

**WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
COURSE OF STUDY PROGRAM**

**CS-522 CONTEMPORARY THEOLOGY
OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 3–4, 2023
ONLINE**

Instructor: The Rev. Donald W. Dotterer, PhD. 1240 Catalina Drive, Monroeville, PA 15146
412-334-7408 dondotterer@gmail.com

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 Contextual and Liberation Theologies.

TEXTS

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

Required:

Daniel Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding*. Try to get the new fourth edition.

John Caputo, *What Would Jesus Deconstruct?*

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

Recommended:

Charles Sheldon, *In His Steps: What Would Jesus Do?*

Delores S. Williams, *Sisters in the Wilderness*.

SYNCHRONOUS SESSIONS

Synchronous sessions are class meetings on the Zoom online platform. Our four synchronous sessions are scheduled for November 3–4:

Friday, November 3, 10:00 am–12:30 pm and 2:30–5:00 pm, ET.

Saturday, November 4, 10:00 am–12:30 pm and 2:30–5:00 pm, ET

Have copies of the textbooks, the Bible, The *UM Hymnal* and *The Book of Discipline* at hand for synchronous sessions.

READING ASSIGNMENTS

Faith Seeking Understanding, chapters 1-15.

Introduction to Contemporary Theologies.

What Would Jesus Deconstruct?

At your leisure: *In His Steps* and *Sisters in the Wilderness*.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

- Utilize the assigned books as sources for your papers.
- Papers are due by dates noted below. 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.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS DUE:

October 23, midnight. Write a brief synopsis and critique of five of the main topics of chapters 1–15 in *Faith Seeking Understanding*. Your paper should be ten pages long, with at least two pages on each topic.

November 3, 10:00 am: Choose two or three of the thirteen theologies discussed in *Introduction to Contemporary Theologies*. Write at least five pages on how these theologies are relevant to today's culture and how they can guide the mission of the church.

November 3, 10:00 am: Write a critical review of *What Would Jesus Deconstruct?* Your paper should be five pages long.

ONLINE PRE-COURSE ASYNCHRONOUS WORK

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 contemporary theology. This work is necessary to meet GBHEM's requirement for asynchronous time for online COS courses. **Students are required to post two responses: one, a response to the prompt, and two, a response to a fellow student's post for five weeks, October 2–November 5.** A question/prompt of the week will be posed by the instructor. The questions/prompts will be based on assigned readings and YouTube videos. **Each student should post a 100–150-word response to the question/prompt plus at least a 50-word response to a fellow student's post. Posts to the prompts are due Thursdays at midnight; responses to fellow student posts are due on Sundays at midnight. The first postings are due October 7.**

GRADES

The ten-page pre-course assignment is 40%; each of the five-page papers is worth 20%; discussion board posts and class participation, 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.