

History and Doctrine in the Methodist Tradition

ST 462

Wesley Theological Seminary

Jonathan LeMaster-Smith - Instructor

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Course Location and Dates:

Pfeiffer University, Charlotte Campus – Room 229

1515 Mockingbird Lane

Charlotte, NC 28209

January 2nd, 2020: 2pm-9pm

January 3rd, 2020: 10am-6pm

January 4th, 2020, 9am-4pm

Online Until April 27th, 2020

The Blackboard course will become available shortly before January 2nd and be available through mid-May. During that time, please adhere to all the deadlines set within the Required Assignments section of the syllabus. While a portion of this course is online, it is the expectation of the instructor that it will take as much time as a regular, face-to-face course. You should plan on spending approximately six hours per week working on this course and assignments.

Course Goals:

- Students will receive both a broad overview of the History of the United Methodist tradition while also delving into the distinctive experiences of women and people of color.
- Students will learn value of the history of Methodism and its impact on the church now.
- Students will explore the ways the Doctrine of the United Methodist Church came to be.
- Students will explore the various nuances of United Methodist Doctrine and its impact on their ministry setting.

Course Outcomes:

- Students will gain a knowledge of the history and doctrine of the United Methodist tradition through readings, lectures, discussion, and other resources provided in the class.
- Students will explore one thread of their choosing through reading a book, doing independent research, and crafting a project for their local community around this thread.
- Students will gain knowledge of the sermons of John Wesley and create a resource for their own use through outlining 25 John Wesley sermons.
- Students will complete a project focused on one or more aspects of Methodist Doctrine and how it connects to their faith community/area of ministry.

A Note on Writing and Style

All writing should be written in Chicago/Turabian. If there is an issue regarding citation style, please contact the instructor at least forty-eight hours before the assignment is due. If you are in need of assistance with writing style or structure, please reach out to the Wesley Theological Seminary Writing Center: <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/community-life/academic-and-access-support/writing-center/>. The instructor is not responsible for proof-reading and writing assistance that is not completed by the due date. However, the instructor does grant extensions if contacted at least 48hours ahead of time.

A Note on Technology

It is the responsibility of the student to maintain appropriate technology and resources for the class. That includes, being able to check email at least 4 times a week, being able to listen to audio recordings and view videos, being able to type or input data into the Blackboard portal. If you have a computer crash or are experiencing issues with Moodle contact the instructor immediately. Alternative due dates can be worked out. If you are experience consistent issues with online access, please reach out to Blackboard Support: <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/blackboardsupport/>

Educational/Accessibility Accommodations

Should you need educational accommodations for dyslexia, hearing impairment, physical injury, etc. the professor is very willing to accommodate. Please contact the professor as soon as this need arises. If you have an ongoing need, please visit the accommodations section of the Wesley: <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/community-life/academic-and-access-support/disability-accommodations/>. It is best that you

contact them prior to the beginning of the semester for the proper paperwork to be completed.

Instructor Interaction and Grading

The instructor will be a point of contact for students concerning the course and to review the lectures. In addition to this, the instructor may participate on the discussion forums as needed. The instructor will do his best to respond to all emails within 24 hours of when they are sent. The instructor will be online several hours a week (excluding weekends and holidays) for digital office hours. The instructor will focus on the discussion forums for all groups. All grades are the final decision of the instructor. Keep in mind that the syllabus lays out in detail what is required for good grades. Deviation from the syllabus without conversation with the instructor will lead to a lower grade.

A Note on Online Teaching Style

The instructor acknowledges students are taking other classes, tending to family and personal matters, and serve in ministry settings. Instead of assigning one pathway for success in this class, the instructor has curated a space for you to explore the facets of United Methodism you find interesting and most relevant to you. While there may be multiple readings and lectures each unit, the instructor understands that the time is often scarce. Therefore, the instructor allows for you to select the readings and lectures that resonate with you the most. If you are unsure of what readings and lectures to begin with, the instructor gives a suggested starting point in each unit. The instructor also has due dates that allow for turning in either of the two large projects on either of the two due dates listed. You still do one of each but turn them in as you need. According to educational standards, for a two-hour class, students should expect to read approximately 70 pages per week of class and do six hours of course work. However, this course is divided into units, not weeks. Therefore, there may be over 100 pages to read but you will have two weeks to complete the work.

Required Texts

Digital and Print Editions are Acceptable

Richard P. Heitzenrater. *Wesley and the People Called Methodists: Second Edition*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2013. ISBN-10: 142674224X. Amazon: \$24.95

Russell E. Richey, Kenneth E. Rowe, Jean Miller Schmidt. *American Methodism: A Compact History*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2012. ISBN-10: 1426742274. Price, Amazon: \$23.25.

John Wesley. *John Wesley's Sermons: An Anthology*. Eds., Outler, Albert C. and Richard Heitzenrater. Nashville: Abingdon, 1991. ISBN 978-0687204953. Amazon: \$18.63.

Randy L. Maddox. *Responsible Grace: John Wesley's Practical Theology*. Nashville, TN: Kingswood, 1994. ISBN-13: 978-0687003341. Amazon: \$24. 86.

S. T. Kimbrough, Jr. *Partakers of the Life Divine: Participation in the Divine Nature in the Writings of Charles Wesley*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2016. ISBN: 1498286828. Amazon: \$27.38.

The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016 (and errata/additions). Nashville: United Methodist Publishing House, 2016. ISBN: 9781501833212. Amazon: \$23.99.

If you do not already have a copy, borrow someone's or it's free online here:

<https://www.cokesbury.com/book-of-discipline-book-of-resolutions-free-versions>

Other Readings as Assigned by Professor

Required Assignments

1. Course Participation (40% of Final Grade)

Course participation includes attendance and active participation in the three in person days in the course and completing online reflections and colleague responses by the assignment due dates.

Seated Class (20% of Grade)

-Active participation includes attentiveness during lectures, collegial behavior with instructor and other class members, and engagement in group activities.

-Online Unit Reflections and Responses (20% of Grade)

--These are due the first week (by Saturday Night) of each unit with comments from colleagues by the end of the second week (by Saturday Night).

--Colleagues will be given time to comment on these reflections. You must comment on at least two other postings by the Saturday following the official due date, this is part of the grade.

--If you post a coherent, relevant posting by the due date, you receive an 80.

--If you comment on two other postings by that due date you receive the other 20 points to equal 100.

--If you only post one, you receive a 90.

2. History in Context Project (20% of Final Grade) -Due 1/31/19

Select one vein of Methodist ministry (Faith Formation, Evangelism, Worship, Mission, Charge Conference, Pastoral Appointments, Church related colleges, Annual Conference, etc.) Research the topic and write a 2000-word paper or create and record a

20-minute presentation on the topic and how it relates to your ministry/faith community. This should be ½ research and history, and ½ application to your setting. You are free to select as intricate of a detail as you want to, including the placement of the pulpit, the adoption of Lent as a UMC practice, the creation of the Order of the Deacon, etc. A rubric and further instructions will be posted on Blackboard near the beginning of class.

3. Wesley Sermon Outlines (20% of Final Grade) – Due 3/7/20

Each student will read and outline 25 sermons from Outler/Heitzenrater Anthology. The sermons will become the theological foundation for future dialogue. The outline should contain the following: sermon title; date preached; the main theological themes (e.g. grace, nature, sin, nature of humanity, nature of God, etc.); a succinct one or two sentence summary of the sermon; and a paraphrased outline of the main points and sub-points. Each outline should be one page, single spaced. The outlines should follow John Wesley’s outlining style identically, and be 12 pt font, Times New Roman. A sample outline is provided on Blackboard. A rubric for grading and further instructions will be posted on Blackboard closer to the due date. Please reach out to the instructor with any questions.

4. Doctrine in Context Project (20% of Final Project) – Due 4/10/20

Develop a project which allows you to engage the realities of United Methodist Doctrine through one of these four ways:

1. Develop a worship series of 3-4 Sundays with hymns, liturgies, creative responses, sermon outlines (or creative proclamations) to engage the topic doctrine of the Trinity in the Scripture Way of Salvation.
2. Develop a 3-4 session study (or weekend retreat) which Includes the use of scripture, creative activities, and tasks to engage between and after sessions.
3. Plan a mission or justice-oriented project through the lens of the doctrine project. Provide both a theological underpinning and an outline of events that includes intentional planning, execution, and reflection.
4. Creatively respond to the doctrinal topic through writing music (and recording it), creating art (uploading it), writing a drama (and providing a script), etc. Along with the piece, attach a 500-1000 word description of the theological and doctrinal reflection that went into the work. A rubric for grading and further instructions will be posted on Blackboard closer to the due date. Please reach out to the instructor with any questions.

Course Schedule and Due Dates

Date	Topic	Assignments
January 2nd	2pm-3pm	<i>The Discipline</i> Pages 11-24

	<p>Introductions Syllabus</p> <p>3pm-5pm History as Identity Our Common Heritage as Christians</p> <p>5pm-6:30pm Dinner</p> <p>6:30pm-9pm John Wesley and the 18th Century & The Heart of Wesley's Teachings</p>	
January 3rd	<p>10am-12pm Methodist Episcopal Church in North America 1784-1844</p> <p>1:30pm-3:00pm Ascent and Growth in the Late 19th Century</p> <p>3:30pm-6:00pm From High Tide to Conservation</p>	
January 4th	<p>9am-11:30am Merger to Merger</p> <p>1pm-2:30pm 1968-Now</p> <p>2:45pm-4:00pm Practice, Polity, and the Present</p>	
January 5th – 25th	History Review Unit	<p>Heitzenrater Text Richey, Rowe, Schmidt Text</p> <p>History and Context Project Due</p>
January 26th- February 8th	God, The Life Divine, and Our Place in It	<p>Maddox Chapters 1-3 Kimbrough Chapters 3, 8</p>

February 9^h- 29th	The Trinity and The Scripture Way of Salvation	Maddox Chapters 4-7 Kimbrough Chapters 4,6,11
March 1st - 7th	Reading Week/Spring Break	Wesley Sermon Outlines Due 3/7/2020
March 8th -21st	The Means of Grace and The Sacraments	Maddox Chapter 8 Kimbrough Chapters 5, 9, 10 “By Water and the Spirit” “This Holy Mystery”
March 22nd-April 4th	Connected to the Church, The World, and God	Kimbrough Chapter 7 Richey Selection Runyon Selection
April 5-April 24th	Justice Now and the Future to Come <i>Easter Included</i>	Maddox Chapter 9 and Conclusion Kimbrough Chapter 12 Doctrine in Context Project Due 4/10/2020