

COS 122

Theological Heritage I: Introduction

Winter 2026 Term (January 19 – March 9)

Instructor Contact Information

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Course Description and Outcomes

COS 122 is designed to introduce students 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 also provides a foundation for further theological study.

Following this course, students will be able to:

1. Examine their understanding of faith, sin, salvation, grace, and the place of doctrine in the Church's life.
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.

Required Readings

Gonzales, Justo and Zaida Maldonado Perez. *An Introduction to Christian Theology*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002.

Campbell, Ted A. *Methodist Doctrine: The Essentials. 2nd Edition*. Revised Edition. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2011.

“*This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion*” (available at <https://s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/gbod-assets/generic/THM-BYGC.PDF>)

“*By Water and the Spirit*” (available at <https://s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/gbod-assets/generic/BWASWITHINDEXINTRO.PDF>)

Reference and Supplemental Readings

The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2016. Nashville: The United Methodist Publishing House, 2016.

The United Methodist Hymnal. Nashville: The United Methodist Publishing House, 1989.

Theodore Runyon. *The New Creation: John Wesley's Theology Today*. Nashville: Abingdon Press 1998

Course Assignments and Meeting Dates

Pre-Work

- Read *Methodist Doctrine* and *An Introduction to Christian Theology* prior to the first-class session, which will be held January 19. As you read each text, please capture any new or innovative ideas and insights that you encounter, and where applicable, record reflective notes to assist you in class discussion and exchange with fellow students.
- Watch Introduction, available on Course Connect.
- Make an online post in Course Connect introducing yourself (questions found in the prompt.) Please comment on at least two other students' posts.

Week One Class Meeting (January 19)

Introduction for Class; agree on meeting time; expectations; student introductions; explanation of Week One Work; how to submit work.

Week One Work (January 20 - 23)

- Write at least a 5-page paper (double-spaced) on your reflection on the book, **Introduction to Christian Theology**, noting the on the major theological themes raised in each chapter. Submit your paper by email by **11:59 pm, January 23. 15% of Grade**
- Course Connect video, paper and discussion (2 hr 30 min)

Week Two Class Meeting (January 26)

We will discuss Introduction to Christian Theology.

Week Two Work (Jan 27-30)

- Read Part II of *the Book of Discipline* (Doctrinal Standards and our Theological Task)
- Watch video on Course Connect, post in forum discussion.
- Write a reflection paper of at least 2 pages (double-spaced) covering the doctrinal standards and theological task of the United Methodist Church. Submit your paper by email by **11:59 pm., January 30. 10% of Grade**
- Course Connect reading, video & discussion (2hr. 20 min)

Week Three Class Meeting (February 2)

- We will discuss United Methodist Doctrinal Standards and Theological Tasks
- Respond to 2 other classmates' submission – over weekend before Monday's (2/2) class.

Week Three Work (Feb 3-6)

- Read “*By Water and the Spirit*” (link is found above in Supplemental Readings)
- Write a 3-page paper on your Understanding of Christian Baptism, **due February 6**
- Course Connect reading, videos & discussion (1 hr. 30 min)10% of Grade
- Go ahead and start reading Methodist Doctrine, by Ted Campbell – paper will be due Feb 13.

Week Four Class Meeting (February 9)

- Discussion of Christian Baptism

Week Four Work (Feb 10-13)

- Read Methodist Doctrine, Ted Campbell
- Write a reflection paper of at least 5 pages (double-spaced) of *Methodist Doctrine*. Submit your paper by email on **February 13**. 15 % of Grade
- Course Connect videos & discussion (1hr)

Week Five Class Meeting (February 16)

- Discussion of Methodist Doctrine

Week Five Work (Feb 17-20)

- Read “*This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion*” (link to document found under *Reference and Supplemental Readings*).
- Write a reflection paper of at least 2 pages (double-spaced) covering the United Methodist Church’s understanding of communion and how it relates to other rites of the Church. Submit your paper by email on **February 20**. 10% of Grade
- Course Connect reading, video & discussion (2hr. 20 min)

Week Six Class Meeting (February 23)

- Discussion of Holy Communion

Week Six Work (Feb 24-27)

- Grace: Prevenient, Justifying, Sanctifying
- Watch 3 Videos provided in Course Connect, then respond to the content.
- Comment on at least 2 of your classmates’ reflection.
- Write a 5-page paper on Grace and how it relates to your ministry and teaching, and especially in pastoral leadership. **Due February 27**. 10% of Grade

Week Seven Class Meeting (March 2)

- Discussion of GRACE

Week Seven Work (March 3-8)

- Final Paper: Write a 6-page paper (double-spaced) on two of the topics listed below indicating your ability to respond to the issue through your understanding of the role of the pastor as theologian. The essay should demonstrate that you have appropriate theological language to address the topics. Topics include suicide, human sexuality, racism, gun violence, war; or you

may choose another topic after consultation with the instructor. Submit your paper by email **by 11:59 pm, March 8. 15 % of Grade**

Week Eight Class Meeting (March 9)

- **Celebration of Remembrance of Baptism and Holy Communion**
- **Please have elements of Baptism and Communion ready for your use.**

Expectations for Written Work

Written assignments may be submitted in electronic form through the course connect or emailed to the instructor. Assignments should be in 12 point, Times New Roman font, using double spacing and one-inch margins on an 8.5" x 11" page. All quotations/citations must be clearly indicated and attributed to their source by means of footnote or endnotes.

Grading

Grading is indicated above in each week's list of readings and/or assignments. Please pay careful attention to the details of each, and the assignment's percentage toward the overall grade. *30% of your grade will be from class participation (Course Connect)*