

Wesley Theological Seminary Course of Study
General Board of Higher Education and Ministry
Fall 2020

CS-422 Theological Heritage 4: Wesleyan Movement

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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.

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:

- Heitzenrater Richard P., *Wesley and the People Called Methodists*. Second edition. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2013.
- Maddox, Randy L. *Responsible Grace: John Wesley's Practical Theology*. Nashville: Kingswood Books, 1994.
- Wigger, John H. *American Saint: Francis Asbury and the Methodists*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009

On-line Required Readings:

- Sermons found on <http://wesley.nnu.edu/john-wesley/> (Note, all of these sermons can also be found in *John Wesley's Sermons, An Anthology* edited by Outler & Heitzenrater, Abingdon Press, ©1987, 2nd printing, 1993.)
 - “Christian Perfection”
 - “On Working out Our Own Salvation”
 - “Witness of the Spirit II”
 - “Circumcision of the Heart”
 - “Scripture Way of Salvation”
 - “Use of Money”
- “What is an Arminian” found on <https://arminiantheologyblog.wordpress.com/category/john-wesley/>
- “The Character of a Methodist” (abridged version) found on http://ww.nelsonmemorialumc.org/Nelson%20Memorial_files/The%20Character%20of%20a%20Methodist.pdf

There are also some required videos for you to watch and respond to, and some require comments on Discussion Forum or writing a short paper. More information below. Not all have been uploaded/posted at this time.

Optional Texts: None of these are required; they are listed in case you want to read more.
History:

- Collins, Kenneth J. *John Wesley: A Theological Journey*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2003. Interweaves John Wesley's life with his theological development and the development of the Methodist movement.
- Newman, Richard S, *Freedom's Prophet: Bishop Richard Allen, the AME Church, and the Black Founding Fathers*. New York: New York University Press, 2008. Biography of an important early African-American Methodist who founded the AME Church.
- Wigger, John H. *Taking Heaven by Storm: Methodism and the Rise of Popular Christianity in America*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1998. By the same author of the book on Francis Asbury, covering American religion, with a focus on the Methodist movement through the middle of the 19th century. Very readable.

Theology:

- Collins, Kenneth J. *The Theology of John Wesley: Holy Love and the Shape of Grace*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2007. A different take on the theology of grace than Maddox, and a bit more dense to read.

ASSIGNMENTS

All written assignments must be posted through the Blackboard portal by the due date, using Word or PDF.

Please take notes on your readings, and have them with you in class to facilitate discussion.

First week's assignments: Classes will meet via zoom Oct 9 & 10, times TBA

READINGS: Questions related to the readings will be posted on discussion forums. You will be notified when they are posted and what you are to do.

- **All** of Heitzenrater, *Wesley and the People Called Methodists*, **and** Maddox, *Responsible Grace*.
- **Chapters 1-11** (through page 202) of Wigger, *American Saint*.
- These **three sermons**: "Christian Perfection"
 "On Working out Our Own Salvation"
 "Witness of the Spirit II"
- **Wesley's article**: "What is an Arminian"

The following are some questions to consider as you read. You are not required to write answers. (JW = John Wesley)

Foundations of the Methodist Movement in England.

1. What were the main reformation & theological influences on JW both in his home and as he developed his own theology? Consider pietism, Calvinism, Moravians, Church of England & the dissenters.

2. What were the major effects of (1) the Holy Club, (2) the Georgia experience, (3) Peter Böhler on JW?

Methodist Movement in America: Asbury, Wesley, Coke and the development of:

1. Superintendency: including General Superintendents (Bishops) and Presiding Elders (District Superintendents). Their power, who selects, term limits. What was JW's theological basis for ordaining clergy?
2. Holy conferencing: including general & annual conferences; charge & quarterly conferences. What purpose(s) do/did they serve
3. Ordination and offering the sacraments: Who decides on ordination & who carries it out? Who is authorized to officiate/offer sacraments? What were the root causes of these concerns?

Theology

1. Grace: What is grace? What is JW's understanding of how grace "works"? Why was his interpretation attractive to ordinary & poor people, women, and enslaved people?
2. JW's understanding of faith. How does faith relate to grace?
3. Holiness: Holiness and sanctification. What does JW mean by these terms? What is radical/confusing about this teaching? What is the holiness movement & what are some of the denominations that are part of the movement? How do they relate to the Methodist movement/church?

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

SERMON SYNOPSES: For **each** of the 3 sermons, write one paragraph (~100 words) describing your understanding of the main theological point(s) of the sermon. Paper to be submitted via BLACKBOARD ASSIGNMENTS by **Oct.5**.

VIDEOS

1. Understanding Arminianism: Questions to be answered in DISCUSSIONFORUM
Video on Blackboard by Joye Jones "TULIP"

YouTube video: John Wesley & George Whitefield:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rgqicv3nRdg&t=17s> ~33 min; unfortunately, this video contains ads, including political ads, and I haven't learned yet how to edit them out.
2. Historical people: Write a brief synopsis (100-250 words) of each video and the importance of this person in Methodism. Paper to be submitted via BLACKBOARD ASSIGNMENTS by **Oct.5**.

Susanna Wesley <https://www.umc.org/en/content/susanna-wesley-mother-of-methodism> (~4 min)

Robert Strawbridge <https://www.umc.org/en/content/farmers-who-sowed-methodism-in-america> (~3.5 min)

Thomas Coke <https://www.umc.org/en/content/thomas-coke-a-father-of-methodism> (~3 min)

Susan Angeline Collins <https://www.umc.org/en/content/african-american-womans-incredible-life-as-a-methodist-missionary> (~ 4min)

Second week's assignments: Classes will meet via zoom Nov 6 & 7, times TBA

READINGS

- The rest of Wigger, *American Saint* (chapters 12-23 and Epilogue)
- These **three sermons**: “Circumcision of the Heart”
“Scripture Way of Salvation”
“Use of Money”
- **Wesley’s article**: “The Character of a Methodist” (abridged version)

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

SERMON SYNOPSES: For **each** of the 3 sermons, write one paragraph (~100 words) describing your understanding of the main theological point of the sermon. Paper to be submitted via BLACKBOARD ASSIGNMENTS by **Nov. 2.**

VIDEOS

1. Richard Allen: Produced by Mother Bethel AME Church:

<https://www.facebook.com/MotherBethel/videos/2042042119155900/?v=2042042119155900> ~23 min **AND**

On-line reading of pages 13-25 of Allen’s biography:

<https://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/allen/allen.html>

Write a 2-3 page paper (500-750 words) about the conflict between Allen and the Methodist Episcopal Church, particularly St. Georges. Why did Allen choose to remain Methodist instead of following Jones into a different denomination? How did what we now call the “Trust Clause” play a major role in the conflict? **NOTE:** Bibliography **NOT** required unless you use another source. Any direct quotes, however, must have citations. Paper to be submitted via BLACKBOARD ASSIGNMENTS by **Nov. 2.**

2. Second Great Awakening: Questions to be answered in DISCUSSION FORUM

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2LTugtRQEQ> ~27 min; unfortunately, this video contains ads, including political ads, and I haven’t learned yet how to edit them out.

3. Video on Blackboard by Joye Jones “Our German Roots” Questions to be answered in DISCUSSION FORUM

4. Video on Blackboard by Joye Jones “Schism, Separation, Union” Questions to be answered in DISCUSSION FORUM

METHODIST HISTORY RESEARCH PAPER

How does our past affect the present? Explore in more depth an area of United Methodist history that interests you. Since we will have studied John Wesley and Francis Asbury, find another person or event or teaching that engages your imagination. 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, MECS, MP, EUB) of the UMC on our polity or doctrine or on 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 UMC.
- The growth of outreach and service ministries across time and place.
- How the conflicts in the UMC today reflect or relate to conflicts and schisms of our past.

When you have found something that interests you, send a brief description of your topic by email to the instructor for approval. You will need to keep your topic **narrowly focused**, and not try to cover too much. The topic of your paper **must be approved no later than October 19, 2020**.

Once your topic has been approved, write a **9-10 page research paper** on your chosen topic.

You must rely on at least three reputable sources; do not use Wikipedia.

Paper must be submitted via BLACKBOARD ASSIGNMENTS in Word or as a PDF by **November 7**.

Instructions on Writing for Research Paper

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

Please, follow the instructions for each paper about what is to be covered, and how long the paper should be.

Good papers will show evidence that you have both read and understood the assignment.

You are strongly advised to use online source material with extreme caution, since many 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, and Wikipedia may not be accurate. In addition, over-reliance on a single source does not represent good scholarship. 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 12 point font, with one-inch margins. Please **number** all pages. Be sure your **name is on the paper**. Papers should be the assigned length, plus or minus ½ page; the bibliography is not included in the page count.

Citations & Bibliography

Proper citation is critical. Ideas, concepts, or information derived from sources or persons other than your own thinking must be acknowledged through footnotes or endnotes. Any quotation of three words in length or more must have a citation.

Use any academically acceptable “notes-bibliography” style for footnotes and citations. A helpful style is “Turabian.”

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

Your research paper must have a bibliography, listing all the resources you used.

Failure to meet these requirements will adversely affect a grade. Plagiarism is theft, and may result in a failing grade.

Paper must be submitted in Word or as a PDF.