Wesley Theological Seminary
Doctor of Ministry
Spirituality and Story Track

DM-S1012 Theology as Story
Dr. Sondra E. Wheeler

Required Texts and Assigned Readings:

Buber: Martin. *Tales of the Hasidim*. (Vol 1-2, 2011 edition)

Hauerwas, Stanley and L. Gregory Jones. *Why Narrative Readings in Narrative Theology.* Grand Rapids: W. B. Eerdmans, 1989; Reprint: Eugene, Oregon: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 1997.

1. Stanley Hauerwas and L. Gregory Jones, "Introduction: Why Narrative?" pp. 1-18.
2. H. Richard Niebuhr, "The Story of Our Life," pp. 21-44.
3. Hans Frei, "Apologetics, Criticism, and the Loss of Narrative Interpretation," pp. 45-64.
4. Stephen Crites, "The Narrative Quality of Experience," pp. 65-88.
5. Alasdair MacIntyre, "The Virtues, the Unity of a Human Life, and the Concept of a Tradition," 89-111.
6. David F. Ford, "System, Story, Performance," pp. 191-215.
7. John Baptist Metz, "A Short Apology of Narrative". 251-262.
8. Ronald Thiemann, "The Promising God: The Gospel as Narrated Promise," 320-347.

Loughlin, Gerald. *Telling God's Story: Bible, Church, and Narrative Theology.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.

After completing the other readings, I would like students to browse in Buber's collection *Tales of the Hasidim* (available at many libraries and cheaply second-hand) and choose 1) one story you believe conveys the nature of human beings, 2) one story that discloses something of the nature of God, and 3) one that particularly speaks to you of your own relationship with or experience of God. You are to write a brief (500 word) explanation of why you chose these three stories, and what truth you think they convey. Then I want you to tackle the following question: "Clearly these are narratives: are they theology? What case could you make for saying yes?" For the essay on whether these stories constitute theology or not, I expect 1000 words (3 pages. ) This assignment presupposes that the other assigned reading has been completed, and I expect to see this reflected in your work.