**COS 522: Theology in the Contemporary Church**

Spring Session 2023 [February 27 – April 10, 2023]

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This course covers significant individuals, movements, events, and theological developments from the nineteenth century to the present. Students will read selected primary sources.

**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.

**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

Assessment 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**—12 hours of Synchronous learning and 8 hours of Asynchronous learning. The synchronous portions of the class will occur both in-person and via zoom.

**We will meet on campus at Millsaps College:**

Friday, March 10 from 6:00-9:00pm and Saturday, March 11, 9:00am-3:00pm.

**We will meet via ZOOM:**

Saturday, March 25, from 10:00am-3:00pm.

**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. (10 Pages)

*A ten-page* ***final*** *paper* will be required which will address the question “**How Can the Church More Effectively Teach the Foundational Beliefs and Consistently Demonstrate the Application of These Beliefs?**” The final paper should include significant references to the concepts presented in the required, as well as the supplemental resources.

**COURSE / ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE:**

Friday, March 10: Migliore, Faith Seeking Understanding, Chapters 1-5

Saturday, March 11: Migliore, Faith Seeking Understanding, Chapters 6-9

Caputo, What Would Jesus Deconstruct, Chapters 1-3

Saturday, March 25: Migliore, Faith Seeking Understanding, Chapters 10-14

Caputo, What Would Jesus Deconstruct, Chapters 4-6

**Asynchronous Assignments:**

Read Knight, From Aldersgate to Azusa Street, Chapters 1 and 4

Bettenson, Documents of the Christian Church, Section XII, XVI

Watch video: Azusa Street Revival Eyewitness Accounts—Pentecostal History (from YouTube; 18:00 minutes)

Bishop Charles Harrison Mason: The Prayer (from YouTube 11:59 minutes)

**OTHER**

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