

Course of Study School of Ohio
514 – Theology and the Practice of Ministry
Summer Intensive 2010 –August 9-13, 16-20

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Course Description

Theology and the Practice of Ministry, COS 514, integrates the role of the practicing pastor with the church's theological heritage and its particular Wesleyan expression. Each participant is expected to think, speak, and act from a theological foundation. Current issues, events and our historical roots will serve as the context. Living each day as God's gifted and called leaders requires pastors to balance study, prayer, and action.

Course Objectives

- Development of one's own credo, a written expression of one's understanding of essential Christian doctrine.
- Focus upon your role as a pastoral theologian, to think theologically about everyday activities and contemporary events in political, economic, and social areas of life.
- Reflection upon a variety of theological perspectives in order that faithful critique is applied to those who claim to be God's voice in our time.
- Integration of one's theological understanding in the practice and evaluation of ministry.
- Encouragement of lifelong theological reading, reflection, and growth.

Texts

The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church. (Nashville: The United Methodist Publishing House, 2008).

Greenleaf, Robert K. The Servant as Leader. (Essay, The Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership), this is Chapter I of Servant Leadership: A Journey Into the Nature of Legitimate Power and Greatness. (New York: Paulist Press, 1977).

Moltmann, Jürgen. The Crucified God: The Cross of Christ as the Foundation and Criticism of Christian Theology (San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1991).

Runyon, Theodore. The New Creation: John Wesley's Theology Today. (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998).

Assignments for August 9-13

1. **Read** the section “Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task” (paragraphs 101-104) in The Book of Discipline.
2. **Read** pages 1-167 and 222-233 of The New Creation: John Wesley’s Theology Today by Theodore Runyon.
3. Reflect theologically on a contemporary issue (spiritual, local, national or global) that impacts the life of your community and/or congregation. **Write** a two page (double spaced) “Church Newsletter Column” on this issue for your congregation. **Write** a three to four page academic theological paper to reflect more deeply and/or broadly on the issue.
4. **Read** the Servant as Leader Essay by Robert Greenleaf.
5. **Write** the first draft of your credo. A credo is a written statement of belief describing *your understanding* of essential Christian doctrine. *Do not* copy or quote from The Book of Discipline or other sources. This is not an exercise in repeating doctrinal formulations that you have learned. This is an exercise in expressing in your own terms what you believe. Your credo should flow as a coherent narration of your own project as a pastoral theologian and servant leader. Your credo should include at least a paragraph on *each* of the following topics:
 - Bible
 - Trinitarian Theology
 - Human Situation in History, including how we face suffering and evil
 - Salvation/Liberation in the light of Eschatology
 - The Nature of the Church and its Future

The first draft will not be graded but will be used in class discussions and developed further

Assignments for August 16-20

1. **The final draft of your credo must be received at the beginning of class on Wednesday, August 18.**
2. **Read** The Crucified God by Jürgen Moltmann. This is a provocative and challenging book, we will read through page 196 in segments for class during the Second Week. Understand what you can, and bring your questions into your participation in class discussion. You will be asked to demonstrate your learning from this book with a Quiz. Moltmann is Trinitarian so there will be three short answer questions.

ACADEMIC HONOR POLICY

The Course of Study School of Ohio requires that all material submitted by a student in fulfilling academic requirements must be the original work of the student.

Violations of academic honor include any action by a student indicating lack of integrity in academic ethics. Violations include, but are not limited to, cheating and plagiarism.

Cheating includes seeking, acquiring, receiving or passing on information about the content of an examination prior to its authorized release or during its administration. Cheating also includes seeking, using, giving or obtaining unauthorized assistance in any academic assignment or examination.

Plagiarism is the act of presenting the published or unpublished words or ideas of another [including online resources] as if it were one's own work. A writer's work should be regarded as his or her own property. Any person who knowingly (whether intentionally or unintentionally) uses a writer's distinctive work without proper acknowledgement is guilty of plagiarism.

A student found guilty of a violation of the academic honor code, after a review of the case, may be subject to one or more of the following actions:

- (1) warning
- (2) probation
- (3) suspension for the remainder of the course
- (4) dismissal from the Course of Study School of Ohio
- (5) failing grade for the course.

Regardless of the outcome, a letter will be sent to the student's district superintendent and Board of Ordained Ministry.



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 COS 514

Theology and the Practice of Ministry
 Rev. John Wallace
Summer Intensive 2010

			Retail Price	Disc.	Clergy Price
Required Books					
_____	<i>Book of Discipline of the UMC, 2008</i>		20.00	0%	20.00
_____	<i>The Crucified God</i>	Moltmann	25.00	0%	25.00
_____	<i>The New Creation: John Wesley's Theology Today</i>	Runyon	25.50	20%	20.40
Source for Essay that is Required Reading					
_____	<i>Servant Leadership</i>	Greenleaf	24.95	20%	19.96
Money Saving Offers					
_____	<i>Book of Discipline & Book of Resolutions</i>	Print Editions	30.00	0%	30.00
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