

**WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
COURSE OF STUDY PROGRAM**

**CS-522 CONTEMPORARY THEOLOGY**

January 18-February 20, 2021, online

Instructor: The Rev. Donald W. Dotterer, PhD.      1240 Catalina Drive, Monroeville, PA 15146  
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course covers significant individuals, movements, events, and theological developments from the nineteenth century to the present. GBHEM goals:

1. Understand the origins and theological tenets of liberalism from the early 19th century to the present, including its influence on ecumenism and process theology.
2. Understand and distinguish reactions to liberalism, including Fundamentalism, Neo-Orthodoxy, and Evangelicalism.
3. Understand the historical development and theology of the Holiness Movement, Pentecostalism, and the Charismatic Movement.
4. Understand the origins and tenets of Liberation and Contextual Theologies

**TEXTS**

Print copies are preferable to electronic versions because it is easier to locate selected readings in the texts.

Daniel Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding*.

John Caputo, *What Would Jesus Deconstruct?*

Ed. L. Miller and Stanley Grenz, *Introduction to Contemporary Theologies*.

Optional: Fleming Rutledge, *The Crucifixion*.

**SYNCHRONOUS SESSIONS**

Synchronous sessions are class meetings on the Zoom online platform. Our five synchronous sessions are scheduled for five Saturdays, eastern time:

**January 23: 10:00 am–noon**

**January 30: 10:00 am-noon**

**February 6: 10:00 am-noon**

**February 13 10:00 am-noon**

**February 20: 10:00 am-noon**

## **READING ASSIGNMENTS**

**January 23:** *Faith Seeking Understanding*, chapters 1-6.

**January 30:** *Faith Seeking Understanding*, chapters 7-14.

**February 6:** *Introduction to Contemporary Theologies*

**February 13:** *What Would Jesus Deconstruct?*

**Optional:** *The Crucifixion*

## **WRITING ASSIGNMENTS**

- Utilize the assigned books as sources for your papers.
- Papers are due by class times (synchronous sessions). Have a hard copy at hand for discussion.
- Papers must be submitted in Microsoft Word on Blackboard. Be sure to save a copy.
- The Course of Study program's expectation is that there be a total of twenty pages of writing for every class. Your writing needs to meet that expectation.

**Due January 23:** Write a brief synopsis and critique of three of the main topics of chapters 1-6 in *Faith Seeking Understanding*. Your paper should be five pages long.

**Due January 30:** Write a brief synopsis and critique of three of the main topics of chapters 7-14 in Migliore's *Faith Seeking Understanding*. Your paper should be five pages long.

**Due February 6:** Choose two or three of the thirteen theologies discussed in *Introduction to Contemporary Theologies*. Write five pages on how these theologies are relevant to today's culture and how they can guide the mission of the church.

**Due February 20:** Write a critical review of *What Would Jesus Deconstruct?* Your paper should be five pages long.

## **DISCUSSION BOARD**

There is a discussion board for our class on Blackboard. The purpose of the discussion board is to promote conversation among students about the assigned material. Students are required to post two responses by midnight Saturday evening every week from January 4–February 6. The first postings are due January 9. A question of the week will be posed by the instructor. The questions will be based on assigned readings and YouTube videos. **Each student should post a 4–5 sentence paragraph response to the question plus a 2–3 sentence response to a fellow student's post.**

## **GRADES**

Each of the five-page papers is worth 20%; discussion board posts 20%.

Criteria for grading papers:

1. How well the subject matter is understood.
2. How well the ideas in the paper are expressed. Clarity counts.
3. How well sources are used and how well the paper is documented.

**Syllabus requirements are subject to change**