 COS 122

Theological Heritage I: Introduction

Winter 2022 Term

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor: The Reverend Dr. Albert Mosley

Email: albert.mosley@mlh.org

Phone: 215.586.0577 (cell)

Please contact me via email for any questions or concerns related to general matters of course content, policies, or procedures. Generally speaking, I will respond to all emails within 24 hours.

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 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.

Required Readings

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

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

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.

“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>)

 Course Assignments and Meeting Dates/Times

This course will be taught online through Course Connect and ZOOM. All assignments will be due by the dates and times listed below.

**Pre-Work** (January 3 through January 16)

* Read the two required texts (*Methodist Doctrine* and *An Introduction to Christian Theology)* prior to the first class session on Zoom, which will be held January 21, 2022. As you read each text, please capture any new ideas and insights that you encounter, and where applicable, record reflective notes to assist you in class discussion and exchange with fellow students.
* Watch recorded lecture on Course and Syllabus Introduction, available on Course Connect.
* Make an online post in Course Connect introducing yourself (questions found in the prompt).

**Week One** (January 17 through January 23)

* Write at least a 5-page paper (double-spaced) containing a summary definition of the doctrines Campbell regards as essential to United Methodism. Submit your paper by uploading it to Course Connect **by 12:00 Noon, January 21**. *15% of Grade*
* ZOOM Session: Friday, January 21, 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
* ZOOM Session: Saturday, January 22, 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon

**Week Two** (January 24 through January 30)

* Read Part II of *The Book of Discipline* (Doctrinal Standards and our Theological Task)
* Watch *Brief UM Doctrine* video on Course Connect
* 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 uploading it to Course Connect  **by 11:59 P.M., January 28.** *10% of Grade*
* Post your reflection paper in the discussion forum.
* Respond to 2 other classmates’ submissions, reflecting upon similarities and differences in your interpretations of the United Methodist Church’s doctrinal standards and theological task (**due by 11:59 P.M., January 30**). *10% of Grade*

**Week Three** (January 31 through February 6)

* Write a reflection paper of at least 5 pages (double-spaced) on the major theological themes raised in each chapter of *An Introduction to Christian Theology.* Submit your paper by uploading it to Course Connect **by 11:59 P.M., February 4.**. *15% of Grade*
* Post your paper in the discussion forum.
* Respond to 2 other classmates’ submissions, reflecting upon the similarities and differences in your interpretations of the major theological themes in each chapter of *An Introduction to Christian Theology* (**due by 11:59 P.M., February 6**). *10% of Grade*

**Week Four** (February 7 through February 13)

* Read “This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion” (link to document found under *Reference and Supplemental Readings*).
* ZOOM Session: Friday, February 11, 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
* ZOOM Session: Saturday, February 12, 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon

**Week Five** (February 14 through February 20)

* Read “By Water and the Spirit” (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 baptism and how it relates to other rites of the Church. Submit your paper by uploading it to Course Connect **by 11:59 P.M., February 18**. *10% of Grade*
* Post your paper to the Course Connect discussion forum.
* Respond to 2 other classmates’ submissions, reflecting on similarities and differences in your summarization of the United Methodist Church’s understanding of baptism and how it relates to other rites of the Church (**due by 11:59 P.M., February 20)**. *10% of Grade*

**Week 6** (February 21 through February 27)

* Final Paper: Write a 6-page paper (double-spaced) on one 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 for addressing. Topics include: suicide, human sexuality, racism, gun violence, or you may choose another topic after consultation with the instructor. Submit your paper by uploading it to Course Connect **by 11:50 P.M., February 24.** *20% of Grade*
* ZOOM Session: Friday, February 25, 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
* ZOOM Session: Saturday, February 26, 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon

***All ZOOM sessions are required meeting times, and there is no way to make them up if you are unable to attend. Additionally, while in attendance you must have your camera on, and be in a place where you can be fully engaged without distraction (i.e. not in a moving vehicle).***

Expectations for Written Work

Written assignments may be submitted in electronic form through course connect or emailed to instructor. Assignments should be in 12 point, Times New Roman font, using double spacing and one-inch margins on a US Letter sized 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 assignment’s percentage toward the overall grade.