



THE **wesleyan** CHURCH

Education & Clergy Development

Updated: 4/17/2017

Course: Introduction to Theology

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Class live via ZOOM: Thursdays- 6:00 pm -10:00 pm

Class Meets May 10, 17, 24, June 7, 14, 21 (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
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- Grade Information
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Course Description

Introduction to Theology is designed to provide a student with a firm foundation of belief in the Christian faith. Using the Apostles' Creed to structure the course, basic doctrines of the Bible are introduced.

Course Objectives & Learning Outcomes

During this class, the student will...

- understand major doctrine of historic Christian orthodoxy;
- interact strongly with the Apostles' Creed;
- be able to apply orthodoxy to current ministry setting;
- grow in comfort with theology and develop in being a theologian;

Required Textbook

- Olson, Roger E. 2002. *The Mosaic of Christian Belief: Twenty Centuries of Unity and Diversity*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity.

Pre-Course Assignments

By May 8th:

- Read pp. 11-109 of *The Mosaic of Christian Belief: Twenty Centuries of Unity and Diversity*.
- Write a four-five page paper on the Apostles' Creed. Write on how the Apostles' Creed came to be and the purpose of it (you may include other aspects as well). Also include a summary of what you currently believe regarding each statement in the Apostles' Creed. The purpose of this writing assignment is to give you a broad understanding of the Apostles' Creed and for you to put in writing what you currently believe on foundational aspects of the Christian faith.

Live Class

Students are required to attend all live class sessions.

Students are required to have read the assigned reading prior to class as the reading will provide the foundation for our time together. See reading schedule below.

In class assignments will be given related to the reading material.

Course Schedule:

| Date | Topic | Reading |
|------------|---|--|
| 1. May 10 | "I believe..." <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apostles' Creed, Canonicity | Olson, pp. 11-109 |
| 2. May 17 | "I believe in God, the Father Almighty" <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attributes of God, the Trinity | Olson, pp. 111-154 |
| 3. May 24 | "...Maker of Heaven and Earth..." <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creation, Providence, Humanity, Sin | Olson, pp. 155-222 |
| 4. June 7 | "And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord. I believe in the forgiveness of sins" <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jesus Christ: Human and Divine, Salvation | Olson, pp. 223-286 |
| 5. June 14 | "I believe in the Holy Spirit" <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Perfected in Love, the Holy Spirit | John Wesley's Sermon: "Christian Perfection"; Chap. 4 in <i>Theology of John Wesley</i> by K. Collins ¹ ; Video: Holy Spirit and OT, John Oswalt ² |

¹ Will be provided.

² <http://seedbed.com/feed/the-holy-spirit-in-the-old-testament/>

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|------------|--|--------------------|
| 6. June 21 | "I believe in ... the Communion of Saints, the Resurrection of the Body, and the Life Everlasting" | Olson, pp. 287-357 |
|------------|--|--------------------|

Post Course Assignments

You may write an 8-10 page research paper on any theological topic. Or, you may present an idea to me on what sort of a final project you would like to do. The project has to convey what you have learned throughout the semester and be connected with the course content. Final projects and papers need to be approved by me (Brittany), via email (traftonb@kingswood.edu), by May 24, 2018.

ALL POST-COURSE ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE July 5, 2018

Grades

- Attendance and Participation 20%
- Pre Course Work10%
- Reading of Course Material 50%
- Final Project 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 automatic 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.

Books

Required Textbooks

Students are responsible for ordering their textbooks and may choose where to purchase them.

- Olson, Roger E. 2002. *The Mosaic of Christian Belief: Twenty Centuries of Unity and Diversity*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity.

Due Date

All assignments are due on the date indicated in the syllabus or verbally communicated by the instructor. Professors are required to submit grades to Education and Clergy Development at a maximum of 4 weeks after the last day of class. Assignments may not be submitted to the professor any later than 2 weeks after the last day of class. Assignments not submitted by the due date 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! Professors may reduce a student’s grade by 20% for each week past the due date (even in the event of approved extensions). Education and Clergy Development reserves the right to refuse extension and override the professor as it deems necessary.

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. It is advisable to include your name on each page of the paper.

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.

Bibliography

Abraham, William J. "Christian Perfection." In *The Oxford Handbook of Methodist Studies*, edited by William J. Abraham and James E. Kirby, 587-601. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Baillie, D.M. *God was in Christ: An Essay on Incarnation and Atonement*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1948.

Barth, Karl. "§12 God the Holy Spirit." In *Church Dogmatics: The Doctrine of the Word of God*. Ed. G.W. Bromiley and T.F. Torrance. Study Edition ed. Vol. I.1. New York: T&T Clark, 2009.

Bevins, Winfield H. "The Historical Development of Wesley's Doctrine of the Spirit." *Wesleyan Theological Journal* 41, no. 2 (2006): 161-181.

Bryant, Barry E. "Original Sin." In *The Oxford Handbook of Methodist Studies*, edited by William J. Abraham and James E. Kirby, 522-539. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Collins, Kenneth J., and Jason F. Vickers, eds. *The Sermons of John Wesley: A Collection for the Christian Journey*. Nashville, Tennessee: Abingdon Press, 2013.

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

Coppedge, Allan. *Holy Living* (MS). Wilmore, Kentucky: The Barnabas Foundation, 2011.

Coppedge, Allan. *Portraits of God: A Biblical Theology of Holiness*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity, 2001.

Deschner, John. *Wesley's Christology: An Interpretation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Francis Asbury Press, 1985.

Olson, Roger E. 2002. *The Mosaic of Christian Belief: Twenty Centuries of Unity and Diversity*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity.

Staples, Rob L. "John Wesley's Doctrine of the Holy Spirit." *Wesleyan Theological Journal* 21, no. 1 and 2 (1986): 91-115.

Wesley, John. *Wesley's Notes on the Bible*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Francis Asbury Press, 1987.

Wynkoop. "Theological Roots of the Wesleyan Understanding of the Holy Spirit." *Wesleyan Theological Journal* 14, no. 1 (1979): 77-98.

Other Course Documents

Collins, Kenneth J. Chapter 4 in *The Theology of John Wesley: Holy Love and the Shape of Grace*. Nashville, Tennessee: Abingdon Press, 2007.

Oswalt, John. Video. *The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament*.
<http://seedbed.com/feed/the-holy-spirit-in-the-old-testament/>.

Wesley, John. Sermon: "Christian Perfection"