

MS Course of Study School

The Center for Ministry

Millsaps College

Jackson, MS 39201

Syllabus

COURSE NAME: COS 522: Theology in the Contemporary Church

TERM: Spring Session 2024 April 8 – May 27, 2024

• **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

This course covers significant individuals, movements, events, and theological developments from the nineteenth century to the present. Students will read selected primary sources, view various video materials and engage in classroom discussions.

• **WELCOME**

I'm so very glad to be joining in with you as we explore and delve into theology in the contemporary church. Not only am I looking forward to learning alongside and with you, I'm looking forward to learning the ways we might encourage and sustain each other as we learn together.

TEACHER:

Jon E. McCoy, MDiv, PhD

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- OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION
- SYLLABUS- *This syllabus can also be found on Course Connect and on the CFM website.*

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Students will be able to:

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 Liberation and Contextual theologies.

BOOK LIST **Course Texts:**

Required:

John Caputo What Would Jesus Deconstruct?
Daniel Migliore Faith Seeking Understanding

Reference:

Henry Bettenson & Chris Maunder Documents of the Christian Church

Supplementary:

Henry H. Knight From Aldersgate to Azusa Street: Wesleyan, Holiness, and Pentecostal Visions of
the New Creation

ASSESSMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

Class performance will be evaluated based upon: (1) class participation (20%); (2) brief thought papers (50%); and a final paper (30%).

This class includes 20 hours of learning—16 hours of Synchronous learning and 4 hours of Asynchronous learning. The synchronous portions of the class will occur via Zoom.

CLASS MEETINGS:

We will meet via ZOOM: ZOOM LINK WILL BE POSTED IN COURSE CONNECT

Mondays, April 8-May 21 from 6:00pm-8:00pm. (Please note that the *final class session* will be held *Tuesday, May 21, 6:00-8:00pm*)

CLASS ATTENDANCE:

Students must not miss more than 20% of class. This is four (4) hours. Students may only miss one two-hour synchronous Zoom session.

CLASS PARTICIPATION:

Participation in class is critical for the success of the learning environment. *It is important that each student offer their perspective as informed by careful engagement with the assigned readings.* Thoughtful questions, respectful inquiry, sincere discussions and even disagreements will help create a setting in which each of us will learn from each other. Taking notes, completing readings prior to the class sessions and being prepared exchange ideas are necessary to participate appropriately.

WRITTEN WORK:

Two-page thought papers will be submitted *based upon five of the twenty chapters* covered in the required texts. These thought papers will reflect the student's basic grasp of the overall concept presented in the chapter and the relevance of the concept for the contemporary church. The first paper will be due Sunday, April 19 by 10:00pm. (10 Pages total for this course). A *ten-page final paper* will be required which will address the question "**How would you deconstruct the primary worship service/style at your church and How would a different theological approach be beneficial to your church and the neighborhood surrounding your church?**" The final paper should include significant references to the concepts presented in the required, as well as the supplemental resources.

- **HONOR CODE & ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS**

Honor Code

All MSCOS students are required to abide by the MSCOS Honor Code, and to seek to uphold the highest standards of academic and pastoral integrity. The Honor Code of MSCOS requires that all material that a student submits must be that student's own work. Violations include: cheating, turning in work completed by someone else, copying work from the Internet or a book without citation, and plagiarism. Plagiarism is defined as knowingly claiming the published work of another person as one's own (including the lack of proper citation in a paper or other assignment). Any student not in compliance with the Honor Code faces one or more of the following actions: receiving a warning, failing the assignment, removal from the course, failing the course, being placed on probation, and expulsion from MSCOS. The MSCOS reports all Honor Code violations to the student's district superintendent and local pastor registrar.

Academic Expectations

The MSCOS includes pre-work, class time with the instructor, coursework to be completed outside of the classroom, and on-line work through Course Connect, our Learning Management System. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of deadlines set by the instructor and to complete all assignments on time. MSCOS faculty reserve the right to mark down or refuse to accept late assignments. All completed written assignments must include a cover sheet, signed by the student's mentor. The cover sheet is available for download on the Center for Ministry website. For electronic submissions, students are to scan the cover sheet and include it as an attachment. The MSCOS will use letter grades A, B, C, D, or F. Students must repeat classes graded D or F. The MSCOS sends grade reports to the Division of Ordained Ministry, the annual conference, and the Regional COS Director. In exceptional circumstances, students may request an incomplete for a course by submitting a written request to the instructor and the MSCOS director. Incomplete grades not resolved within 60 days will be recorded as an F.

COURSE ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE:

1. WEEK 1

- ZOOM LINK SEE COURSE CONNECT
- WEEK 1 TOPIC
Monday, April 8: Migliore, Faith Seeking Understanding, Chapters 1-3
- ANY ASSIGNMENT OR PAPERS

2. WEEK 2

- ZOOM LINK SEE COURSE CONNECT
- WEEK 2 TOPIC
- **Monday, April 15:** Migliore, Faith Seeking Understanding, Chapters 4-6

Caputo, What Would Jesus Deconstruct, Chapters 1-3
- ANY ASSIGNMENT OR PAPERS

3. WEEK 3

- ZOOM LINK SEE COURSE CONNECT
- WEEK 3 TOPIC
Monday, April 22: Henry H. Knight, From Aldersgate to Azusa Street: Wesleyan, Holiness, and Pentecostal Visions of the New Creation. (read Chapters 1-4)
- ANY ASSIGNMENT OR PAPERS

4. WEEK 4 ZOOM LINK SEE COURSE CONNECT

- WEEK 4 TOPIC
- **Monday, April 29:** Henry H. Knight, From Aldersgate to Azusa Street: Wesleyan, Holiness, and Pentecostal Visions of the New Creation (read chapters 5-7, 10, 18-20)
- ANY ASSIGNMENT OR PAPERS

5. WEEK 5

- ZOOM LINK SEE COURSE CONNECT
- WEEK 5 TOPIC
- **Monday, May 6:** Migliore, Faith Seeking Understanding, Chapters 7-8

Caputo, What Would Jesus Deconstruct, Chapters 4-6

- ANY ASSIGNMENT OR PAPERS

6. WEEK 6

- ZOOM LINK SEE COURE CONNECT
- WEEK 6 TOPIC
- **Monday, May 13:** Migliore, Faith Seeking Understanding, Chapter 9

Intro/Overview of Womanist/Feminist Theologians

- **Watch videos:**
- 1. “Journey to Liberation: The Legacy of Womanist Theology” by Katie Canon (12:24)
- 2. “Key Figures from Early Feminist Theology” by Rachel Muers (12:54)
- 3. “James Cone: Father of Black Theology—Christian Biographies” (13:08)
- 4. “Stanley Hauerwas Interview: Issues with the Evangelical Salvation Model” (3:47)
- ANY ASSIGNMENT OR PAPERS

7. WEEK 7

- ZOOM LINK SEE COURSE CONNECT
- WEEK 7 TOPIC
- **Monday, May 20:** Migliore, Faith Seeking Understanding, Chapters 10-11

Henry Bettenson & Chris Maunder Documents of the Christian Church: Section XIV
The Twentieth-Century World Churches: Justice, Peace and the Environment (p. 353-389)
- **Tuesday, May 21:**

Henry Bettenson & Chris Maunder Documents of the Christian Church: Section XV The
Twentieth-Century World Churches and Inter-Faith Dialogue (pp. 390-396)
- Migliore, Faith Seeking Understanding, Chapters 13-14
- ANY ASSIGNMENT OR PAPERS

8. WEEK 8

- ZOOM LINK
- WEEK 8 TOPIC
- ANY ASSIGNMENT OR PAPERS

Asynchronous Assignments:

- Pentecostals & Charismatics: Christian Denominations Family Tree Series (21 minutes and 39 seconds)
- Rowan Williams on Contemporary Theology (5 minutes and 6 seconds)
- God’s Generals Series: William J. Seymour (25 minutes and 5 seconds)

- Bettenson, Documents of the Christian Church, Section XII, XVI
- Methodist History: Early Voice for Women's Rights (4 minutes and 37 seconds)

- **OTHER**
- Additional assignments of video or reading will be added via Course Connect.