

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

Professor: Rev. John P. Feagins
Email address: jpeagins@gmail.com
Phone number: (210) 326-4996

Synchronous classes online: March 26-April 30, 2026.

Meets every Thursday from 6:00-8:00 P.M.

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

Supplemental Text

Wigger, John. *Taking Heaven by Storm: Methodism and the Popularization of American Christianity*. Urbana and Chicago, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1998. ISBN 0-252-06994-3

Pre-Class Assignments
30 points toward total course grade

Pre-class Assignment #1 The Wesleyan Doctrine of Salvation (15 points)

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

An important doctrinal difference between the Methodist/Arminian tradition and other Protestant traditions is the understanding of salvation. After reading these sermons, in five to seven pages, prepare a written response to the following questions:

1. What are the main points of Wesley's doctrine of salvation? How are we saved? From what are we saved? How does this salvation take place? What is the outcome of salvation? What is the relationship of salvation to holiness / perfection?
2. Compare and contrast Wesley's ideas about salvation with concepts taught in other Protestant traditions, especially Calvinist traditions?
3. Comment upon how these differences would impact expectations of Christian conduct, identity, privilege, and social justice.

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. (15 points)

1. A spiritual practice is an activity encouraged or practiced by individuals or a group serving the mission of the movement. As you read Heitzenreiter's text, *Wesley and the People Called Methodists*, make note of the spiritual practices of early Methodists. Choose five of these practices, describe the practice, how it began within Methodism, and what purpose it served.
2. Reflect the role any of these practices may have had upon your own journey into United Methodist ministry. In the form of a personal testimony (spiritual autobiography), devote 3-5 pages to sharing about the impact of such practices upon your spiritual journey and ministerial vocation even if you encountered these practices outside of the United Methodist Church.

Example: Field-preaching. You may have come to faith in Christ at an open-air evangelistic event or participated in sharing the gospel in a public setting.

Evaluation criteria:

- Identification and description of the spiritual 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 2026 Course of Study School: Friday, March 20, 2026.
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