All precourse assignments should be emailed to the Course of Study Office by May 1, 2013

Course Description
This course emphasizes the integration of the role of the practicing pastor with the church’s theological heritage and its particular Wesleyan expression. The course also stresses theology as an ongoing task of critical reflection for the purpose of action. Consideration is given to issues, events, and institutions that form the context within which the pastor is required to think, speak, and act with theological clarity.

Course Objectives
1. Continued growth of the pastor’s identity as theologian and the development of his or her own credo (a written statement of the pastor’s own understanding of Christian doctrine)
2. Focus upon thinking theologically about everyday activities and contemporary events in the political, economic, and social areas of life
3. Reflection upon a variety of theological perspectives in order to apply a faithful critique to persons who claim to be God’s voices in our time
4. Integration of the pastor’s theological understanding in the practice and evaluation of ministry
5. Encouragement of lifelong theological reading, reflection, and growth

Required Text Books and Online Readings

- The Bible (a good, modern translation—the NRV, for instance)

Precourse Assignments
Due to the COS office via email by May 1st. All papers should be double spaced, inch-margins, and a 10-12pt font. For each assignment, demonstrate knowledge of the book covered in that assignment.

Read Shirley Guthrie’s book, taking notes for yourself on the important issues. (These are not to be sent to the instructor.) Notice that Guthrie writes from the perspective of the Reformed tradition. You may ignore his sections on the Reformed creeds.

2. Credo: (6-7 typed, double-spaced pages)
   Credo means “I believe.” A credo is a statement of what one believes and how the beliefs should be understood. Having read Guthrie’s book, write your credo. What is it that you believe and why, not autobiographically but theologically? If someone asked, how would you explain your beliefs and why they are theologically important? Do not give your life-story of how you received your beliefs but give what you believe and what your beliefs mean theologically. Do not merely quote the Apostles’ Creed or other creeds; develop your own credo. Begin your credo with the doctrine that you believe is the most important (is it incarnation, the Trinity, special revelation, atonement, etc.), explaining it and why it is so central. Then select the other doctrines that are important for your faith, again explicating the doctrines and why they are significant. Be sure to
give an account of how God is known (General and Special Revelation), who God is (Trinity, Attributes), the significance of Jesus (Incarnation, Atonement, Resurrection), and the work of the Holy Spirit (Justification, Sanctification). (The doctrines in parenthesis do not all need to be used, but are doctrines related to the different areas of the assignment.)

In writing your credo, reflect what you hold as central but also be sure to demonstrate extensive engagement and explicit dialogue with Guthrie’s book. I need to see clearly that you have read and comprehended Guthrie’s suggestions and insights. So, do not only give a quote or two from Guthrie, rather show how his explanations of the doctrines have helped your understanding of the doctrines.

3. Reflection on doctrines in the context of ministry: (2 typed, double-spaced pages)

Ministry is a theological work. Our theology leads us to ministry, and ministry compels us to reflect theologically on what we are doing. Take your central doctrine from #2 and one other doctrine you used in #2, and write a reflection on how your work in ministry has confirmed, transformed, strengthened, challenged, and/or deepened your understanding of the doctrines. Again, be sure to demonstrate your use of and/or agreement or disagreement with Guthrie, and document your use of him in your essay.

Write using your own words in dialogue with Guthrie; don’t merely quote from Guthrie. In your own language deal with the doctrines you are using. When you do quote, paraphrase, or allude to Guthrie’s book, please use internal documentation, giving only the page number of the material in parentheses. Please look up on the web how to do internal documentation using MLA (Modern Language Association) style. Please type your work using a standard 12-point type (Times New Rome, for instance) and one-inch margins. Please staple your work in the top, left corner. Be sure to make a copy and/or file of your work before you send it in, and bring the copy or file with you to COS.
**DIRECTIONS FOR EMAILING PRECOURSE WORK**

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, do not email the instructor your assignment.

2. Emails must be received no later than 11:59pm on the May 1, 2013 deadline.
   a. Please note that the cut off time is EASTERN STANDARD TIME zone, so email your assignments accordingly.
   b. Any precourse work received after May 1st at 11:59pm will be subject to a late penalty.
      1. Precourse work received between May 2 – June 1 is 1 letter grade deduction.
      2. Precourse work received between June 2 – June 20 is 2 letter grade deductions.
      3. You will be drop from any course for which precourse work has not been received after June 20, 2013. No precourse work will be accepted after the June 20th deadline.

3. The course number and the phrase “precourse work” should be the subject of your email:
   Example - Precourse Work 113
   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 or WordPerfect documents will be accepted; PDF and Mac- Pages documents will be accepted.
   b. All of your assignments for each course must be in one document, multiple documents are not acceptable. You should send only one attachment with course all assignments.

5. Your FULL name, phone number and email, should all be clearly included at the beginning of your email:
   Example: Michelle Levan
   404.727.4587
   michelle.levan@emory.edu

6. **Plagiarism Policy and Plagiarism Defined** paragraphs 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. 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 cover sheet for your precourse work, because it has the verification of date and time received, and your agreement to the plagiarism policy and definition, and your contact information.

   **Plagiarism Policy**
   I have read the plagiarism definition below and verify that this assignment represents my own work, except where credit is given. I have also made copies of this assignment and I will bring them with me to class in the event that any of my work is misplaced.

   **Plagiarism Defined**
   “You plagiarize when, intentionally or not, you use someone's words or ideas but fail to credit that person. You plagiarize even when you do credit the author but use his exact words without so indicating with quotation marks or block indentation. You also plagiarize when you use words so close to those in your source, that if your work were placed next to the source, it would be obvious that you could not have written what you did without the source at your elbow. When accused of plagiarism, some writers claim I must have somehow memorized the passage. When I wrote it, I certainly thought it was my own. That excuse convinces very few.” From page 167 of The Craft of Research by Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams, published in 1995 by The University of Chicago Press in Chicago.

7. If you do not follow the procedure your precourse work WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!!!!!!!