



THE **wesleyan** CHURCH

## **Education & Clergy Development**

### **Course: Advanced Theology**

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Class Meets: Online via ZOOM 6:00pm- 10:00pm EST

Class Dates (2018): May, 8, 15, 22, June 5, 12, 19 (Break for Memorial Day)

### **Syllabus Overview**

What you will find in this syllabus

- Course Description
- Course Objectives & Learning Outcomes
- Required Textbooks
- Pre-Course Assignments
- Live Class Information
- Post-Course Assignments
- Grade Information
- Policies & Requirements
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### **Course Description**

After a survey theology course, students are ready to dig deeper into specific theological areas. Therefore, this advanced theology course will focus on the existence, essence, nature and attributes of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Connections will be made between these theological topics and their importance for pastors in their ministries. Further, students will practice making specific applications of material learned.

## Course Objectives & Learning Outcomes

During this class, the student will...

- 1) Be able to understand and use Christian theological terminology when speaking of the three Persons of the Godhead.
- 2) Be able to clearly articulate one's theological commitments in the ministry setting.
- 3) Understand more fully the global and historical character of the theology of God and the ministry that stems from that theology.
- 4) Respect and critically appropriate a variety of Christian ways for speaking of God.
- 5) Have grown in knowledge and love for God.

## Required Textbooks

Students are responsible for ordering their textbooks and may choose where to purchase them. Some students purchase their textbooks from Wesleyan Publishing House at [www.wphonline.com](http://www.wphonline.com) (as available) and from Amazon.com. I usually try DealOz. The website searches the internet for the best new, used and rental prices.

Kärkkäinen, Veli-Matti. (2017). *The Doctrine of God: A Global Introduction*. (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic. ***Be sure to purchase the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition dated 2017.***

Kinlaw, Dennis. (2005). *Let's Start with Jesus: A New Way of Doing Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

Boyd, Gregory & Eddy, Paul. (2002). *Across the Spectrum: Understanding Issues in Evangelical Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.

## Pre-Course Assignments

1. Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance.
2. Read Kärkkäinen chapters 1-4. Use whatever means best fits your learning style (for example: bullet-points, journaling, scans of well-marked pages, etc.) to show that you have read the book.
3. Read Kinlaw chapters 1-3. Show you have read the book as you did with Kärkkäinen.
4. Observe the God-talk in your local church and life in general. What words are used to describe God? Record your observations, using bullet-points, essay, or charts. Again, use whatever means best fits your learning style. However, note that I will grade on whether the work is substantive. As a hint, think of work equivalent to a 500-word essay. ***Assignments 2,3 & 4 will be turned in through email ([karen.tucker@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:karen.tucker@asburyseminary.edu)) immediately after class May 8.***
5. We all have different schedules. If you want to work ahead, finish reading both Kärkkäinen and Kinlaw, showing that you have read the material using the same method as you used

above. Otherwise, you may finish reading the books as I assign homework chapters throughout the class.

### **Live Class**

Students are required to attend all Zoom class sessions.

Each week's homework will be given at the end of class and will include:

- a. Completion of application reflection.
- b. Entries into personal dictionary of theological terms.
- c. Textbook reading with documentation and/or summary as explained below.

Homework will be turned in immediately after each class through email to

[karen.tucker@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:karen.tucker@asburyseminary.edu)

### **Application Reflection papers**

I want students to be able to relate the course material to the life of the church and the practice of Christian ministry. Hence you will be asked to do things that you might do in actual ministry (i.e., write a prayer of adoration; answer common counseling questions about God and evil; write an Advent meditation; etc.). It is important that these reflections INTEGRATE what you have learned and are not simply "off the cuff" responses. The length of these application reflections is about 500 words each.

### **Personal Dictionary**

Each week, you will receive a list of theological words discussed in the week's Zoom class. Please do the following two things:

- 1) Present the definitions for each word. To do this, summarize *in your own words* the content learned during the Zoom time and reading, including as many key concepts as possible. Understanding requires transforming ideas into your own language and symbols. There is not a word count for this section. However, the answers must be substantive.
  
- 2) In about 250 words, describe one or two personal experiences that the week's theological words brought to mind. Here is your chance to be a storyteller. Tell the experience in "first person," describing action and quoting exact words you remember hearing or saying. Be as specific and concrete as you can, including who, what, when, where details. However, make sure that your personal anecdotes are clearly grounded in the concepts learned in the class and reading.

The point of writing these future sermon illustrations is that if you cannot connect the course content with past and present personal realities, you will never be able to teach or otherwise use what you are learning with any conviction and effectiveness.

## **Textbook Reading and Documentation**

In addition to reading Kärkkäinen and Kinlaw as described under Pre-course Assignments, Boyd & Eddy will be read in preparation for discussion. Boyd & Eddy does not require the same proof that you have read the required chapters. I will know based on your class participation.

After the discussions, written summaries of your views will be assigned as homework. These approximately 250-word summaries may prove helpful for your DBMD interviews. They also may help when you are asked why Wesleyans believe as they do instead of the way another denomination does.

## **Post-Course Assignments**

The post-course assignments are:

- a. Final Application Reflection
- b. Final Dictionary Entries
- c. Final Summaries from class discussions of issues contained in Boyd & Eddy

**ALL POST-COURSE ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE June 26.**

## **Grades**

Reading of books -20%

Participation – 20%

Reflection papers – 20%

Dictionary entries – 20%

Summaries after discussion – 20%

## **Policies & Requirements**

### **Attendance**

Students are required to attend all class sessions. Failure to attend at least 80% (16 hours) of the minimum required seat time (20 hours) will result in failure of the course. Any and all absences within that 20% window must be approved by the professor prior to the course in writing (e.g. email). Do not ask for permission to be excused during the class or after the absence has already occurred.

## **Grading Scale**

100-97 A  
96-94 A-  
93-91 B+  
90-88 B  
87-85 B-  
84-81 C+  
80-76 C  
75-71 C-  
70-68 D  
67 or below F

**Students must get a “C” or above to pass the course and receive credit for ordination.**

## **Due Dates**

All assignments are due on the date indicated in the syllabus or verbally communicated by the instructor. Assignments may not be submitted to the professor any later than 1 week after the last day of class. Assignments not submitted by the due dates will result in an automatic “0” for the assignment.

## **Extensions**

Extensions may be (but are not guaranteed) granted for sickness, serious injury, or death in the student’s immediate family or for similar extenuating circumstances. *When in doubt, please contact the professor.* Also, no assigned work will be accepted after the final due date, unless an extension has been granted in writing (e.g. email) from the professor. Communication is the key!

## **Papers**

All written papers must be typed. Papers should be double spaced on 8.5x11 paper using 12 point font in a normal, easy to read type style (Arial, Cambria, Times New Roman, etc.). Margins should be 1” on all sides. Each paper should include at least: student’s full name, course title, and date.

## **Ordination Deadline**

If the student is a candidate for ordination in a given year, coursework must be completed as follows: the final grade submission deadline (12 weeks after the last day of class) must be at least 40 days before the student’s district conference. Professors are not required to fulfill any requests for grade submission prior to this deadline.

## **Plagiarism**

Ministerial students in The Wesleyan Church are expected to exhibit honesty and integrity in their personal, professional and academic life and work. As Christians, we are called to a high standard of honesty. As such, students in our ministerial training courses are required to adhere to strict academic guidelines.

The following is borrowed from a college catalog.

Plagiarism — This is defined as offering the work of another as one's own. It is an attempt to deceive by implying that one has done work that was actually done by another. Faculty and students are honor bound to show that ideas and words match with the sources used and thus demonstrate that honest research has been done. Examples of plagiarism include (but are not limited to) the following:

1. Copying all or part of a theme, examination, paper, library reading report, or other written work from another person's production
2. Submitting as one's own work that which was wholly or partially done by another so as to appear to one's professor to be more accurate or skilled in one's work than one actually is
3. Quoting material from any source without proper documentation
4. Summarizing or paraphrasing from any source without proper documentation
5. Misrepresentation of documentation or resources
6. Using in collateral reports or book reviews the opinion of a professional literary critic or of a campus friend as though it were one's own original thought
7. Submitting workbook answers copied from another person or working in a group and submitting an identical set of answers for each member of the group without explicit permission from the professor

Cheating — Examples of cheating include (but are not limited to) the following:

1. Use of unauthorized prepared materials (cheat sheets) for answering test questions
2. Giving aid to another student during a test or quiz
3. Gaining answers to test questions from others during testing periods
4. Signing another person's name to the attendance record
5. Claiming to have done laboratory work or outside reading that was not done
6. Submitting the same work for more than one course without the prior approval of the professors involved

Education and Clergy Development policy for all students receiving credit through non-accredited ministry training programs (e.g. FLAME, FLAMA, Correspondence Courses, Cross Training, District Extension Classes, Equipping for Ministry, etc.):

- 1) Any instance of plagiarism (whether intentional or not) will result in an automatic "F" for the particular assignment and may also result in an automatic failing of the course.
- 2) A repeat offense will result in an automatic failing of the course.
- 3) A third offense will result in an automatic withdrawal from a credentialing track in The Wesleyan Church.

**Additional Resources (These are not required but may be helpful to you in the future)**

biblicaltraining.org Free online Bible & seminary classes. (One seminary professor I had teaches Revelation.)

carm.org Christian Apologetics and Research Ministry Website

Steve Harper. *The Way to Heaven.*

Thomas Oden. *Classic Christianity: A Systematic Theology*  
*John Wesley's Teachings: God and Providence*  
*John Wesley's Teachings: Christ and Salvation*  
(Oden's books are not easy reading.)

Stephen Seamands. *Ministry in the Image of God: The Trinitarian Shape of Christian Service*  
*Wounds That Heal: Bringing Our Hearts to the Cross*