Oden 6-7 Maddox 9 Jones 3 Discussion Forum <i>No Ministry Implications</i> Sermons I & J Theology in Ministry
Nov 5 - 18 Unit 5	Connectional Theology and Global Methodism	Maddox 8, 10-12 Wingeier-Rayo "Worldwide" Discussion Forum Ministry Implications Sermons G & H
Nov 19-25	<i>Thanksgiving</i>	<i>No Assignments</i>
Nov 26-Dec 9 Unit 6	Wesleyan Ways of Thinking About Justice	Maddox 4 Kimbrough Text Discussion Forum Ministry Implications Sermons I & J
Dec 10-14	Reflection Week	Reflection <i>This Reflection is ungraded but simply a time to reflection. However, I will allow it to replace a missed post from a previous week.</i>

Guidelines For Grading

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 |

Grade Explanation for Discussion Forum/Ministry Implications

A/100%

(70%) -You have engaged the discussion forum/ ministry implication topic in a coherent and thoughtful way.

(10%) -There are little to no spelling and grammatical errors, and your thought process is easy to follow.

(20%) -You post on at least two other group members' posts in engaging and thoughtful ways.

B/85%

-You engaged the discussion forum/ ministry implication topic in a coherent way showing you have read the material and reflected on it.

-Grammar and spelling error present.

-You engage posts of group members

C/75%

-You post something which is related to the topic.

-Grammar and spelling errors present

-You do not post on group members posts

F/0%

-No post or off topic post

Grade Explanation for Sermons

A

-Stays within the parameters defined and successfully provides an understanding of Wesley's theology.

-Little to no grammatical issues.

B

-Stays within the parameters, mostly. Some sermons may be too short or too long.

-Provides an understanding of Wesley's theology but relies too much on copying the text (If it matches Wesley's text on Turn-it-In by 30% or more).

-Grammatical issues present but do not detract from quality of work

C

-Goes outside of the parameters on most sermons, including too long or too short of entry.

- Does not convey the message of the text and may get it wrong.
- Has a 50% match or higher on turn-it-in
- Grammatical errors impact the quality of the work.

F

- Does not follow instructions
- Has numerous grammatical issues
- Lacks any understanding of Wesley's Work

Grade Explanation for Theology in Ministry Project

This project's scope will vary, but essentially:

An **A** project:

- Will thoughtfully and creatively explore the topic at hand in the described way. It will be interesting, well outlined and explained, and have an understandable scope and goal. The goal is important.
- It will be directed to a specific congregation or community
- It will also have few grammatical, structural, or spelling errors.

A **B** project:

- Will explore the topic at hand in an efficient way. It will be outlined and explained. The goal and scope are present.
- It will be useable in a congregation
- It has grammatical and structural issues, but does not detract greatly from the goal.

A **C** project:

- Has a topic which it explores. It is somewhat outlined and explained. A goal may be inferred.
- It may be useable in a congregation
- It has many grammatical and structural errors which detract from the work.

A **D** project:

- Has an inferred topic. It has no goal. It is lacking in outline and scope.
- Possibly useable in a congregation with work.
- It has numerous grammatical and structural errors.

An **F** project:

- Has no topic or goals which are even inferable.
- Not useable
- It has numerous grammatical and structural errors.