



TSE 301 (2 credit hours)
WESLEYAN THEOLOGY

June 4-8, 2018
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Mark Conforti
mark@fumcsalisbury.org

SYLLABUS

Course Description

This course will examine closely the key features of John and Charles Wesley's theology, with particular attention given to how the brothers' theological convictions drove the Methodist movement. The course will also seek to appropriate Wesleyan theology for a modern day context, for both personal devotion and the life of the Church. Primary and secondary resources will be explored. While this class does not fulfill the *Discipline's* requirement for a course on United Methodist doctrine, this is an excellent elective option for students seeking ordination.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, "Wesleyan Theology," students should be able to:

- describe John Wesley's and Charles Wesley's approach to theology
- identify and reflect upon essential Wesleyan theological themes
- talk and write more fluently using Wesleyan language
- reference several interpreters of the Wesleyan heritage

Required Texts

Collins, Kenneth J. *The Theology of John Wesley: Holy Love and the Shape of Grace*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2007.

Maddox, Randy L. *Responsible Grace: John Wesley's Practical Theology*. Nashville, TN: Kingswood Books, 1994.

Recommended Texts

Cobb, John B. Jr. *Grace & Responsibility: A Wesleyan Theology for Today*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1995.

Jones, Scott J. *United Methodist Doctrine: The Extreme Center*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2002.

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

John Wesley's Sermons: An Anthology. Edited by Albert C. Outler & Richard P. Heitzenrater. Nashville: Abingdon, 1991.

Course Requirements & Evaluation

1. Attendance and Participation (10%)

As a graduate student, you are expected to attend every part of every class. Do not arrive late and do not plan to leave early. If you are a student pastor, please alert your congregation of the seminary's requirements, so that you can be theologically formed to serve them faithfully. Participation includes asking questions, responding to questions, and active engagement during the lectures and discussions. While you may take notes on a tablet or laptop, you are being trusted to stay away from unnecessary technological distractions.

2. Short Paper (10%)

The course's Short Paper will reflect upon the theological themes found within one of Charles Wesley's hymns. An excellent Short Paper will dig deeply into the hymn's text, make connections to Scripture, and explain why this theme needs to be sung (one page).

The Short Paper should follow Turabian style, be double spaced with one inch margins, in 12 point Times New Roman. You are expected to consult <http://hoodseminary.libguides.com/Writing> for guidelines on brainstorming, thesis statements, and citations. Plagiarism is not tolerated.

3. Class Notes (10%)

Take notes through each class, either handwritten or typed. Submit them by Monday, June 11 at Noon, either by email or in person. Excellent class notes will follow the flow of the Class Schedule, reflect the lectures & discussions, be well-organized, and be neat. One must not follow Turabian style for submitted class notes.

4. Student Presentation (20%)

At the end of class on Tuesday, June 5, during the Student Presentation Planning time, each student will select a one theme to study independently. On Friday, June 9, each student will offer a 10 to 15 minute presentation on his or her selected sermon. An excellent Student Presentation will

- a) define the theme in Wesleyan language,
- b) note Scriptural references,
- c) reference at least 3 primary sources
- d) compare/contrast this theme with another Christian tradition,
- e) offer insight into why this theme is meaningful today.

All five of these points should appear on a one page hand out to be dispersed throughout the class. Grading will be based upon both the presentation and the one page hand out. One must not follow Turabian style for the Student Presentation's one page hand out.

5. Final Paper (50%)

The course's Final Paper will respond to the following three questions:

- a) What is an appropriate and faithful understanding of Wesleyan theology? (2 – 3 pages)
- b) What contribution has Wesleyan theology made to the universal Church? (2 – 3 pages)
- c) How has Wesleyan theology given shape to the Church? (9 – 10 pages)
- d) How will your study of Wesleyan theology impact your ministry? (1 – 2 pages)

The Final Paper should reference primary resources, secondary resources, and Scripture. Follow Turabian style, be double spaced with one inch margins, in 12 point Times New Roman. You are expected to consult <http://hoodseminary.libguides.com/Writing> for guidelines on brainstorming, thesis statements, and citations. Plagiarism is not tolerated.

The Final Paper is due on Friday, June 22 at 5:00 pm.

Grading Scale (following the Grading Scale found in the Hood Theological Seminary Catalogue)

A (93-100)	A- (90-92)	
B+ (87-89)	B (83-86)	B- (80-82)
C+ (77-79)	C (73-76)	C- (70-72)
D (60-69)	U (0-59)	

Class Schedule

Monday, June 4

1:00 pm	Welcome, personal introductions, and going over the syllabus
2:00 pm	John & Charles Wesley's influences
2:30 pm	John Wesley, the theologian, and Charles Wesley, the hymn writer
3:00 pm	<i>break</i>
3:10 pm	Overview of the evening readings
5:00 pm	<i>dismiss</i>

Evening reading: Collins, *Theology*, pp. 1–16; Maddox, *Responsible Grace*, pp. 15–25, 35–47

Tuesday, June 6

1:00 pm	Review of the previous evening's readings
2:30 pm	Hymn of the Day
3:00 pm	<i>break</i>

3:10 pm Overview of the evening readings

4:50 pm Student Presentation Planning

5:00 pm *dismiss*

Homework: start your Student Presentation

Evening Reading: Collins, *Theology*, ch. 3; Maddox, *Responsible Grace*, ch. 4

Wednesday, June 7

1:00 pm Review of the previous evening's readings

2:30 pm Hymn of the Day

3:00 pm *break*

3:10 pm Overview of the evening readings

5:00 pm *dismiss*

Homework: continue your Student Presentation

Evening Reading: Collins, *Theology*, chs. 5–6, 8; Maddox, *Responsible Grace*, chs. 6–7

Thursday, June 8

1:00 pm Review of the previous evening's readings

2:30 pm Hymn of the Day

3:00 pm *break*

3:10 pm Overview of the evening readings

5:00 pm *dismiss*

Homework: Finish your Student Presentation

Evening Reading: Collins, *Theology*, ch. 7; Maddox, *Responsible Grace*, ch. 8

Friday, June 9

1:00 pm Student Presentations

3:00 pm *break*

3:10 pm Concluding Points

5:00 pm *dismiss*

Course Policies

Late Policy

Late work will be penalized a third of a letter-grade beginning immediately after it is due. It will then be penalized another third of a letter-grade every additional second day up to one letter-grade off. **Any extensions must be requested of the professor before the due date.** For papers more than 7 days late, students must consult with the professor to see if the paper will still be accepted during the term. Incomplete and resubmission petitions may still incur a late penalty. (The professor reserves the right to waive part or all of the late penalty in cases where doing so would allow a student to pass the class with the minimum acceptable grade [C].)

Accommodations

Anyone having a documented condition or learning disability that will require an accommodation should review the Seminary policy detailed in the HTS Student Handbook and follow the steps outlined therein.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism occurs whenever anyone takes credit for someone else's *words or thoughts*. It can range in severity from inadvertently omitting a citation to printing an entire paper off the Internet. When in doubt, cite. The names of students who plagiarize will be submitted to the Academic Dean. As explained in the seminary's plagiarism policy, a student's first plagiarism offense will result in a letter and a mandatory meeting with a faculty member to discuss plagiarism. A second offense will result in an automatic 'U' for the course and the suspension of the student for one semester. A third offense will result in the student's dismissal from the seminary. For more information, see the Plagiarism lecture slides on myHood and visit <http://www.plagiarism.org/>. For proper citation technique, refer to Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, 8th ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013).

Feel free to discuss assignments with one another. To help avoid plagiarism, however, do not share your papers with anyone else in the class. If an instance of plagiarism involves one student's copying from another student, both papers will be penalized.