Theological Heritage I (COS 122)
Summer 2021 Syllabus

Course Information

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Douglas D. Tzan
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Course Description

This course introduces the student to theological reflection in the Wesleyan tradition. Basic terms, tasks, and methods of Christian theology will be introduced. Representative classical themes will be defined and illustrated. The course provides a foundation for further historical and theological study.

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

1. Examine their understanding of faith, sin, salvation, grace, and the place of doctrine in the life of the Church.
2. Use and understand classical theological terms and themes.
3. Critically consider the sources of theological reflection, including scripture, tradition, experience and reason.
4. Reflect theologically as a resource for pastoral ministry.

Text Books and Course Materials

Required Readings

- Campbell, Ted. *Methodist Doctrine: The Essentials.* Revised Edition. Nashville: Abingdon, 2011.
- Gonzales, Justo and Zaida Maldonado Perez, *An Introduction to Christian Theology*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2002.
- 2016 *United Methodist Book of Discipline*
- *The United Methodist Hymnal*
- "This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion" (available at https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/this-holy-mystery-a-united-methodist-understanding-of-holy-communion)
- "By Water and the Spirit" (available at https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/by-water-and-the-spirit-full-text)

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will draw on their reading of the assigned texts and material presented online and in-class to articulate clear and concise understandings of theological concepts in ways that are consistent with the Methodist theological tradition. They will use scripture, tradition, reason, and experience as sources of theological reflection to explain Methodist doctrines to others. In dialogue with materials presented in class and other students, students will also refine their theology and consider ways theology impacts their ministries.

Course Schedule

- **Pre-course: BEFORE July 5—Students will complete online modules at their own schedule. Plan to devote about 10 hours to completing these modules, NOT including the time it will take to read course texts or complete writing assignments.**
- **July 5-July 9, 9am-10:30am every day—Synchronous Zoom meetings (Reading and discussion of Wesley sermons/discussion of case studies).**

Course Requirements

Attendance and participation

Attendance and participation in class sessions is mandatory. Students are required to watch online videos and be present in synchronous Zoom meetings of the class in July. Students are expected to complete their written work on time. All assignments are to be uploaded to Blackboard by midnight on the due date. Completion of the pre-course assignment is required for participation in the synchronous (July 5-9) portion of the course.

Graded Activities/Assignments

Pre-Course Assignments: Due July 4

Theological Essays

Please write 10 short essays (1 page or 200-250 words each) in response to each of the 10 questions listed below. Read the designated texts and complete the modules on Blackboard for each question first to inform your responses.

Note that the Campbell text suggests additional readings you might also consult. You may find it challenging to answer these questions in the word limits given. This practice is to intentionally force upon you the discipline of carefully choosing and phrasing your answers to these questions.

While most of your essay should be your own words, you are expected to support your answer by **quoting one scripture passage and one other theological source (tradition, reason, or experience).** "Proof-texting" is not acceptable. When you quote a Bible passage, you must also explain what that passage means to you and why you quoted it. A "traditional" source might be a quote from one of the assigned readings from the *Book of Discipline*, Hymnal, one of Wesley's

sermons, or a hymn of the church. You might also quote a theologian or briefly describe something in your own experience.

Authority

- Read Campbell (chapter 1), Gonzalez (chapter 1), *Book of Discipline* ("Our Doctrinal History" ¶103, "Our Theological Task" ¶105, Articles of Religion nos. 5, 6 Confession no. 4)
- Watch video lecture on "Authority."
- **Question: The United Methodist Church holds that the living core of the Christian faith was revealed in Scripture, illumined by tradition, vivified in personal experience, and confirmed by reason. What is your understanding of this theological position of the Church? (see ¶324.9.h)**

Trinity and Christology

- Read Campbell (chapter 2), Gonzalez (chapter 2), UMC Hymnal (Apostles Creed, Nicene Creed), *Book of Discipline* (Articles of Religion nos. 1, 2, 4, Confession nos. 1, 2, 3)
- Watch video lecture on "Trinity and Christology."
- **Question: Describe your personal experience of God. How do you interpret the statement Jesus Christ is Lord? What is your conception of the activity of the Holy Spirit? (see ¶324.9.a, d, and e)**

Human Nature

- Read Campbell (chapter 3), Gonzalez (chapter3), *Book of Discipline* (Articles of Religion nos. 7, 8, Confession no. 7)
- Watch video lecture on "Human Nature."
- **Question: What is your understanding of humanity? (see ¶324.9.c)**

Wesleyan Way of Salvation

- Read Campbell (chapter 4), Gonzalez (chapter 4), *Book of Discipline* (Articles of Religion nos. 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 20, "Of Sanctification," Confession nos. 8, 9, 10, 11, and "Our Doctrinal Heritage" ¶102)
- **Question: What is your understanding of the human need for divine grace? (see ¶324.9.c)**

Church

- Read Campbell (chapter 5), Gonzalez (chapter 5), *Book of Discipline* (Articles of Religion nos. 13, 15, 22, Confession nos. 5, 13)
- **Question: Describe the nature and mission of the Church. What are its primary tasks today? (see ¶324.9.i)**

Ministry

- Read "The Ministry of All Christians," *Book of Discipline* ¶120-143, *Book of Discipline* (Articles of Religion no.21).

- **Question: Describe your understanding of *diakonia*, the servant ministry of the church. (see ¶324.9.l)**

Sacraments
- Read "This Holy Mystery" and "By Water and the Spirit," *Book of Discipline* (Articles of Religion nos. 16, 17, 18, 19, Confession no. 6)
- **Question: Explain the role and significance of the sacraments in the ministry to which you have been called. (¶324.9.p)**

Eschatology
- Read Campbell (chapter 6), Gonzalez (chapter 7), *Book of Discipline* (Articles of Religion nos. 3, 14, Confession no. 12)
- **Question: What is your understanding of the kingdom of God; the Resurrection; eternal life? (see ¶324.9.f)**

Ethics/Ethos
- Read Campbell (chapter 7), Book of Discipline ("General Rules," Articles of Religion nos. 23, 24, 25, "On the Duty of Christians to the Civil Authority," Confession no. 13, 14, 15, 16)
- **Question: Why is it important for you make a complete dedication of yourself to the highest ideals of the Christian life? (see ¶324.9.o)**

Call
- **Question: Why are you devoting your life to the ministry in the United Methodist Church?**

Sermon Uploads

Sermon on Grace (Due July 4)
Preach and upload a video of you preaching a sermon that describes the Wesleyan way of salvation. Reference must be made to prevenient grace, justifying grace, and sanctifying grace.

Sacramental Sermon (Due July 4)
Preach and upload a video of you preaching a sermon that explores one of the following questions:

Why do United Methodists practice infant baptism?

OR

Why do United Methodists have an "open table" for communion?

Both sermons (grace and sacramental) must be uploaded to Blackboard by July 4. Your sermon text must also be submitted as an assignment.

Instructions for how to upload your videos will be found on the Blackboard site.

Class Participation

Class participation will be calculated based on full completion of pre-course modules and participation in the synchronous Zoom sessions.

Assignment Weighting

Theological Essays	50%
Sermon on Wesleyan way of salvation	15%
Sermon on Sacraments	15%
Class Participation	20%

Please submit all papers in Times New Roman, 12-point font, with 1 inch margins. Papers that do not meet or exceed the page/word guidelines will be marked down. Papers must include complete footnotes for all references and a bibliography. Please use the Turabian footnote-bibliography style. Several universities have published helpful guides to Turabian online, and the many libraries have printed copies of the Turabian style guide. Proper citation of all sources is expected, so any quotation of three words in length or greater must be footnoted.

Grade schema

93 – 100 = A (Excellent/Outstanding)
90 – 92 = A- (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)

Late work Policy

No extensions will be granted for late work, except in cases of extreme necessity.

Course Policies

Inclusive Language Policy

Bearing in mind that language reflects, reinforces, and creates social reality, the Seminary expects class conversation and written work to employ language that respects the equal dignity and worth of all human beings. In particular, linguistic sexism and racism are to be avoided.

Weather Policy:

If the seminary is open, we will have class. If the Seminary is closed, class hours missed will be made up with online activities. The instructor reserves the right to add mandatory, graded online sessions. The instructor will notify students of changes and new due dates in a timely manner.

Accommodations/Disability Support

Once admitted to Wesley, students needing accommodations must communicate with the Associate Dean for Community Life. Students will submit to the Office of Community Life relevant, current documentation from a qualified professional, which will be evaluated by a consultant with a degree in special education. All accommodations for classes are made by the Office of Community life on behalf of the student. Please see our page on Disability Accommodations for more information.

Academic Honesty & Integrity

Wesley Theological Seminary considers plagiarism as a serious offense which will result in substantial penalties, including the possibility of academic dismissal. Students are expected to comply with all standards for academic honesty and integrity, both of the seminary and of the classes in which students are enrolled. The seminary regards the following as forms of plagiarism or academic dishonesty:

- copying from another student's work;
- giving or receiving unauthorized assistance to or from another student during an examination;
- using unauthorized material during an examination;
- presenting as one's own (i.e., without proper attribution) the composition or ideas of another;
- copying material from any sources, whether print or online.

All work submitted must be the work of the student submitting. Work from other sources must be thoroughly paraphrased or indicated as a direct quotation. In either case, the source of the material must be cited. Students are referred to the most current edition of Kate Turabian's *Manual for Writers of Research Papers* for instructions on source citations.

Furthermore, the mutilation, defacement, or stealing of library materials are also considered forms of academic dishonesty and a violation of the seminary's *Covenant of Professional Ethics and Behavior* (see "Use of Property") and are also subject to disciplinary action.

In questions of academic dishonesty, the professor will report the circumstances of the case to the Dean. In first instances of proven plagiarism or dishonesty, the student will receive a "Fail" grade for the course. Second instances will result in automatic separation from the Seminary. Please see the Wesley Theological Seminary Catalog for further details.

SafeAssign

You may be asked to submit one or more of your writing assignments to Blackboard's SafeAssign plagiarism prevention service. Assignment content will be checked against Internet sources, academic journal articles, and the papers of other Wesley Theological Seminary students for common or borrowed content. SafeAssign generates a report that highlights any potentially unoriginal text in the submitted paper. The report may be submitted directly to the instructor or

the instructor may elect to have students submit initial drafts through SafeAssign so that you will receive the report allowing the opportunity to adjust and ensure that all source material has been properly cited.

Technical Support

Students must attempt to solve technical problems and contact their instructor when technical problems do arise.
If you experience technical problems, please exercise one or all of the following options:

- Blackboard Training Materials
- Call Blackboard Support at (202) 885-6091
- Email Blackboard Support at edtech@wesleyseminary.edu

If you have lost your password, or have a problem that is not specifically Blackboard related, please contact Solutionworx at support@solutionworx.com or by phone at (703) 961-1840