

## Theological Heritage I (COS 122) Summer 2024 Syllabus

### Course Information

Instruction: Philip Wingeier-Rayo, PhD

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(Anticipate a 24-hour email reply—excluding Sunday)

### Course Description

This course introduces the student to theological reflection in the Wesley 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 of 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 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.

### Textbooks and Course Materials

Required Readings

- Randy Maddox, *Responsible Grace: John Wesley's Practical Theology*, Nashville: Kingswood Books, 1994.
- 2016 *United Methodist Book of Discipline*
- *The United Methodist Hymnal*
- "This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of the Holy Communion" free download: <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/this-holy-mystery-a-united-methodist-understanding-of-holy-communion>
- "By Water and the Spirit" free download: <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 one another, students will refer their theology and consider ways theology impacts their ministries.

## **Course Schedule**

### **Online Module Opens June 1 and remains open until July 5:**

Students will complete online modules on one's own time (asynchronous). Plan to devote about 10 hours on each module, not including the time reaching and answering questions.

- Module 1 June 1-7
- Module 2 June 7-14
- Module 3 June 14-21
- Module 4 June 21-28
- Module 5 June 28-July 5

### **In-Person Modules for Zoom classes, July 8-12, 8:00-10:45AM Eastern Time**

The Synchronous Zoom Classes are mandatory. Zoom link to be provided on Blackboard. Please block off these times on your personal calendar.

- Module 6 July 8 8:00-10:45am Eastern Time
- Module 7 July 9 8:00-10:45am Eastern Time
- Module 8 July 10 8:00-10:45am Eastern Time
- Module 9 July 11 8:00-10:45am Eastern Time
- Module 10 July 12 8:00-10:45am Eastern Time

## **Graded Activities**

### **Modules 1-5: Pre-Class Assignments Max 50 points (to be completed by July 5)**

Module 1 June 1-7 (Max 10 points)

- Read Maddox, Introduction (pages 15-25)
- Answer 5 questions (1 point each=5 points)
- Watch Introductory Video
- Introduce yourself answering the 5 questions in Discussion Board (1 point each=5 points)

Module 2 June 7-14 (Max 10 points)

- Read Maddox, Ch.1, "Human Knowledge of the Grace of God"

- Answer 5 questions about reading (1 point each=5 points)
- Watch Video on Revelation & Authority
- Write a thread in Discussion Board with one new observation or take-away from the reading (1 point), one from the video lecture (1 point), a follow-up question you have about the reading or lecture (2 points), and reply to at least one classmate's post (1 point)

#### Module 3 June 14-21 (Max 10 points)

- Read Maddox, Ch.2, "The God of Responsible Grace"
- Answer 5 questions about reading (1 point each=5 points)
- Watch Video on Attributes of God
- Write a thread in Discussion Board with one new observation or take-away from the reading (1 point), one from the video lecture (1 point), a follow-up question you have about the reading or lecture (2 points), and reply to at least one classmate's post (1 point)

#### Module 4 June 21-28 (Max 10 points)

- Read Maddox, Ch.3, "Humanity's Need and God's Initial Restoring Grace"
- Answer 5 questions about reading (1 point each=5 points)
- Watch Video on Theological Anthropology
- Write a thread in Discussion Board with one new observation or take-away from the reading (1 point), one from the video lecture (1 point), a follow-up question you have about the reading or lecture (2 points), and reply to at least one classmate's post (1 point)

#### Module 5, (Max 10 points)

- Read Maddox, Ch.4, "Christ--The Initiative of Responsible Grace"
- Answer 5 questions about reading (1 point each=5 points)
- Watch Video on Doctrine of Christology
- Write a thread in Discussion Board with one new observation or take-away from the reading (1 point), one from the video lecture (1 point), a follow-up question you have about the reading or lecture (2 points), and reply to at least one classmate's post (1 point)

In-Person Assignments the week of July 8-12--Max 50 points

Modules 6-10: Topics for Synchronous Zoom Classes  
(based on readings from Maddox chapters 5-9)

### **Homework and Topics for week of Synchronous Zoom Classes**

#### **Monday, July 8 Holy Spirit**

Read Maddox, ch. 5 "Holy Spirit—The Presence of Responsible Grace"

#### **\*Tuesday, July 9 Grace and Response – The Nature of Human Salvation**

Read Maddox, ch.6 "Grace and Response—The Nature of Human Salvation"

Also Read *UM Book of Discipline*, Par.105 "Our Theological Task"

Paper due Tuesday, July 9 by 11:59pm (Max 20 points)

Sermon on the Wesleyan Way of Salvation (2000 words)

Write a sermon for your congregation on the Wesleyan Way of Salvation citing scripture passages and the Maddox text. You may also cite outside sources. The paper should cover prevenient grace, justification by faith and sanctification by faith. Use Times New Roman 12 pt font). Double-spaced with proper citation of any sources. Points will be taken off for grammatical or spelling mistakes.

**Wednesday, July 10 The Way of Salvation – Grace Upon Grace**

Read Maddox, ch.7 “The Way of Salvation—Grace Upon Grace”

Read also “By Water and the Spirit”

**Thursday, July 11 The Means of Grace and Response**

Read Maddox, ch.8 “The Means of Grace and Response”

Read also “This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of the Holy Communion”

**\*Friday, July 12 The Triumph of Responsible Grace**

Read Maddox, ch. 9 “The Triumph of Responsible Grace”

Paper due Friday, July 12 by 11:59pm (Max 20 points)

Write a 2,000 word paper on either baptism or Holy Community (pick one or the other) from a Wesleyan understanding. Cite scripture, Maddox and “By Water and By Spirit” or “This Holy Mystery” (depending on which sacrament you select). You may also cite outside sources. The paper should cover prevenient grace, justification by faith and sanctification by faith. Use Times New Roman 12 pt font). Double-spaced with proper citation of any sources. Points will be taken off for grammatical or spelling mistakes.

**Participation Grade (Max 10 points)**

During synchronous zoom classes stay engaged with camera on. Do the reading in advance. Following the conversation and participate appropriately. Ask thoughtful questions. Exhibit good listening skills. Be aware of classmates and class dynamics.

**Grading Assignments**

- 25 points---Answering questions on reading
- 25 points---Discussion Board participation
- 20 points---sermon on Wesleyan Way of Salvation
- 20 points---paper on baptism or Holy Communion
- 10 points---participation grade
- 100 Total Maximum Points

**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)

### **Course Policies**

Emphasis of rules and course expectations, including but not limited to the following:

- students are expected to learn how to navigate in Blackboard Learn
- students are expected to address technical problems immediately
- students are expected to keep abreast of course announcements
- students are expected to use their Wesley Seminary email as opposed to a personal email address
- students are expected to keep instructor informed of class related problems, or problems that may prevent the student from full participation
- students are expected to observe course etiquette even when in the online environment

### **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. (from student handbook)

### **Weather Policy**

Since this class is virtual weather will not impact us. Assume that we will have our Monday Zoom sessions regardless of the weather.

### **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.

### **Blackboard Administration**

Blackboard Learn automatically records all student and faculty activities including: the first and last access to the course, the pages accessed, the number of discussion messages read and sent, chat room discussion text, and posted discussion topics. This data can be accessed by the instructor to evaluate class participation and to identify participants having difficulty, or to verify academic honesty.

Courses will be unavailable to students two months after the course has ended. Please be sure to save any course material, content, or readings prior to the course completion. If you need the course after it has become unavailable, you must contact the instructor.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:support@solutionworx.com) or by phone at (703) 961-1840

**Wesley Seminary Library**

Library hours can be found here <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/library/hours/>

Information on access the library databases from off campus can be found here <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/library/>

\*Asterisks indicates writing assignment is due