

COS 122  
Theological Heritage I: Introduction  
Winter 2023 Term (January 9 — February 17)

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 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. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. Revised Edition. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2011.

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

“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 the two required texts (*Methodist Doctrine* and *An Introduction to Christian Theology*) prior to the first class session, which will be held January 27-28. 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.

### Week One (January 9 through January 15)

- 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.
- 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 email **by 12:00 Noon, January 22. 15% of Grade**
- Course Connect video and discussion (30 min)

### Week Two (January 16 through January 22)

- 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 P.M., January 22. 10% of Grade**
- Course Connect reading, video & discussion (2hr. 20min)

### Week Three (January 23 through January 29)

- Complete Course Connect Assignments for the week
- Respond to 2 other classmates' submission
- Read "*By Water and the Spirit*" (link is found above in Supplemental Readings)
- In-Person Class January 27 - 28 at Millsaps
- Course Connect reading, videos & discussion (1hr. 30min)

### Week Four (January 30 through February 5)

- 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 email **by 11:59 P.M., February 12. 15% of Grade**
- Zoom Class February 5 (4hr.)
- Course Connect videos & discussion (1hr.)

### Week Five (February 6 through February 12)

- 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 **by 11:59 P.M., February 12. 10% of Grade**
- Course Connect reading, video & discussion (2hr. 20min)

**Week 6** (February 13 through February 17)

- 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 11:50 P.M., February 17. 20% of Grade**

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, and the assignment's percentage toward the overall grade. *30% of your grade will be from class participation (Course Connect & In-Person)*