



**WESLEY**  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

# Course of Study News

Spring 2014 | Volume 4 Issue 1

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## COS Summer Intensive 2014 Dates

### Term One:

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

### *Classes:*

Tuesday, July 8—  
Thursday, July 17,  
2014

### Term Two:

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

### *Classes:*

Tuesday, July 22—  
Thursday, July 31,  
2014

## Not Into Temptation

We are now past lent when many of us get to the point when we truly appreciate that line from the Lord's prayer, "Lead me not into temptation." Many of us gave up something for lent like soda or chocolate and temptation seemed like it was all around us. Like Jesus in the wilderness we needed to pray so that we could stay strong and not give in to temptation.

I wonder if as a corporate body we have the same mindset of not being lead into temptation? During lent did our congregations commit to not giving in to the temptation of being inward focused? During lent did our congregations commit to not giving in to the temptation of sticking with what is familiar? I believe it is not only about what we as individuals do to become more focused on God, but it is

about what we do corporately to become more focused on God.

Lent is now over and we can return to those things we gave up for the 40 days (not including Sunday's). It may be that as a congregation we take on being more outward focused and making a difference in our community. It may be that we stop doing things just because we have always done them that way. My prayer is coming out of Lent you will challenge your congregation not to be lead into temptation so that it can be more missionally focused. Lord we pray, "lead our congregations not into temptation so that the world may experience us in a new way!"

Dr. F. Douglas Powe, Faculty Director



## Curriculum Revision Takes Effect August 1, 2014

Beginning August 1, 2014 the whole Course of Study program across the connection will transition to a new curriculum. The curriculum was approved by both the COS Board of Directors and the Division of Ordained Ministry late last year. There are some subtle changes and some rather large ones. For instance, all the course numbers now have a two as the middle number and all of the course objectives have been made more concise. Several courses have been shifted around in order and in year. We have posted information about the curriculum revision on our website to provide you guidance for planning your academic schedule.

Sara Sheppard is also available to help you sort out where you might be in the program. Please send her an e-mail with "COS program audit" in the subject line and allow 48 hours for a response. We will also review the new curriculum at orientation for both terms this summer. Please contact us if you have questions.

## 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 -2015 Class Schedule

### Summer (hybrid)

August 1–28 on-line &  
September 19–20  
CS-124 | CS-222 | CS-324  
CS422

### Fall

October 10–11 &  
November 7–8  
CS-224 | CS-321 | CS-424  
CS-524

### Winter

January 2–3 &  
February 6–7  
CS-121 | CS-223 | CS-323  
CS-522

### Spring

March 13–14 &  
April 17–18  
CS-123 | CS-221 | CS-421  
CS-523

## Pre-course Assignments for July Intensive

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 rest-filled 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 student 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 and is integrated with the library system. This summer you will pay for your meal plan using your ID card. No more meal tickets, no more 600 keys! We will have instructions on obtaining your ID when you arrive on campus. If you are a weekend COS student you can have the registrar's office create a card for you the next time you are on campus.

## 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 it's 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, hats, etc. Please contact Kristen Schol ([kschol@wesleyseminary.edu](mailto:kschol@wesleyseminary.edu)) if you are interested. Sara Sheppard keeps COS shirts, mugs and lanyards on hand for purchase year round —proceeds go to the Howes/Larsen scholarship fund.

## Using your Wesley e-mail and other Wesley Technology

Everyone who registered for the Spring Weekend session and the July session should have receive a letter from our Information technology (IT) department with your students ID number, User ID and password for logging into the Wesley system and your student email. Per federal regulations, Wesley is moving to using Wesley e-mail for all school related correspondence. We will no longer use personal e-mail addresses to contact students or faculty once they have registered for a course and are entered into our system. The Course of Study School will also be embracing the Blackboard system more fully by scheduling hybrid courses and using it as a tools for learning in the weekend school as well as the July intensive. We will have a training session as part of orientation in July. Students who have trouble accessing the Blackboard system should contact:

[blackboardsupport@wesleyseminary.edu](mailto:blackboardsupport@wesleyseminary.edu) for help. As education continues to shift, the programs and teaching methods used in the Course of Study will also shift. We welcome your feedback.

## New England Weekend School

The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the Board of Directors approved Wesley to start a new satellite school in the New England conference at the annual directors meeting in October 2013. The first courses will take place in the fall of 2014 in partnership with the University of Maine-Bangor. The dates are September 5-6 and October 17-18, 2014. Registration is now open and the forms are available on the Wesley COS website. Registration deadline is July 1. We will offer two courses; CS 122 Theological Heritage 1: Introduction and CS 223 Administration and Polity. This school will follow the weekend format used for the weekend school in Washington, DC and is for part-time local pastors. Tuition and fees are the same as the weekend school, \$350 tuition and \$75 non refundable registration fee. We are hoping to offer additional courses around the New England conference in fall and spring sessions.

Students who have registered will receive a letter soon giving you information regarding housing, travel and other pertinent information. Please watch the website for additional information.

## New England Class Schedule

### Fall in Bangor, ME

September 5-6 &  
October 17-18, 2014  
CS-122 | CS-224

### Spring (location TBD)

CS-323 | CS-121

We are currently working on a location and dates for the spring courses and will update the website as soon as possible.

## 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.

## 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>



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4500 Massachusetts Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20016