

**Wesleyan Theological Seminary Course of Study:**

**COS- 442 Theological Heritage IV: the Wesleyan Movement**

**On-line Course: Spring 2021 (Jan. 21-22, and Feb. 18-19 ZOOM sessions)**



Instructor: Rev. Dr. John R. Tyson, Professor of Church History & Director of UMC Studies, at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, Rochester, NY.

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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.

**Format and Methodology:** *With the concerns regarding the continued Covid-19 global pandemic, this course will be offered in the following format:*

1. It will be an **no physical contact**, distance learning event
2. Class will be divided into Six (6) weekly learning segments
3. Instruction will be delivered by synchronous (“live”) and asynchronous (“canned”) learning modes.

4. Asynchronous materials are posted on the “Documents” section of the class webpage on Black Board (see “My Wesley”). These materials will be utilized according to the plan and procedures outline by the class syllabus for the particular learning segment (“week”). These materials can be utilized throughout the week specified.

5. Synchronous instruction will be coming to you by ZOOM web-sharing. This instruction will be in “real time” during the calendar dates and time slots originally designated for the course.

6. You will need a device that has a internet capacity, a camera, and a microphone, and you will need to supply me with a functioning email address so that I can “invite” you to the ZOOM meetings I will be hosting for each class session.

7. All written work will be submitted to me as a Ms-Word, email attachment and sent to my business address: [jtyson@crcds.edu](mailto:jtyson@crcds.edu)

### **Course Objectives & Learning Goals:**

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 in the context of our lives and ministry.

*Each student will be expected to practice a stewardship of mindfulness in balancing self-disclosure with analysis, listening with expressing her/his insights, disagreement with Christian grace. In other words, the course develops the practices of being a beloved Christian learning community.*

### **Required Texts:**

Heitzenrater, Richard P. *Wesley and the People Called Methodists (second edition)*, Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2013).

Maddox, Randy. *Responsible Grace: John Wesley’s Practical Theology*, Nashville: Abingdon, 1994.

Nickell, Jane Ellen. *We Shall Not Be Moved: Methodists Debate Race, Gender, and Homosexuality*, Eugene: Pickwick/ Wipf & Stock, 2014.

Richey, Russel E., Kenneth Rowe, and Jean Miller Schmidt. *American Methodism: A Compact History*, Nashville: Abingdon, 2012.

Tyson, John R. *The Way of the Wesleys: A Short Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014.

**Required Reading:** (on Black Board, at “My Wesley”)

Allen, Richard. *The Life and Experiences of the Rt. Rev. Richard Allen* (selections)

Lee, Jarena. *The Life and Religious Experience of Jarena Lee* .... (selections)

McClain, William B. “Black People in the Methodist Church: a Fierce Fidelity to a Church for Whom Grace is Central,” *Methodist History*, Vol. 54, No. 1, (Oct. 2015), 81-92.

Tyson, John R. “John Wesley Remembered – And More,” *The Churchman*, Vol. 117 (No. 3) Autumn, 2003, 201-217.

Tyson, John R. “Lady Huntingdon’s Reformation,” *Church History* Vol. 64 (No. 4), Dec. 1995, 580-93.

Wakely, J.B. “Susana Wesley and the Unauthorized Meetings,” (on BB)

Wesley, John. *Sermons & Tracts*

“Salvation By Faith”

“Almost a Christian”

“Scriptural Christianity”

“Christian Perfection”

“Witness of the Spirit,” Discourse I.

“The Scripture Way of Salvation”

“The Catholic Spirit”

“The Means of Grace,”

“The Good Steward”

“On the Present Scarcity of Provisions”

**Note:** A entire collection of John Wesley’s published sermons (in public domain) has been made available for your use on Blackboard. It is a pdf that may be down loaded, and is searchable.

**Recommended Texts:**

Chicote, Paul W. *She Offered Them Christ: the Legacy of Women Preachers in Early Methodism*. Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2001.

McClain, William B. *Black People in the UMC—Wither Thou Goest?* Nashville: Abingdon, 1985. Out of print. (unfortunately).

Newman, Richard S. *Freedom's Prophet: Bishop Richard Allen, the AME Church and the Black Founding Fathers*. New York: New York University Press, 2008.

Schmidt, Jean Miller. *Grace Sufficient: a History of Women in Methodism, 1769-1939*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1999.

Tyson, John R. *Assist Me to Proclaim: the Life & Hymns of Charles Wesley*. Grand Rapids: Eermans, 2007.

Tyson, John R. *Praying with the Wesleys: Foundations of Methodist Spirituality*. Nashville: Foundry Books/UMC Publishing House, 2019.

Wiggans, James H. *American Saint: Francis Asbury and the Methodists*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.

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### **Course Requirements & Assignments**

1. Class, Participation (10% of Grade). Please note: it is essential that you “attend” the “live” class sessions, as well as keep up on the readings and exercises posted on Blackboard. Class discussion/ Class questions based on your readings should also be written into the “Discussion” sections for conversation.
2. Complete all required readings. Readings will be and exercises will be tracked electronically on Blackboard.

3. Assignment: "The Significance of John Wesley, Today." (10% of Grade) – a Two page read and reflect assignment due on or before **Jan. 18, 2022**.
4. Assignment: "John Wesley Sermon Journal." This project is to be done sequentially; each time you read an assigned sermon or treatise by John Wesley himself (**not** about him), write a two paragraph reflection piece that: 1) summarizes what you read (content wise), and 2) indicates its relevancy for understanding our tradition, and your ministry. (30% of Grade). These ten (10) entries will be dated, and submitted as a compiled document as your project on or before **Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>** Write brief summary for entire project ("I what I said"); and conclusion ("what it means for me and my work").
5. Write "blogs" for discussion forums on: Week 3, 4, and 5 (class participation)
6. Write a five (5) page position paper on "What's Right About Wesleyan Theology." (20% of Grade). – See below (**Due Feb. 19**).
7. Prepare post class written "final project" (8-10 pgs), about "Methodism's Unfinished Business on Race, Gender Equality, and Homosexuality." (30% of Grade). It is due on or before **March. 12, 2021**. Based on your reading of Nickell, *We Shall Not Be Moved*, and other sources, write a position paper about the Methodist Church's "Unfinished Business." What have we learned about ourselves and others in the controversy and struggles over race, equality, and gender? What have we not learned? Drawing upon our rich heritage and the theological resources you studied what future do you see for the UMC?

## **Class Schedule --- Reading & Assignment Guide:**

### **Week One: Pre-class Module (the Week of January 10th)**

**Read:** Tyson, "John Wesley -- Remembered" (Blackboard)  
Heitzenration, *Methodists*, (textbook) ch. 1. (pp. 1-37)

**View:** "The Man Who Saved England," a video by Gary Kent (blackboard)  
"John Wesley -- the Man," a lecture by Ryan Reeves (blackboard)

**Write:** A two page (double spaced) essay on "The Significance of John Wesley, Today." You have seen JW through the lens of several different interpreters; each of whom find meaning in Mr. Wesley -- albeit a somewhat different meaning in each case. Compare and contrast Kent's "Wesley" over against Revees' depiction of him, using your other courses to help you interpretively (send it to me via email attachment).

### **Week Two: Jan. 21-22: Synchronous Module (on ZOOM)**

**Read Prior to Class:**

Heitzenrater, *Methodists*, (textbook), ch. 2-5 ( pp. 37-290)  
John Wesley, "Salvation by Faith" ("journal" re these sermons)  
"Almost a Christian"  
"Scriptural Christianity"  
Charles Wesley, "Awake Thou That Sleepest" (optional)  
Chilchote, *She Offered Them Christ* (optional)  
J.B. Wakely, "Susanna Wesley & the Unauthorized Meetings"  
John R. Tyson, "Lady Huntingdon's Reformation"

**View Prior to Class:** "A Brief Overview of UM History," (Video on Blackboard)  
"Susanna Wesley -- Mother of Methodism" (Video on BB).

**In Class Lectures: January 21, (starting at 2:00);**

Conversation: Who Was John Wesley?  
"Born In Crisis" (historical context)  
"The Rise of Methodism: Epworth, Oxford, Georgia, London"

**January 22nd, (starting at 9:00 AM):**

"The Significance of Aldersgate"  
"The Methodist Revival"  
Methodist Women  
Women Preachers  
"Charles -- the Other Wesley"

**Film:** "A Heart Set Free -- Life & Ministry of Charles Wesley"

**Week Three (Jan. 24 on Black Board): Methodist Doctrine, Pt. I:  
"Salvation Methodist Style"**

**View:** "UM Basic Doctrines" (video lecture on BB)

**Read:** Tyson, *Way of the Wesleys*, (text book) chapters 1-10  
Maddox, *Responsible Grace*, (text book) chapters 5, 6, 7  
John Wesley, "Christian Perfection" (BB)  
"Witness of the Spirit," Discourse I.  
"The Scripture Way of Salvation"

**Write:** Go to the "Discussion Board" and write a one or two paragraph reply to the question I posted (6-8 sentences at least). Please reply to at least two subsequent posts by your classmates.

**Week Four (Jan. 31, on Black Board): Methodist Doctrine, Pt. II:  
“Living the Methodist Way”**

**Read:** John Wesley, “The Catholic Spirit”  
“The Means of Grace,”  
“The Good Steward”  
“On the Present Scarcity of Provisions”  
Tyson, *The Way of the Wesleys*, chapters 11-14

**Write:** Go to the "Discussion Board" and write a one or two paragraph reply to the question I posted (4-6 sentences at least). Please reply to at least two subsequent posts by your classmates.

**Write:** A position paper on the topic “What’s Right About Wesleyan Theology.” In approximately five (5) pages, state clearly what YOU think is the main strength(s) of our theology are; illustrate and support your views from primary (Wesley) and secondary source (footnotes). **Due in class – February 18th.**

**Week Five (Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> on Blackboard) : “Black People in the UMC”**

**View:** “Black Methodist’s History” (video on BB)  
“Richard Allen and St. George’s MEC” (video on BB)  
“Voices of the Central Jurisdiction” (video on BB)

**Read:** Richard Allen, *Life, Experiences, and etc.* pp. 3-25. (on BB).  
Jarena Lee, *Life and Experiences of a Colored Woman* pp. 4-15. (on BB)  
John McEllhenney, “Harry Hosier—Methodist Preacher” (BB)

**Write:** Go to the "Discussion Board" and write a one or two paragraph reply to the question I posted (4-6 sentences at least). Please reply to at least two subsequent posts by your classmates.

**Week Six: Feb. 18-19, Synchronous Module (on ZOOM)**

**View Prior to Class:**

"Wesley & Whitefield's Theology" (video lecture on BB)  
JW's "Sermon on Whitefield's Funeral" (video presentation on BB)  
"The Christmas Conference" (video presentation on BB)  
"Francis Asbury: A Spirit a Flame" (video presentation on BB)

**Read Prior to Class:**

“John Wesley’s Theology – in His Own Words” (BB)  
Richey, Rowe, & Schmidt *American Methodism* (text), pp. 1-259

**In Class Lectures: Feb. 18, starting at 9:00 AM**

Wesley's Theology – Review and Conversation  
American Methodism – Early Beginnings  
Francis Asbury – Circuit Riding Bishop  
Racial Inclusion and Exclusion  
Camp Meetings & Tall Steeples

**Feb. 19, Starting at 9:00 AM:**

19<sup>th</sup> Century Controversies & Divisions  
Equality for laity, women, & blacks ??  
Fundamentalism, Modernism, Social Gospel  
Methodist Reunion of 1939  
Union of 1968 & the UMC  
Decline of the Main Line  
Unfinished Business – Race, Women's Equality, Homosexuality

**Final Project: -- Due on or before March 12, 2022.** Send it as MS-word file, email attachment to: [jtyson@crcds.edu](mailto:jtyson@crcds.edu)