



COS-224 Administration and Polity

Online contact begins Aug 5

New online conversations: Aug 12, 19, 26, Sept. 9

Classroom at WTS, Day 1, Sept 13 (1:00p – 9:00p)

Classroom at WTS, Day 2, Sept 14 (9:00a - 1:00p)

All course work completed by November 14, 2019

Instructor

Dr. Lew Parks, Wesley Theological Seminary... Email: lparks@wesleyseminary.edu...

Back-up Email: lewparks20@gmail.com... Phone & zoom conversations by arrangement, M-F.

Course Description and Expected Outcomes (GBHEM)

This course focuses on developing the student's competency as an administrator in United Methodist congregations. Upon successful completion the student will be able to: **(1)** Articulate a biblical and theological understanding of polity. **(2)** Understand and explain the polity of The United Methodist Church, including conferencing, oversight, and discipline. **(3)** Articulate the nature of stewardship biblically and theologically. And **(4)** Identify techniques and develop skills as effective administrators of local churches, including financial management.

Required Texts

The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2012 (Nashville: United Methodist Publishing House, 2013) ISBN: 978-1-426-71812-0.

Lacey C. Warner, *The Method of Our Mission: United Methodist Polity and Organization* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2014) ISBN: 978-1426767173.

A number of articles and excerpts from books will be posted on Blackboard under Documents. They are required reading.

Web sites we will frequent

www.umc.org	The official web site of The United Methodist Church
www.gbhem.org	General Board of Higher Education and Ministry
www.gcfa.org	General Council on Finance and Administration
www.umc.org/decisions	Archives of Judicial Council decisions

How It Works

1. Read the Warner text in its entirety by or before August 19. Engage the author in three separate chapters. In 400-500 words (strict maximum enforced) show **(a)** that you understand what she says and **(b)** why it **resonates with or contradicts your experience** in your present ministry setting. Your three engagements will be graded to a maximum of 10 points each, 5 points for accuracy of analysis and 5 for creative application to your setting. These three analyses are **due on August 26th**. [Grade potential: **30 points**].

2. Read sections of BoD and the articles and excerpts as posted in the weekly Monday postings on Aug 5, 12, 19, 26, and Sept 9 and respond as directed. [Grade potential: **20 points**].
3. After consultation with the instructor, create a PPT slide show to be used in your local church (to a maximum of 15 slides) explaining some facet from one of these three sections of the BoD: chap. 1, chap.2, or chap. 6. These PPT presentations will be shared with the class and graded on the basis of accuracy and creativity. [Grade potential: **20 points**].
4. Some class time on Sept 13 & 14 will be given to planning an administrative and/or polity leadership project in your local setting and documenting it in a final paper of 10 pages due Nov. 19. [Grade potential: **30 points**].
5. Grades will be posted on the Blackboard grade center along with the instructor's notes. Points will be deducted for due dates missed. Factors in grading: accuracy of knowledge, clarity of expression, care in writing, and relative quality in comparison to the class.
6. Wesley's Grading Scale
 - 93 – 100 = A (Excellent/Outstanding)
 - 90 – 92 = A- (Excellent/Outstanding)
 - 88 – 89 = B+ (Very Good)
 - 83 – 87 = B (Good)
 - 80 – 82 = B- (Adequate)
 - 78 – 79 = C+ (Adequate)
 - 73 – 77 = C (Adequate)
 - 70 – 72 = C- (Substandard)

Projected Calendar of Subjects

Week of Aug 5 ... introductions and syllabus

Week of Aug 12 ... who needs polity ... 3 polity families ... where you come in

Week of Aug 19 ... present anxious state of UMC ... non-anxious leadership

Week of Aug 26 ... 3 languages of leadership ... first day last day

Week of Sept 9 ... from narrative Identity to Constitution to what? (**read: BoD para. 1-61**)

Fri., Sept. 13 ... local church: minimum structure ... money trail ... funding ministry ... leader and the law ... (**read: BoD, chap. 1**)

Sat., Sept 14 ... ministry of the licensed and ordained ... part time pastor, full time church ... conflict management ... small church issues ... the special issue of buildings (**read: BoD, chap. 2 and chap 6, sec. 1 & 6**)

Wesley's Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all online and classroom classes in their entirety. Deviation from the attendance policy may result in reduction of grade or loss of credit.

Wesley's Disability Policy

If you have a physical, psychological or learning disability and might require accommodations in this course, please contact the Associate Dean for Community Life, Asa Lee, immediately regarding Wesley's policies and procedures for documenting and accommodating disabilities, x8612 or alee@wesleyseminary.edu. Note: a classroom version of this course is offered during Wesley's summer term.

Wesley's Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism is regarded as a serious offense and will result in substantial penalties, including the possibility of academic dismissal. The Faculty regards the following as forms of plagiarism or dishonesty. (1) Copying from another student's paper; (2) Giving or receiving unauthorized assistance to or from another student during an examination; (3) Using unauthorized material during an examination; (4) Borrowing and presenting as one's own (i.e. without proper attribution) and composition or ideas of another.

