Course Description
It was John Wesley’s deeply held theological conviction that human beings, having been reconciled to God and born of the Spirit, can become perfect in their love of God and neighbor. It is this perfect love unleashed in the lives of individuals that leads to the transformation of the world. This was the central vision of the Wesleyan revival; to spread scriptural holiness across the land. And it is sometimes one of the more neglected elements of our Wesleyan theological heritage.

This course will examine theological underpinnings of Wesley’s doctrines of sanctification and perfection with an eye toward the contemporary challenges faced by our denomination. Drawing upon the General Rules of the Wesleyan tradition; avoid evil, do good, and use the means of grace, we will explore the implications of going on to perfection for our covenant together as clergy and for the churches we serve. Readings will include original source materials as well as handouts and selected texts.

Required Textbooks

Precourse Assignments
1. Read and outline the following primary source documents:
   • “On Sin in Believers” (1763), Sermons, 359-69
   • “The Repentance of Believers” (1767) Sermons 405-17
   • “Christian Perfection” (1741), Sermons, 69-84
• “Thoughts on Christian Perfection” (1760), John Wesley, 283-98
• “The Scripture Way of Salvation” (1765), Sermons, 371-80
• “The Means of Grace” (1746), Sermons, 157-71
• “The Duty of Constant Communion” (1787), Sermons 501-10
• “Upon Our Lord’s Sermon on the Mount, Discourse IV, (1748) Sermons, 193-206
• “The Use of Money” (1760), Sermons, 347-57
• “The Danger of Riches” (1781), Sermons, 451-63
• “The More Excellent Way” (1787), Sermons, 511-21

2. Read Leadership in the Wesleyan Spirit
3. Read The Conversation Matters

Course Requirements in addition to Precourse work
• Attendance and Active participation in class discussions, including a timely reading of assigned materials and handouts.
• An interactive log/journal of your participation in disciplines such as personal worship, prayer, bible study, etc. and your reflection on these for one month prior to the course. This will take place online. This is not intended as a record of our work as pastors but rather to engage one another around issues of personal growth.
• A group discussion on an assigned topic utilizing the methodology of Christian Conferencing suggested by the Knight/Saliers text.
• Submission of an original sermon based upon Wesley’s sermon, “Upon Our Lord’s Sermon on the Mount, Discourse IV” that communicates the essence of Wesley’s message concerning sanctification and perfection in contemporary language and with relevance for today’s congregation. Due July 23rd. (Hint: your outline should help you here.)
• Submission of a detailed outline for a 6 week study designed to familiarize participants with Wesley’s concern for the poor and those on the margins and motivate them to engage in ministries of social justice. The outline should include a description of the class participants you have in mind and should draw from class lectures, discussions and handouts. Be sure to include objectives for each session and key points you intend to cover with enough detail to discern whether you have grasped major points of the course and thought about how to teach them to others. Think about how to interface this study with issues that are of concern to the community where you serve so that it may be useful to you when you return home. Due August 7.

Because this is a very compact format, it will be important for you to think ahead as you read the precourse assignments and begin to formulate your sermon and teaching outline. However, you will not want to finalize the sermon or the course outline until you have the benefit of the course content.

Daily Course Outline
July 20: History and Context
  ➢ Wesley’s England – A look at the social, political and religious context surrounding Wesley’s theology and discipline
  ➢ Biography - The relationships between Wesley’s personal story and his public teachings.
  ➢ The Via Salutis – Understanding the doctrines of sanctification and perfection in the context of the larger path of salvation
July 21: History and Context

- Avoid Evil, Do Good - The disciplines of the Societies
- The Means of Grace - A brief review of Methodist sacramental theology and its role in sanctification

July 21–22: Works of Piety

- Examining Wesley's emphasis on spiritual formation in conversation with contemporary challenges, both personal and corporate. Particular attention will be given to spiritual formation as a basis for unity within diversity.
- Elements include:
  - Searching the scriptures
  - Prayer
  - Fasting
  - Lord’s Supper
  - Christian Conferencing
  - Worship

July 23–24: Works of Mercy

- Examination of Wesleyan ethical imperatives for ministries of outreach and social justice. Students will have the opportunity to examine Wesley’s positions on salient issues of his day including slavery, war, education and healthcare and to discuss contemporary implications.

July 24: Exercise in Christian Conferencing

Guidelines for Written Assignments

- All papers should be typed, double-spaced, on 8 ½” by 11” paper, unless the instructor has asked for a different format specifically within the precourse work. Font should be Times New Roman or something similar and no larger than size 12. Margins are to be 1” on all four sides of each page.
- All papers must include a page number and the last name of the student in either the header or footer of every page.
- You should note the question you are answering at the beginning of each new section of materials.
- All papers should provide citations for all quoted material. You may use MLA, Turabain, APA or Chicago Style.
- Punctuation should be consistent; clarity of meaning is the primary purpose of punctuation. Edit and retype material as needed and check spelling in a standard dictionary.
- All papers should attempt to eliminate discriminatory language—for example: racism, ageism, sexism, classism, and prejudicial usage concerning handicapping conditions.

Inclusive Language Covenant

The faculty of Emory Course of Study School has adopted a covenant statement encouraging inclusiveness in the use of language, as follows:

The Inclusive Language Covenant is designed to create a linguistic environment in which all students, staff, and faculty can grow in understanding and appreciating the rich diversity of God’s people. The COS faculty commits itself—through continued discussion, reflection, and exploration—to using language in such a way that we respond to the fullness of God’s presence among us as much by our choice of words as by our care for one another. Recognizing that our experience with inclusive language is an integral part of theological formation, we invite students and others to share as partners with us in this learning process.

We understand “covenant” more in terms of its biblical and theological meaning than in a legal or contractual context. Covenant signifies the common commitment of a community of faith in response to
God’s revelation and in partnership with one another. The values implied in the covenant have morally persuaded us to try to generate patterns of speech and behavior that bond the members of the community in mutual respect. We expect all members of the community to address issues of diversity constructively. The entire Inclusive Language Covenant can be found on the COS website, and you are encouraged to read the whole covenant.

**Directions to Email Precourse Assignments**

Please read all the directions below before emailing your assignments to the COS Office, any emails received that do not follow the directions below will not be accepted. You will receive an email confirmation of receipt and if your email is not submitted correctly an email indicating you will need to resend your assignments.

1. Email only michelle.levan@emory.edu your precourse assignments, do not email assignments to the instructors. You are encouraged to email the instructors questions about the assignments.
2. Email must be received no later than 11:59pm on the deadline of June 20th.
   a. Please note that the cut off time is EASTERN STANDARD TIME zone, so email your assignments accordingly.
   b. You will be drop from any course for which precourse work has not been received after June 20th. No precourse work will be accepted at check-in.
3. The course number and the phrase “precourse work” should be the subject of your email:
   Example - Precourse Work ACOS
   a. You will need to send a separate email for each course you are registered to attend.
4. Precourse work must be sent as an attached document and not in the body of the email.
   a. Any version of Microsoft Word will be accepted; PDF, Word Perfect, and Mac-Pages documents will not be accepted. If you are using another type of word processing program please convert your document to a version of Microsoft Word before sending.
   b. All assignments for each course must be in one document, multiple documents are not acceptable. You should send only one attachment with all course assignments; emails sent with multiple documents will not be accepted.
5. Your FULL name, phone number and email, should all be clearly included at the beginning of your email. See Example
6. Plagiarism Policy and Plagiarism Defined
   The plagiarism Policy and Defined paragraphs below must be included in the body of your email (both are below), not within your precourse work. The inclusion of the policy and definition in the body of the email, verifies that you agree to it and your email will represent your signature (which is a requirement). If the email does not include the plagiarism policy and definition it will not be accepted. Your email, with the plagiarism policy and definition will be printed and used as the cover sheet for your precourse assignments, because it has the verification of date and time received, and your agreement to the plagiarism policy and definition.
   **Plagiarism Policy** - I have read the plagiarism definition below and verify that this assignment represents my own work, except where credit is given.
   **Plagiarism Defined**: “You plagiarize when, intentionally or not, you use someone else’s words or ideas but fail to credit that person, leading your readers to think that those words are yours. In all fields, you plagiarize when you use a source’s words or ideas without citing that source. In most fields, you plagiarize even when you do credit the source but use its exact words without using quotation marks or block indentation” (201-202). Booth, Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. The Craft of Research, Second Edition. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2003.
7. If you do not follow the procedure your precourse work WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED! You will receive a confirmation of receipt within 24 hours or notice to resubmit following the process.