

Perkins Regional Course of Study School 2023  
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## **422 Theological Heritage IV: The Wesleyan Movement**

**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 The 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

One of the most important aspects distinguishing the Methodist/Arminian tradition from other Protestant traditions, is its understanding of the nature of salvation. After reading these sermons, in five to seven pages, please prepare a written response to the following questions:

1. What are common ideas about salvation you have encountered among Christians?
2. Summarize Wesley's doctrine of salvation. How are we saved? From what are we saved? What are the stages of salvation? What is the relationship of salvation to perfection?
3. Compare and contrast Wesley's doctrine of salvation with other Protestant ideas about salvation.
4. Consider and comment upon contemporary moral and social implications of these differences among professing Christians.

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 social and moral significance of this doctrine.

Pre-class Assignment #2: Personal Experience of the Wesleyan Spiritual Practices.

1. Read Heitzenreiter's text, *Wesley and the People Called Methodists*, with special attention to spiritual practices that are adopted over time by Wesley's Methodists, beginning with the Holy Club at Oxford and moving forward into the post-Aldersgate revival. A spiritual practice is an intentional activity or strategy that intends to form or strengthen someone in the Christian faith. These practices can be individual or corporate, private (alone or small group) or public.
2. Describe in detail four of these spiritual practices, how they came into Methodism, what purpose they served, and what role they played within the Methodist revival.
3. From your own life experience, share how experience with any of these early Methodist practices shaped your own spiritual journey, even if those practices happened outside the United Methodist Church.

Example: Field-preaching. You may have come to faith in Christ at an open-air evangelistic event.

Evaluation criteria:

- Identification and critical description of the practices of the early Methodists.
- Effectiveness in relating practices to personal life experience and testimony.

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

1. Deadline for submission of pre-class assignments for Perkins 2023 Course of Study School: **June 9, 2023**

2. Pre-class assignment completion policy

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 may 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 in Microsoft Word format and uploaded to the 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