

COURSE OF STUDY IN OHIO  
COS 412 – WESLEYAN MOVEMENT  
Summer, 2010; Methodist Theological School in Ohio

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COS 412 – Wesleyan Movement:

The intent of the course is to provide critical reflection upon significant individuals, decisive events, and fundamental tenets of the Christian faith as found in the development of United Methodism. Utilizing categories of grace and faith as a focusing lens, the student appropriates particulars of the Wesleyan heritage and enters into the Church's ongoing task of interpreting, articulating, and enacting the gospel in contemporary life. Objectives include:

- ☐ Review of factors in the English Reformation, the Puritan revolution, and German pietism which illuminate the Evangelical revival;
- ☐ Introduction to John, Charles, & Susanna Wesley with emphasis upon the ministry and theology of John, and the development of Methodist societies within 18th century Anglicanism;
- ☐ Consideration of significant theological and historical developments in Methodism and in the Evangelical United Brethren tradition in 19th and 20th century America;
- ☐ Reflection upon pressing theological and church polity issues facing contemporary United Methodism;
- ☐ Appreciation for and appropriation of the contributions of historical theology;
- ☐ Continued growth of the pastor's identity as theologian.

TEXTS: (Required)

1. United Methodism in America: A Compact History – John G. McEllhenny (ed.)  
Abingdon Press (1992)
2. Wesley and the People Called Methodists – by Richard P. Heitzenrater;  
Abingdon Press; (1995)
3. Wesleyan Essentials in a Multicultural Society – by Ted A. Campbell and Michael  
T. Burns; Abingdon Press (1991)
4. United Methodist Discipline – 2008
5. Wesley for Armchair Theologians – by William J. Abraham; Westminster John  
Knox Press; 2005
6. John Wesley's Sermons online at: <http://gbgm-umc.org/umhistory/wesley/sermons/>  
(See June assignment for specific sermons.)

TEXTS: (Suggested)

1. John Wesley's Life and Ethics – by Ronald H. Stone.
2. John Wesley: A Theological Journey – by Kenneth J. Collins.
3. The Theology of John Wesley: Holy Love and the Shape of Grace – by K. J. Collins.
4. The Elusive Mr. Wesley (2nd edition) – by Richard Heitzenrater
5. Recapturing Wesley's Vision – by Paul Wesley Chilcote

TEXTS: (Suggested) (Continued)

6. The Wesleyan Tradition: A Paradigm for Renewal - by P.W. Chilcote (ed.)
7. Wesley and the Quadrilateral: Renewing the Conversation - by W. Stephen Gunter,  
et.al.
8. Our Calling to Fulfill: Wesleyan Views of the Church in Mission - M. Douglas  
Meeks (ed.)
9. John Wesley's Sermons - An Anthology - ed. By Albert Outler and R.P. Heitzenrater

READING REQUIREMENTS:

FOR JUNE:

1. Of Wesley's sermons (online), read "Free Grace" and "Justification by Faith", and any three others of the following: "The Case of Reason Impartially Considered"; "The Great Privilege of Those That Are Born of God"; "The Means of Grace"; "On Faith"; "On Love"; "The Scripture Way of Salvation".
2. "Wesley and the People Called Methodist" by Heitzenrater.
3. The UM Discipline (2008) - pp. 9 - 20, & 41 - 86.

FOR AUGUST:

1. United Methodism in America - by McElhenny
2. Wesleyan Essentials in a Multicultural Society - by Campbell and Burns
3. Wesley for Armchair Theologians - by W.J. Abraham

WRITTEN REQUIREMENTS:

FOR JUNE:

1. Write a one to two page summary of Wesley's thought in each of the sermons assigned for reading. Please note JW's method. In addition, and based on the sermons you read, define or describe what faith is. Are their degrees of faith for JW? What is the controversy between faith and works with regard to salvation? Do we look at faith (and works) the same way today? Define grace and its categories (types) as described by JW. How do you see faith and grace as focusing lenses for your ongoing tasks of interpreting, articulating, and enacting the gospel in your present situation? Write the amount you deem necessary to answer these questions on grace and faith. (These will be a basis of class discussion.)
2. Context is both important and multi-level. Heitzenrater's text will tell you how JW's theology and motivations were shaped by personal relationships (especially family), by life in the church (local & denominational) of his time, and by what ideas, events, or movements were occurring in his culture. In a paper, reflect on some of your core beliefs (especially related to faith and grace) and ministry foci (or motivations) and identify the personal relationships, church life, and cultural ideas, people, and events that shaped them. The paper should be a minimum of three full pages, but I will read as much as you write. The issue is to be thoughtful and aware.

3. Write a review of Heitzenrater's text ("Wesley and the People Called Methodist"). Provide a general overview of the text, an evaluation as to the text's usefulness (or not) and for whom, what you found to be most and least helpful, and (most importantly) what was learned of Heitzenrater's description of

the Wesleyan Movement that would be most helpful for understanding and shaping life in the UMC today. (Write as many pages as you need to in order to say what needs to be said.)

FOR AUGUST:

1. In Abraham's book, chapters 1 & 2 concern JW's life and context. The other chapters are about key theological issues for JW. For chapters 1 & 2 write a paragraph or so of what strikes you or interests you the most about JW's life and context. For each of the other chapters, write 3 - 5 sentences that describe the meaning or intent of the focal theological points under consideration. Then, answer either #2 or #3 as follows:
2. Write a review of the McEllhenny text. Say a word as to the limits and helpfulness of the use of the categories of "worship", "education", "mission", and "publication" as they are used to describe the development of "United Methodism in America".
3. Read all of the Campbell/Burns text. Then answer the questions at the end of two chapters. (You may choose which two. You may answer the questions as a whole narrative, or individually. If you choose the former, make sure all of the questions are addressed. The length of your collective answers(s) will not necessarily depend on the number of questions per chapter.) Length: Write enough to answer them substantively.

Some Thought Questions for Class Conversation:

These are topics pertinent to our class theme. Give some thought to them. You may wish to make some notes. They are either "core issues" "lead ins" to them.

1. What do you think is meant by historical theology?
2. On p.99 of 'Sermons', Outler writes: "He [Wesley] had a clear enough view for himself of the Christian essentials but never ever tried to formulate them in an unrevisable statement." Why do you think this might be?
3. Why is it important for you to be a self-conscious theologian?
4. Can an institutional Church reclaim its theological spirit or heritage?
5. Would Wesley's doctrine or perfection "fly" today?
6. Are there clear examples of continuing expressions of predestination or antinomianism that United Methodism (as a modern JW) would contend with in American Christianity, secular life, or in other religions?
7. McEllhenny says (p22), "John's religious experience did not always reflect the confidence evident in his sermons . . . He even lost, at times, the assurance of salvation." Is this an acceptable view for boards of ministry in the credentialing process?
8. Describe the societies, classes, and bands formed by Wesley.
9. What were the issues and ambiguities of remaining part of the Church of England or of forming an independent church?
10. What divisions and unifications occurred in American Methodism, and why?
11. How and why did the United Brethren and Evangelical Association begin? Identify Otterbein, Boehm, and Albright.
12. Who was Richard Allen? What was the Central Jurisdiction and why did it exist?
13. Describe the developing role of women in American Methodism. Who are some of the important persons in this history?

14. What was JW's position on baptism? On communion?
15. What brought about the Christmas conference of 1784 and what were the consequences?
16. Describe the elements and working of the quadrilateral?
17. What was the meaning of "assurance" for JW? What does it mean today, if anything?
18. Do JW's sermons appeal more to your mind or your emotions? Why? What is lost or gained by his approach(es)?
19. Would you invite John Wesley to dinner?

General Notes:

1. Papers from the June class will be returned at the August class. Papers from the August class will be returned by mail providing the student provides a self-addressed stamped envelope large enough to hold them.
2. Please make sure your name is on each paper. Papers should be typed and double-spaced. If you wish to write more than is required in order to say all you think is necessary, please do so.
3. I look forward to your thoughtful and prepared participation in class. We learn best when we all actively share in the learning and teaching.
4. Please bring all texts to class.

"Theology is a peculiarly beautiful discipline. Indeed, we can confidently say that it is the most beautiful of all disciplines. To find academic study distasteful is the mark of the Philistine. It is an extreme form of Philistinism to find, or to be able to find theology distasteful. The theologian who labors without joy is not a theologian at all. Sulky faces, morose thoughts and boring ways of speaking are intolerable in this field." (Karl Barth)

"Superficiality is the curse of our age. The doctrine of instant satisfaction is a primary spiritual problem. The desperate need today is not for a greater number of intelligent people, or gifted people, but for deep people." (Richard Foster)



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 COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL OF OHIO

COS 412

**The Wesleyan Movement**

Dr. Wayne F. Albertson

*Summer Weekends 2010*

			Retail Price	Disc.	Clergy Price
<b>Required Books</b>					
_____	<i>Wesley for Armchair Theologians</i>	Abraham	16.95	20%	13.56
_____	<i>Wesleyan Essentials in a Multicultural Society</i>	Campbell/Burns	13.00	20%	10.40
_____	<i>Wesley and the People Called Methodists</i>	Heitzenrater	28.00	20%	22.40
_____	<i>United Methodism in America</i>	McElhenny	14.00	0%	14.00
_____	<i>Book of Discipline of the UMC, 2008</i>		20.00	0%	20.00
<b>Suggested Texts</b>					
_____	<i>Recapturing Wesley's Vision</i>	Chilcote	14.00	20%	11.20
_____	<i>The Wesleyan Tradition: A Paradigm for Renewal</i>	Chilcote	28.00	0%	28.00
_____	<i>John Wesley: A Theological Journey</i>	Collins	36.00	20%	28.80
_____	<i>The Theology of John Wesley</i>	Collins	38.00	20%	30.40
_____	<i>Wesley and the Quadrilateral</i>	Gunter, et al	22.00	0%	22.00
_____	<i>The Elusive Mr. Wesley (2nd edition)</i>	Heitzenrater	37.00	0%	37.00
_____	<i>Our Calling to Fulfill</i>	Meeks	30.00	0%	30.00
_____	<i>John Wesley's Sermons – An Anthology</i>	Outler/Heitzenrater	28.00	20%	22.40
_____	<i>John Wesley's Life and Ethics</i>	Stone	28.00	20%	22.40
<b>Money Saving Offers</b>					
_____	<i>Book of Discipline &amp; Book of Resolutions</i>	Print Editions	30.00	0%	30.00
_____	<i>Book of Discipline &amp; Book of Resolutions</i>	CDRom Edition	20.00	0%	20.00
<b>Also Available</b>					
_____	<i>Wesley for Armchair Theologians (Audio CD)</i>	Abraham	21.98	20%	17.58

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