

Perkins Regional Course of Study School 2021  
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## **422 Theological Heritage IV: The Wesleyan Movement**

Session 1: January 19, 2021 – February 26, 2021

### **Course Description**

This course deals with the history of significant individuals, key events, and the theology and practices of the Methodist movement. Using the categories of grace, faith, and holiness, the student will come to be familiar with the Wesleyan theological heritage.

### **Learning Goals**

By the end of the course, the students will be able to:

1. Understand and reflect upon the movements, significant personalities, and event that contributed to the revivals of the 18th century especially in the lives and ministries of John and Charles Wesley.
2. Understand and communicate the vision of holiness and the theology of grace that formed the Wesley brothers and the structures of the Methodist movement.
3. Identify and discuss the historical development of North American Methodism including the development of the episcopacy and ordination.
4. Reflect theologically over their own Wesleyan spiritual formation.
5. Identify themes within specific sermons of John Wesley.
6. Communicate how these themes relate to the context of ministry of the student.
7. Describe attributes and dynamics of the early Methodist societies.

### **Required Texts**

2016 BOOK OF DISCIPLINE of the United Methodist Church

Selections from The Works of John Wesley (Public Domain, Embedded in Course, Available from Professor)

Heitzenrater, Richard. *Wesley and the People Called Methodists*. 2nd Edition. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2013.

Richey, Russell, Kenneth Rowe, and Jean Miller Schmidt. *American Methodism: A Compact History*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2012

Maddox, Randy. *Responsible Grace: John Wesley's Practical Theology*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1994. ISBN 0-687-00334-2

## Pre-Class Assignments

**These assignments will contribute 20 points to the 100 points in this course.**

### Pre-class Assignment #1 Wesleyan Doctrine of Salvation

Read the following sermons of John Wesley (available from the professor upon request):

#40 Christian Perfection

#43 The Scripture Way of Salvation

#85 On Working Out our Own Salvation

In five to six pages, prepare a written response to the following questions:

1. John Wesley describes salvation as a process operating upon the human soul. Summarize the purpose and the steps of this process.
2. How does God's grace and agency relate to human works in salvation? Is this "works righteousness"?
3. How does John Wesley's understanding of salvation compare to other popular Christian beliefs on salvation that you have experienced? Describe your personal experiences of this doctrine and compare this to John Wesley's doctrine.
4. How do you think Wesley's understanding of salvation shaped the practical form of ministry of early Methodists?

### Evaluation Criteria:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the three assigned texts.
- Critical skills: Summarize, organize, explain Wesley's doctrine of salvation and compare it to others.
- Practical skill: Explanation of the ministerial implications of this doctrine.

### Pre-class Assignment #2: Personal Testimony and Wesleyan Heritage

In no more than six pages:

1. After reading Heitzenreiter, *Wesley and the People called Methodists*, select, identify and describe in detail two to four practices of ministry that characterized the Methodist movement that you have experienced in your own Christian journey. (You may want to also reference Wesley's own description of the Methodist societies, classes, and bands found in the John Wesley Works.) Describe the purpose of these structures or practices and why do you think they were or were not effective.
2. Reflect biographically on your own spiritual formation in the Methodist tradition as it relates to these practices. Share how methods traditionally used by the early Methodists were necessary to reach and disciple you along your journey into the United Methodist Church.

Example: The practice of field-preaching if your spiritual journey was shaped by an open-air preaching, evangelism, or worship event.

Evaluation criteria:

- Identification and description of the practices used by the early Methodists.
- Effectiveness in relating practices to need in the context of ministry in the historical and contemporary setting.
- Relate these Methodist practices to personal testimony in order to understand the impact of the Wesleyan Heritage on the student's own life and spiritual journey.

### **Policies for Pre-Class Assignments**

1. Deadline for submission of pre-class assignments for Perkins 2020 Course of Study School:
2. Pre-class assignment completion policy  
Pre-class assignments for the first session are due Jan 11. Instructors have discretion to lower a student's grade for the pre-class assignments and their overall course grade for late submission of pre-class assignments. Submission of all pre-class assignments by the first day of class is required to attend the class. Students who do not have pre-class assignments completed by the first day of class will be required to withdraw from the course without a refund.
3. Students are encouraged to contact their instructor if they have any questions about the pre-class assignments for their courses. They should also contact their instructor if they expect to submit their pre-class assignments following the submission deadline.
4. All pre-class assignments will be submitted by uploading the Microsoft Word documents to Perkins Course of Study School's learning management system (LMS), called "Canvas."
5. COSS Writing Style  
All Perkins Course of Study School courses use the same style of writing, known as the Chicago/Turabian style of writing. Basic examples of citations for written assignments are available for reference in the COSS Student Policies and on the COSS web site.

All students are encouraged to purchase the following book that is the basis for submitting written work using the required formats for citations/footnotes.

**Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, Ninth Edition: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers (Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing) Ninth Edition**

**ISBN-10:** 022643057X

**ISBN-13:** 978-0226430577

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