

Study Guide¹

Wesley Theological Seminary Course of Study
General Board of Higher Education and Ministry
Second Term: July 24-August 3, 2017

CS-422 Theological Heritage 4: Wesleyan Movement

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Email:

Course Description

This course covers the significant individuals, decisive events, and theology of the Methodist movement. Utilizing categories of grace, faith, and holiness, the student will appropriate the Wesleyan heritage.

Objectives

1. Understand and reflect on the movements, major figures, and events that led to the eighteenth century revivals, especially the lives and ministries of John and Charles Wesley.
2. Understand and articulate the vision of holiness and the theology of grace as it shaped the Wesleys, and the structures of the Methodist movement.
3. Identify and discuss significant theological and historical developments in American Methodism, including ordination and episcopacy.
4. Reflect theologically on our Wesleyan heritage and identity.

Required Texts

- Richard P. Heitzenrater, *Wesley and the People Called Methodists*. Second edition. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2013.
- Russell E. Richey, Kenneth E. Rowe, and Jean Miller Schmidt. *American Methodism: A Compact History*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2012.
- Maddox, Randy L. *Responsible Grace: John Wesley's Practical Theology*. Nashville: Kingswood Books, 1994.

Required Additional Text: You are required to read only ONE of these texts. See Assignment section below.

- John H. Wigger, *American Saint: Francis Asbury and the Methodists*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009 (**if you were born Jan-June**)

OR

- Richard S. Newman, *Freedom's Prophet: Bishop Richard Allen, the AME Church, and the Black Founding Fathers*. New York: New York University Press, 2008 (**if you were born July-Dec**)

Online Readings: See Assignments for specific information about these readings

John Wesley Sermons & Other Writings

1. <http://www.umcmmission.org/Find-Resources/John-Wesley-Sermons> **OR**
<http://wesley.nnu.edu/john-wesley/>
2. <http://www.umcmmission.org/Find-Resources/John-Wesley-Sermons/The-Wesleys-and-Their-Times/What-Is-an-Arminian>

¹ I acknowledge that at least some of these instructions were written by Rev. Dr. Doug Tzan!

Additional Readings you may find helpful. These are NOT required.

- Campbell, Ted. A. *Methodist Doctrine: The Essentials (Revised Edition)*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2011.
- Langford, Thomas A. *Practical Divinity: Theology in the Wesleyan Tradition (Revised Edition), Vol. 1*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1983.
- Wigger, John H. *Taking Heaven by Storm: Methodism and the Rise of Popular Christianity in America*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1998.

ASSIGNMENTS

Some assignments are due June 1; some on the first day of class, July 24.

Readings Journal

Keep a journal with notes on all the readings for this course. As you read and take notes, reflect on how you could apply your insights from the readings to aspects of your ministry. (This journal will not be turned in, but you will need it for the written assignments.)

- Read the books by Heitzenrater and Maddox, and Wesley's essay on Arminianism before you begin the assignments listed below.

I. Wesley's Standard Sermons in Historical Context

Due: June 1, 2017

From the earliest days of the movement, Wesley's Standard Sermons have been considered as authoritative on issues of faith for the "People Called Methodist". You will be reading some of them. The sermons are written in 18th century English, and take effort to understand. You may be tempted to use versions of his sermons that have been rendered in modern English. **Don't do it.** Those writers are applying their own interpretation to Wesley's words, and may not accurately reflect what Wesley intended. Struggle with the language, and you will benefit from the study. You will also find it helpful to study Wesley's life, times, and theological development.

A. Required Sermons – read **ALL** of these sermons (making notes in your journal as you do)

These sermons will be discussed in class, with students leading the discussion.

Free Grace	Uses of Money
On Working Out Our Own Salvation	Witness of the Spirit II
Scripture Way of Salvation	

B. Additional Sermons – select **one** of these sermons to read (make notes)

Salvation by Faith	Circumcision of the Heart
Almost Christian	Catholic Spirit
Justification by Faith	Christian Perfection
Repentance of Believers	Danger of Riches
Means of Grace	On Visiting the Sick

Written Assignment: Write a **6 page** (total for both sermons) paper on two sermons, one from A & one from B. For each sermon:

- Provide a brief summary in no more than two pages.
- Place the sermon in its historical context and in the context of Wesley's life and theological development. How does it contribute to Methodist doctrine or theology?

II. Review of Francis Asbury/Richard Allen Biography

Due: June 1, 2017

While many were involved in the development of the American Methodist tradition, Francis Asbury and Richard Allen were particularly important in adapting the English movement to the American context. To understand these men's contributions better, half of the class will read Wigger's *American Saint* and half will read Newman's *Freedom's Prophet*.

- If you were born in **January-June**, you are to **read** *American Saint*.
- If you were born in **July-December**, you are to **read** *Freedom's Prophet*.

The books will be discussed in class, with students leading the discussion.

Written Assignment: After reading your assigned text, write a **4 page** review of the book. Your paper should include:

- A concise summary of the most relevant parts of the work, making it understandable to a person interested in but having little knowledge of Methodist history.
- Why this person was important to the American Wesleyan movement.
- A critical assessment of the book.

III. Methodist History Research Paper

Due: July 24, 2017 – the first day of Class

How does our past affect the present? After reading *Wesley and the People Called Methodists* by Heitzenrater and *American Methodism: A Compact History* by Richey et al., explore in more depth an area of United Methodist history that interests you. Since you will have already written about John Wesley and either Asbury or Allen, you are to select a different area for study, something that engages your curiosity. For example, (just suggestions!)

- The history of United Methodism in your region or in a different part of the world.
- The influence of one or more of the various antecedents (e.g., ME, MP, EUB) of the UMC on polity or doctrine or the church you serve.
- How a particular UM tradition (e.g. healing ministry, Sunday School, worship styles, small groups, music) began, developed and/or influenced the church.
- Role of women or various ethnic groups. **etc.**

Written Assignment:

1. When you have found something that interests you, send a brief description of your topic by email to the instructor for approval. The topic of your paper must be approved by June 1, 2017.
2. Write a **6 page research paper** on the approved topic.

IV. Synthesis & Practical Application of Your Readings

Due: July 24, 2017 – the first day of Class

Much of our doctrine and practice is rooted in Wesley's writings. However, as times and cultures have changed, Methodists have brought new understanding and angles of visions to the 18th century revival movement. How do we stay true to the Methodist revival while applying those truths to our present context and culture?

Written Assignment: Write a **4 page synthesis** of your journal entries that connects your readings to at least one aspect of your practice of ministry. For example, (just suggestions!)

- How the theology in John Wesley's sermons informs your preaching.
- Understanding our "open table" communion or baptism of infants
- Connectionalism

Instructions on Writing

If you have questions about an assignment, ASK. Please don't assume!

Good papers will show evidence that you have both read and understood the assignments, and for the history research paper, did research beyond the required readings. It is also important that your papers stay focused on the assigned topic.

You are strongly advised to use online source material with extreme caution, as most online sources do not meet scholarly standards. While high-quality scholarship is available online, and the internet can be a powerful research tool, Googling is not a synonym for research. Lack of research or use of poor source material will adversely affect the grade.

All deadlines must be honored, and failure to do so will adversely affect the grade.

All papers should be typed, double-spaced in Times New Roman, 12 point font, with one-inch margins. Please number all pages. Papers should be the length assigned, plus or minus one-half page, not including bibliography. Be sure your name is on the paper.

Proper citation is critical. Any quotation of three words in length or greater must be footnoted. Use any academically acceptable "notes-bibliography" style for footnotes and citations. One that is most helpful is "Turabian."

http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html

Failure to meet these formatting requirements will adversely affect a grade. And remember, plagiarism is theft.

Grading

Papers will be evaluated by how well you address all parts of the assignments; clarity of writing, accuracy, & consistency; the ability to make a coherent argument; and conformity to proper academic standards.

The course grade will be based on the instructor's evaluation of the assignments, weighted as follows:

- Wesley Standard Sermons Paper – 30%
- History Research Paper – 30%
- Journal Synthesis – 15%
- Asbury/Allen Biography Review – 15%
- Class participation – 10%