

Wesley Theological Seminary
Course of Study
CS-422 Theological Heritage IV: Wesleyan Movement
January Online and February 24-25, 2017

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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.

Goals

Students will be able to:

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 their Wesleyan heritage and identity.

Required Texts

Heitzenrater, Richard. *Wesley and the People Called Methodists*. 2nd edition (Abingdon Press, 2013).

Maddox, Randy. *Responsible Grace: John Wesley's Practical Theology* (Kingswood Books, 1994).

Outler, Albert C. and Richard P. Heitzenrater, editors, *John Wesley's Sermons: An Anthology* (Abingdon Press: 1991).

Richey, Russell E., Kenneth E. Rowe, and Jean Miller Schmidt, *American Methodism: A Compact History* (Abingdon Press, 2012).

Recommended Text

Schmidt, Jean Miller. *Grace Sufficient: A History of Women in American Methodism 1760-1939* (Abingdon Press, 1999). No assignments will be given from this text. I recommend you read it after reading Richey et al, *American Methodism*, or during the last 2 weeks of our January online session. If you do purchase this text, be sure to read chapters 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, and 11.

Assignments

1. Before January online sessions begin:
 - a. Read Heitzenrater, *Wesley and the People Called Methodists*, as follows:
 - i. Read and take notes on pages: 2-34, 44-54, 64-84, 107-120, 129-131, 137-161, 163-175, 179-184, 196-209, 230-261, 263 (“1766 Examination of Preachers”), 313-317, 325-344, and 353-361. Pay special attention to the **bold-faced** vocabulary words.
 - ii. The first 2 weeks of our online session will concentrate on this text.
 - b. Read Richey et al, *American Methodism: A Compact History*, as follows:
 - i. Read and takes notes on pages: 3-7, 9-25, 27-28, 34-36, 41-45, 53-61, 65-73, 85-91, 103-104, 113-126, 127-143, 145-159, 164-168, 173-185, 201-233, 235-244, and 253-258.
 - ii. The second 2 weeks of our online session will concentrate on this text.
2. January online sessions: Starting at 5:00 p.m. on January 1, 2017, each week in January you will participate in this course’s Blackboard discussion forum. You must make a *minimum* of three posts each week on the forum. Posting becomes possible each Sunday (January 1, 8, 15, and 22). All posts for a week are due by Friday night at 7:00 p.m. each week.
 - a. Your first post will be in response to a prompt from me. Each Sunday night I will submit a question, or a quotation from the readings, and ask you to respond to that prompt. Your answer each week should be a paragraph of a minimum of 4 sentences.
 - b. Your second post will come from you directly. This post may be a reflection or a question about something you have read, or, starting in the second week of posts, it may be about something that you have noticed in the conversation from our online discussions. If it is a reflection, it should be at least 4 sentences. If it is a question, you should ask the question and then explain, in 2-4 sentences, why you are asking your question.
 - c. Your third post will be a response to a post from one of your other classmates. Your response should be at least 3 sentences. You may respond either to something one of your classmates has said in response to my prompt for the week or to a question or reflection that comes directly from your classmates.
 - d. In addition to the required posts, you are encouraged to respond to multiple posts from your classmates or to continue a discussion thread from a response to your own post. Do not feel obligated to respond to every post each week.
 - e. You are expected to read all posts, whether from me or your classmates.
 - f. In all online interactions you are expected to engage topics with the same level of courtesy, seriousness, and respect you would use if we were meeting face-to-face.
3. During the January online session, there will be 2 quizzes. Each quiz is open book, open notes, but you may not consult other people, and you may not use Google or other internet resources. You may not discuss the quiz in Blackboard posts. Once the quiz is available, you can take it whenever you have time before the due date. The week before each quiz I will post a study guide.
 - a. The first quiz, on material from Heitzenrater’s *Wesley and the People Called Methodists*, will be available on January 15 and due at 5:00 p.m. on January 21.

- b. The second quiz, on material from Richey et al, *American Methodism*, will be available on January 29 and due at 5:00 p.m. on February 4.
4. Before the February weekend meeting in Washington, D.C.:
 - a. Read Outler and Heitzenrater, *John Wesley's Sermons* as follows (read in the order they are presented here):
 - i. "The Scripture Way of Salvation" (starts p. 371); "The Image of God" (starts p. 13); "The End of Christ's Coming" (starts p. 441); "The Great Privilege of those that are Born of God" (starts p. 183); "The New Creation." Write a 1 page summary of the basic aspects of Wesley's teaching about salvation.
 - ii. "The Omnipresence of God" (starts p. 523); "The Unity of the Divine Being" (starts p. 531); "On Zeal" (starts p. 465); "Spiritual Worship" (starts p. 431); "The Duty of Constant Communion" (starts p. 501). Write a 1 page summary of the basic aspects of Wesley's teaching about God.
 - iii. "The Means of Grace" (starts p. 157); "Upon Our Lord's Sermon on the Mount, IV, V, VI, and VII" (4 sermons; the first starts p. 193); "The Use of Money" (starts p. 347); and "The Danger of Riches" (starts p. 451). Write a 1 page summary of the basic aspects of Wesley's teaching about how Christians are to live.
 - b. **After** reading the sermons, read Maddox, *Responsible Grace*, as follows:
 - i. Chapter 1, pp. 36-47 only
 - ii. Chapter 2, all
 - iii. Chapter 3, skip/not required
 - iv. Chapter 4, all
 - v. Chapter 5, all
 - vi. Chapter 6, skip/not required
 - vii. Chapter 7, all
 - viii. Chapter 8, all
 - ix. Chapter 9, pp. 235-253
 - c. Complete the following Preparatory Assignment, to be turned in at the beginning of our Friday, February 25, afternoon meeting:
 - i. Revise each of your 1 page summaries of Wesley's sermons in light of your reading from Maddox. Your revised summaries should be 3 pages each. Turn in both the original summaries and the revised versions.
 - ii. Write a sermon for February 19. Use the lectionary gospel text as your main preaching text: Matthew 5:38-48. In your sermon, you should demonstrate that you have read and absorbed Wesley's sermons and Maddox's *Responsible Grace*. How you do that is up to you. The sermon you prepare should be one you would actually preach to the congregation you currently serve (or, if you do not serve a congregation, to the congregation where you worship). If you preach on February 19, please preach this sermon and be prepared to discuss your experience in class. The length of this sermon should be the length of a sermon you would normally preach. You will turn in the manuscript of your sermon.

Assessment

January online forum: 30% (4 weeks, 7.5% per week)

January quizzes: 20% (2 quizzes, 10% each)

Preparatory Assignment: 40% (15% for the summaries and revisions; 25% for the sermon)

In-class participation: 10%

Late assignments will lose one letter grade in value for each day late.