



**WESLEY**  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

# Course of Study News

Fall 2013 | Volume 4 Issue 1

## In this Issue:

- Welcoming new Co-Directors
- Pre-course Assignments
- ID cards
- Ordering Books online
- Site Visit from GBHEM—rescheduled

## COS Summer Intensive 2014 Dates

### Term One:

*Check-in & Orientation:*  
Monday, July 7, 2014  
1 pm Refectory

### *Classes:*

Tuesday, July 9—  
Thursday, July 17,  
2014

### Term Two:

*Check-in & Orientation:*  
Monday, July 21, 2014  
1 pm Refectory

### *Classes:*

Tuesday, July 22—  
Thursday, July 31,  
2014

## Renewal | Romans 12:2

I am excited about being the new faculty director of Course of Study at Wesley Theological Seminary. One of the reasons I am excited is this is an amazing time to be in ministry. We are experiencing tremendous opportunities and challenges. Paul obviously knew this time would come because he tries to prepare us for it in this Romans text. Paul tells us “not to be conformed to the pattern of this world.” It is easy to translate this simply as the world or culture on the outside and us needing to not be conformed to the pattern of the culture. I believe we should also think about the world or culture of our congregations and the need to not be conformed to patterns that are not missionally driven.

Paul tells us that we must be “transformed by the renewing of our mind.” It is our goal and prayer that every time you participate in a class, worship, enrichment, discussion, etc., at

Course of Study that your mind is being renewed and transformed toward the missional work of God. As I said this is both an opportunity and a challenge, but it is one that can shape us to be committed participants in God’s mission.

As you participate in God’s work in-between classes remember that God is calling all of us to be transformed by the renewing of our mind. This means learning does not begin and stop in the classroom, but we are always experiencing God’s transforming work in our lives and ministry. This means when I see you next you will have powerful stories to share about how God is transforming you. I pray that you will bring this spirit of a renewal with you as you participate in class! May God’s grace and peace be with you!

Dr. F. Douglas Powe, Faculty Director

## New Directors for the Course of Study



With the end of the summer session came a new beginning for the Course of Study program. Dr. Scott Kisker moved from Wesley in Washington, DC to United Theological Seminary in

Dayton, Ohio. While we will miss Scott here at Wesley, we are excited to have Doug Powe and Sara Sheppard sharing the role of Director. Doug is the Faculty Director handling items related to curriculum and faculty and Sara is the Managing Director, managing the day to day business of the school. Together they will play a vital role as the Course of Study program seeks to refine and expand its service to the local pastors in the North East Jurisdiction.



## The Course of Study Office has Moved

The Office of the Course of Study has moved from the tunnel in the Trott building to the second floor. The new room number is T-210. This move not only brought us out of the basement, it has given the office better continuity. We have two spaces that a join each other; one for a student worker and one for Sara Sheppard—with windows!

We are physically located directly above the business office. Please stop by for a visit if you are in the neighborhood or need to drop something off. We look forward to showing off our new space!

## Pre-course Assignments for July Intensive

### Weekend Course of Study Information

Weekend COS at Wesley was created to assist part-time Local Pastors in satisfying their denominational educational requirement. Classes take place Friday afternoon, Friday evening and Saturday morning for two weekends scheduled about a month apart.

For more information please go to [www.wesleyseminary.edu](http://www.wesleyseminary.edu)

### Weekend COS 2014 Class Schedule

#### Winter

January 3-4 &  
February 7-8

CS-312 | CS-413 | CS-511  
CS-112

#### Spring

March 28-29 &  
April 25-26

CS-213 | CS-314 | CS-411  
CS-512

Over the last several years we have made changes in the way in which pre-course assignments for the July Intensive term are received by the school and faculty. Some of these changes have been an attempt to use technology to enhance the process. I know there are those of you out there who would not agree with that statement, however, the Blackboard system is a tool for education, nothing more and nothing less. If we were able to use this system well it would help everyone communicate more efficiently.

Dr. Powe and I have reviewed the feedback we received from this past summer's student body. We heard everything from "we turned in our papers on time and had a restfilled time of retreat" to "spent the entire time writing papers—very stressful". We would like to move the experience on campus more toward retreat and sanctuary, and away from the stress that is induced by writing pre-course work during the program. To that end, Dr. Powe and I have been working to find a way that makes sense both for time management for the students and turn around for the faculty. It is equally important that papers are returned on time that are submitted on time.

The requirements for pre-course work that we receive from the General Board for Higher Education and Ministry states,

*"Advance preparation is required of all students. Some of this advance preparation is to be done in conjunction with a clergy mentor. Assignments will include material related to classroom studies as well as experience in pastoral ministry. Each school will determine the nature of the advance preparation required for the students."*

After much discussion and consultation with student representatives and faculty we are implementing the following for this coming summer:

- 1) Students will be required to write a 10 page double spaces paper for each class **due June 1 via Blackboard** for students enrolled in 200-500 level courses. Assignments will be outlined on the study guide posted on the website.
- 2) Students will turn in **an additional 10 pages or writing the first day of class.** All students will be required to do this. For

those in 100 level courses, you will turn in two—10 page assignments the first day of class as outlined on the assignment.

- 3) Students will have on campus assignments in addition to the pre-course writing. These assignments can take many forms from reflection papers, quizzes, discussion, group work, field trips, presentations, so on. Some will take place in the classroom (i.e. class participation), some will need to be prepared outside the classroom and turned in the next day. The scope and type of in class assignment will be at the discretion of the faculty teaching the course.
- 4) **Faculty will return papers received by the June 1 deadline to the students before the last day of class.**

Our hope is that having two shorter writing assignments that are due at different times will help lessen the stress felt by so many of you and allow you to enjoy the other activities that take place on campus such as Worship and Enrichment. We pray that your time on our campus is a time of renewal, a time away from the stress of church-life and that you allow yourselves to drink of the spiritual friendships that abound between local pastors.

Please feel free to contact us if you have a concern or question about these changes.

Sara Sheppard  
[ssheppard@wesleyseminary.edu](mailto:ssheppard@wesleyseminary.edu)  
Doug Powe [dpowe@wesleyseminary.edu](mailto:dpowe@wesleyseminary.edu)

## New ID Cards

Wesley has a new ID card system! For the first time we are now able to issue ID card to Course of Study students. The new cards are also "swipe" cards that can be programmed to allow you to gain access to the new dorm, the computer lounge and is integrated with the library system. Down the road it will also be integrated with a payment system for food service. No more meal tickets, no more 600 keys! Please stop by the Registrars office to make sure we have a photo on file and to have them create the new ID for you.

## How Do I Order Books now that the Cokesbury Store is Closed on Campus?

March 15, 2013 signaled the end of an era on the Wesley campus. This is the date the Cokesbury Bookstore Store closed its doors. Cokesbury has been a constant presence on the Wesley campus since the late 1980's when the bookseller took over management of the bookstore from Wesley staff. But times are changing and with the dominance of on-line booksellers and e-books the Cokesbury management in Nashville has decided to shutter all their brick and mortar stores in favor of on-line retail. To accommodate students needs for text books we have, created an on-line bookstore through Amazon.com. **To access the new on-line store go to:**

<http://astore.amazon.com/wesletheolsem-20>

Click on the program you are enrolled in and then select the course number for the books you would like to purchase.

Book lists for Courses of Study will be available on this new virtual bookstore, on Blackboard (for summer intensive term) and on the website.

The development office is now also selling Wesley t-shirts, sweat shirts and the like. Please contact Kristen Schol ([kschol@wesleyseminary.edu](mailto:kschol@wesleyseminary.edu)) if you are interested. Sara Sheppard still has COS shirts, mugs and lanyards—proceeds go to the Howes fund.

## Introducing: the New Residence Hall

Students moved into the New Residence Hall in August 2013. We are hopeful that our July Term students will also be able to live in this beautiful new building!



## Wesley COS School Site Visit and Review – Rescheduled

The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry is beginning a new round of site visits and school reviews for all the Course of Study Regional and Extension schools. Schools related to the Candler Course of Study program were reviewed last year. This past summer schools related to and including the Wesley Regional school were to be reviewed. Due to the departure of Dr. Kisker we have asked the GBHEM to reschedule our review until next summer. Therefore, the Regional school site visit will take place during the last week of classes, July 28–29, 2014. The Philadelphia Extension schools review has been completed and the Buffalo Extension school is being reviewed in May 2014.

These visits play an important part in assisting the Division of Ordained Ministry to assure integrity of the program across all the schools as well as maintaining a seamless education for the students who attend more than one location. We will call on students, faculty and administrators to be a part of the review next summer. Many thanks in advance for being a part of this important process.

## Have YOU Thought About Advance COS?

To qualify for probationary or full conference membership local pastors need to complete a total of 32 semester hours of graduate theological studies or the equivalent as determined by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM).

Advance work enables local pastors to meet the educational requirements for full conference membership and ordination as an elder. This work is done after a local pastor has completed the five year basic Course of Study School and have obtained a bachelors degree.

### For more information, visit:

[www.wesleyseminary.edu/academicprograms/courseofstudy/advancedcos](http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/academicprograms/courseofstudy/advancedcos)

### To apply:

Complete a seminary application for admission indicating their program as Special Student.

[www.wesleyseminary.edu/apply](http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/apply)

## 2014 COS Graduation

### SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday,  
July 30, 2014  
7pm

Metropolitan  
Memorial United  
Methodist Church  
3101 Nebraska  
Avenue, NW,  
Washington, D.C.  
20016

Reception to follow in  
the Great Hall.

## Plagiarism, What is it?

The Regional Course of Study Schools have seen an increase in plagiarism over that last several years. Plagiarism is using material in a paper or project that was written by someone else without proper citation. This includes written work of other students, from books and the internet.

Please heed this warning: If you plagiarize you will fail the assignment and likely the course. Just remember, when in doubt use either a footnote or endnote.

And contact us for help—we have guidelines posted on the COS website to help you.

## Helpful Links for COS

You can now access the COS Web Site at:  
<http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/COS>

For more information on Weekend COS, visit:  
<http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/COS>

Log-in to MyWesley to access Blackboard at: <http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/mywesley>

Having trouble logging into My Wesley? Try these links:

Blackboard: <https://blackboard.american.edu/webapps/login/>

*(Note: Please put 'WTS' before your user name when logging directly into Blackboard)*

Student Email: <http://students.wesleyseminary.edu/>

Wesley Web: <http://wesleyweb.wesleyseminary.edu/>

On Facebook, search for: "Wesley Seminary Course of Study"

Fellowship of Associated Members and Local Pastors:

<http://eridan.websrvcs.com/templates/System/default.asp?id=35945>

Subscribe to Wesley's monthly electronic newsletter, eCalling:

<http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/eCalling>



**WESLEY**  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

**Course of Study School**  
4500 Massachusetts Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20016