Course Description and Outcomes

This course introduces the student to theological reflection in the Wesleyan tradition. Basic terms, tasks, and methods of Christian theology will be introduced. Representative classical themes will be defined and illustrated. The course provides a foundation for further historical and theological study.

Students will be able to:
1. Examine their understanding of faith, sin, salvation, grace, and the place of doctrine in the life of the Church.
2. Use and understand classical theological terms and themes.
3. Critically consider the sources of theological reflection, including scripture, tradition, experience, and reason.
4. Reflect theologically as a resource for pastoral ministry.

Required Textbooks


Reference Textbooks


Supplementary Textbooks

A Note About the Hybrid Format

This course is offered in a hybrid format. That means that 15 of the 20 contact hours for class will be in person and the remaining 5 contact hours will be online. Accordingly, there are three major phases of classwork: Pre-Class, In-Class, and Post-Class.

If at any point you have trouble with the technology aspects of this class, please contact Amy Walker in the COS office. Phone: (404) 727-4587 or Amy.Elizabeth.Walker@emory.edu

Pre-Class Assignments

Pre-Class Assignment #1
submit this assignment on Canvas in the “Assignments” section no later than January 22
Read *Methodist Doctrine: The Essentials* and give a summary definition of the doctrines Campbell regards as essential to United Methodism. (*maximum of 4 double-spaced pages*)

Pre-Class Assignment #2
submit this assignment on Canvas in the “Assignments” section no later than January 22
Read *An Introduction to Christian Theology* and, in your own words, give a description of the major theological themes raised in each chapter of the book. (*maximum of 6 double-spaced pages*)

Pre-Class Assignment #3
submit this assignment on Canvas in the “Assignments” section no later than January 22
Read the following six sermons from *John Wesley’s Sermons* and write a brief paragraph on each summarizing how Wesley addressed the main theological issue in each sermon:
- The Image of God
- Christian Perfection
- Justification by Faith
- Original Sin
- The Scripture Way of Salvation
- The Duty of Constant Communion
(*maximum of 3 double-spaced pages*)

Pre-Class Assignment #4 – Discussion Board
post your response on Canvas in the “Discussions” section no later than January 22
1) Watch “Video 1”
2) After watching video 1, reply to the questions listed on “Discussion Board 1 – Introductions”

Pre-Class Assignment #5 – Discussion Board
post your response on Canvas in the “Discussions” section no later than January 22
1) Watch “Video 2”
2) After watching video 2, read: *Wesley and the Quadrilateral* and *The Book of Discipline, Part III, Section IV, Our Theological Task.*
3) Reply to the question listed on “Discussion Board 2 – The Via Media”
Pre-Class Assignment #6
submit this assignment on Canvas in the “Assignments” section no later than January 22
Watch “Video 3”

1) After watching video 3, utilize what you’ve learned from:
   - the video
   - An Introduction to Christian Theology
   - Methodist Doctrine: The Essentials (chapters I and II), and
   - John Wesley’s Sermons (The Unity of the Divine Being)

   to describe why Methodists believe that God can be known and what we believe the nature of that God to be (maximum of 5 double-spaced pages)

Pre-Class Assignment #7 – Discussion Board
post your response on Canvas in the “Discussions” section no later than January 22

1) Watch “Video 4”
2) After watching video 4, reply to the question listed on “Discussion Board 3 – The ‘ologies’”

Post-Class Assignments

Post-Class Assignment #1 – Final Exam – you will find the Final Exam in the “Quizzes” section of the Canvas site. It will be available on February 10. You must complete the Final Exam no later than February 14.

Post-Class Assignment #2 – Final Paper – submit this assignment in the “Assignments” section of the Canvas site no later than February 24

1) Watch “Video 5”
2) Write a six-page paper on one of the topics listed below indicating your ability to respond to the issue through your understanding of the role of the pastor as theologian and your understanding of the Wesleyan quadrilateral. The essay should demonstrate that you have appropriate theological language for addressing the issue and that you can clearly show how the quadrilateral can help provide pastoral support in addressing the issue.
   (maximum of 6 pages)

   TOPICS: suicide, torture, human sexuality, racism, death of a child, gun violence, or you may choose another subject after consultation with the instructor.

How Your Final Course Grade Is Determined
20% Classroom Participation
25% Pre-Class Assignments
30% Post-Class Assignment #1 – Final Exam
25% Post-Class Assignment #2 – Final Paper
Grade Deduction Policy
Pre-class work must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. EST on January 22, 2018.
Pre-class work received after the deadline will be subject to the late penalty schedule below:

- Pre-class work received between January 23-29 will receive a one-letter grade deduction.
- Pre-class work received between January 30-February 2 will receive a two-letter grade deduction.
- Students who have not submitted pre-class work by February 2 will be dropped from the class.

COS Grading Scale

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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).

Guidelines for Written Assignments

- All papers should be typed, double-spaced, and on 8.5x11” paper.
- The font should be Times New Roman, 12 point.
- Margins should be 1” on all sides.
- All papers must include a page number and the student’s last name in the header or footer.
- Note the question you are answering at the beginning of each new section or page.
- All papers must be properly cited. Please use MLA formatting. This is the best website for learning more about MLA format: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/1/

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 participation 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.