

Course of Study 122
Theological Heritage I: Introduction

Saint Paul School of Theology
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the student to theological reflection in the Wesleyan tradition. Basic terms, tasks, and methods of Christian theology will be introduced. Representative classical themes will be defined and illustrated. The course provides a foundation for further historical and theological study.

Students will be able to:

1. Examine their understanding of faith, sin, salvation, grace, and the place of doctrine in the life of the Church.
2. Use and understand classical theological terms and themes.
3. Critically consider the sources of theological reflection, including scripture, tradition, experience and reason.
4. Reflect theologically as a resource for pastoral ministry.

COURSE TEXTS

Students are required to acquire and read the assigned books. Substitutions are not allowed. Students will be accountable to the faculty for the content of the assigned books. Students are expected to cite the required texts in their written work.

Required Texts

1. Beth Felker Jones, *Practicing Christian Doctrine: An Introduction to Thinking and Living Theologically* (ISBN 9780801049330)
2. Ted Campbell, *Methodist Doctrine: The Essentials*, Revised Edition (ISBN 978-1426727016)
3. Paul Wesley Chilcote, *Recapturing the Wesley's Vision: An Introduction to the Faith of John and Charles Wesley* (ISBN 978-0830827435)

Recommended

1. Henry H. Knight III, *John Wesley: Optimist of Grace* (Cascade Books (February 28, 2018); ISBN 978-1625648389).
2. Roger E. Olson, *Counterfeit Christianity: The Persistence of Errors in the Church* (Abingdon Press (August 4, 2015) ISBN 978-1426772290).

References

The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

NOTE: There is no advanced assignment for this course.

ON-LINE SESSIONS

For each of six weeks beginning January 28 there will be two forums per week on the assigned readings.

ON-CAMPUS SESSION (March 8-9)

Class attendance is mandatory for passing. Completion of readings, preparation for class discussion, and timely completion of written work is also expected.

ESSAY ON THEOLOGY: An assignment will be posted on Moodle and will be due to be completed and uploaded on Moodle by March 22.

GRADING

Moodle Forums	50%
Essay on Theology (Post on Moodle by Mar. 22)	50%

COURSE OUTLINE

Online Portion: The Moodle Forums

Each of six weeks students are to:

Post in the two forums on Moodle for that week by midnight Wednesday.

Respond to two posts by other students in each of the two forums (a total of four responses) by midnight Friday.

The Forums are arranged around the assigned readings. Each forum has one or two questions for you to address. You will find those questions on Moodle. Your initial posts should be at least four sentences for each question but can be longer. Many of the questions may need a longer response. Your posts in response to others should be a minimum of two sentences but can also be much longer.

Failure to post by midnight Wednesday in both Forums constitutes an absence from class that week. Your grade is determined by both your initial posts by Wednesday and your responses to the posts of others on Friday.

It would be wise to begin your reading as soon as possible, not waiting for November 11. With online sessions you cannot get behind and catch up later.

While most of the Forums are on the book by Beth Felker Jones (and two on the book by Paul Wesley Chilcote) you are responsible for reading all three required texts.

If you run into problems making the deadlines for posting in a given week contact the instructor.

On-Campus Portion: March 8-9

Introduction

The Mission of God

Jesus Christ: The Work of Christ

- a. Resurrection
- b. Cross (Atonement)

The Work of the Holy Spirit

The Triune God

Incarnation: The Person of Christ

Eschatology: The New Creation

Theodicy: The Problem of Evil

The Way of Salvation

Grace and Love

Original Sin and Prevenient Grace

Justification, New Birth, and Assurance

Sanctification and Christian Perfection

The Means of Grace

Conclusion