United Methodist Studies: History, Theology, and Polity
January 3-5, 2018
Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University

Instructors:
Dr. Ted Campbell, Professor of Church History
Dr. Rebekah Miles, Professor of Ethics and Practical Theology
Bishop Max Whitfield, Bishop in Residence and Director of the Center for Religious Leadership

Course Description and Purpose:
The United Methodist Studies course will provide a one-stop-shop introduction to Methodist history, theology, and polity in a hybrid format in order to deepen students’ understanding of and appreciation for Methodism today.

This course, while required for students enrolled in a United Methodist Certification track, will also be beneficial for employees in a United Methodist local church, for teachers of United Methodist confirmation classes, and for new and longtime members in United Methodist churches.

Required Materials:
- The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2016
- Peter Browning, “Homosexuality, Ordination & Polity” (Download Attachment A)
- Ted Campbell, Methodist Doctrine: The Essentials
- Ted Campbell, “United Methodist Basics”
- Mary Martin, video lecture on United Methodist Theology
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3osBXhTHSLg
- John Wesley, “The Scripture Way of Salvation”
- Charles Wood, video lecture on Ecclesiology

Pre-Assignments:
- United Methodist History
  1. Read “A Brief History of The United Methodist Church” in “United Methodist Basics,” and/or view the lecture based on the document on Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1y2-qyeWi0Q
  2. Read Part II of The Book of Discipline and the excerpt from John Wesley’s sermon on “The Scripture Way of Salvation” in “United Methodist Basics”
  3. Write a brief essay (ca. 5-7 pages, double-spaced) in which you address the
following:

1) Name and discuss three aspects of historic Methodist life that continue to shape The United Methodist Church today.

2) Name and discuss one aspect of historic Methodist life that does not continue to shape The United Methodist Church today, but which (in your opinion) ought to continue to shape the UMC today.

3) Which of the items in the General Rules seem out-of-date or irrelevant to you, and which might be the most relevant for the recovery of a Methodist ethos (way of life) today?

- United Methodist Theology
  1. Read pp 11-99 in Campbell's *Methodist Doctrine: The Essentials*
  2. Review Part II in *The Book of Discipline*
  3. Watch Martin’s video on United Methodist Doctrine:
  4. Choose three ideas or themes from the reading and/or video. For each idea or theme, write one double-spaced page (three pages total) about the theme and how it could influence your ministry

- United Methodist Polity
  1. Watch Wood’s video lecture by on Ecclesiology
  2. Read Browning’s article, “Homosexuality, Ordination & Polity”
  3. Read the following pages in Warner’s *The Method of our Mission*
     - Introduction: pp 1-9
     - UM Mission: Called & Formed for Ministry pp. 69-127
     - Conferences: pp. 131-145
     - Organization Charts: pp. 166-167
  4. Write an essay that answers the following two-part question: a) What are the primary duties of bishops, and b) How do those duties effect the organization and fulfillment of the mission in your local church? In your essay, demonstrate close interaction with Warner’s *The Method of our Mission* and *The Book of Discipline* (Paragraphs 414-416) on Superintendency. The essay should be approximately three, doubled-spaced pages in the Times New Roman font with equal attention to both parts of the essay question.

Wednesday, January 3

1:00-2:00 Welcome, introductions, opening discussion of assignments

2:00-6:00 Methodist History with Professor Ted Campbell
    Topics to be covered:
    John Wesley’s Life in Communities
    Methodism in the Southwest
Connections to UM Doctrine

Thursday, January 4

8:30-12:30  Methodist Theology with Professor Beka Miles
Topics to be covered:
   The Heart of Wesleyan Theology: Introduction to Central Themes
      and Key Issues
   The Way of Salvation: God, Grace, Humans, and Salvation
   No Holiness but Social Holiness: Christian Community, the Means
      of Grace, Social Witness, and Discipleship

12:30-1:30  Lunch

1:30-5:30  Methodist Polity with Bishop Max Whitfield
Topics to be covered:
   Implications of United Methodist’s DNA on governance &
      organization
   Structuring the local church for missional fruitfulness
   Understanding the Social Principles & the Judicial Council
   Lesser known aspects of United Methodist policy & practices

Friday, January 5

8:30-10:30  Final words on Methodist History, Theology, Polity:
            Campbell, Miles, and Whitfield

10:30-11:30  Panel on Current & Future Prospects in the United Methodist Church:
              Campbell, Miles, and Whitfield

11:30-12:30  Lunch

1:00  Optional tour of Methodist collection in Bridwell Library