

COS 122 Theological Heritage I: Introduction

Prerequisite – must take before any other (or more) classes, per GBHEM.

Course Goals – 122 Theological Heritage I: Introduction

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.

Text-Book List

Unless otherwise noted, please use most recent edition.

Required Texts for COS 122 Theological Heritage I: Introduction

1. Beth Felker Jones, *Practicing Christian Doctrine: An Introduction to Thinking and Living Theologically* (Baker Academic (April 15, 2014));
ISBN 978-0801049330.
2. Ted Campbell, *Methodist Doctrine: The Essentials, Revised Edition* (Abingdon Press; Revised edition (Oct. 1, 2011));
ISBN 978-1426727016.
3. Paul Wesley Chilcote, *Recapturing the Wesley's Vision: An Introduction to the Faith of John and Charles Wesley* (IVP Academic (January 28, 2004));
ISBN 978-0830827435.

Reference Texts

1. *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2016* (The United Methodist Publishing House (Dec 16, 2016));
ASIN B01N9JOOKE
2. *United Methodist Hymnal*

Recommended / Supplementary Texts

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.

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Advance Assignments or Pre-Class Assignments:

Assignment 1:

1. Write a 5-page paper (maximum) exploring The Way of Salvation and the distinctive Wesleyan doctrines pertaining to soteriology. This may be based on Campbell's book while incorporating other texts into the paper.

Scoring:

Identify doctrines pertaining to salvation	20%
Discuss prevenient grace	20%
Discuss justification/New Birth	20%
Discuss sanctifying grace	20%
Apply the doctrine to your ministry setting	20%

Assignment 2:

2. Write a 10-page paper (maximum) on Christology. The paper should reflect an understanding of Christological heresies, a scriptural foundation for your Christological understanding and an explanation of Chalcedonian Christology. The paper should also include practical Christology in your ministry setting. What difference does Jesus make?

Scoring:

Understanding the heresies	30%
Scriptural understanding	30%
Chalcedon	30%
Practical application	10%

Saint Paul Course of Study School Expectations and Preparation:

The mission of the Course of Study School is to educate and share in the formation of Local Pastors as effective and faithful spiritual leaders of the ministry of the Church, the body of Jesus Christ in the world.

Our agreement with the Division of Ordained Ministry, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry in Nashville is that we will provide a year-round experiential and classroom learning process. This process assumes cooperation between the instructors, the students and clergy mentors in the annual conferences.

The Division of Ordained Ministry recommends a guideline of 15-20 pages of written work for each course. That translates into 30 to 40 pages of written work for each module. If a student takes four classes (two modules), that individual will write about 80 pages during the year. Those papers are based on the reading of approximately 4-5 textbooks per class.

To keep our promise of **year-round learning**, and to keep the assignments from accumulating and overwhelming a student, the book list is available for students so that they can **begin reading** as early as possible. We encourage students to put dates on their calendars and plan for reading days, as well as time for writing. You know the demands of certain religious seasons such as Advent, Lent, and Easter. Work around them.

The writing manual approved by the Saint Paul Course of Study School faculty is: **Turabian's A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 7th edition**. It is recommended that each student have a good collegiate-size American English dictionary of the student's choice in paperback or hardcover and copyrighted since 1998.

Related to Paper Structure

- Use Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th edition. You may find further help at www.eturabian.com.
- Unless otherwise indicated, all papers must be typed, 1" margins on all sides, Arial 11 or Times New Roman 12, double-spaced, with indented paragraphs (no additional line spacing between paragraphs), and page numbers. Cover pages and bibliography are not included in assigned page count.
- Cite any quoted sources with appropriately formatted footnotes (not endnotes or parenthetical notes); list these and other sources within an appropriately formatted bibliography. If you use a scriptural reference, cite the translation you use in a footnote and the actual Bible in the bibliography. Each paper should have a bibliography.
- Do not begin sentences with "and" or "but." Do not use contractions. Do not include parenthetical commentary in your papers.
- Use inclusive language when referring to God and/or humankind.
- Use appropriate formatting for page numbering, book titles, etc.
- Double-check spelling, grammar, punctuation, sentence fragments, tense agreement, etc.

Related to Content

- Read the assigned books thoroughly.
- Resist the temptation to write a book report! Instead, focus your writing on what the author(s) have to say about the assigned topic(s), integrating your own thoughts about the topic(s).

Related to Critical Thinking

- Read the assigned books thoroughly, making notes of what resonates within you and what brings up resistance in you.
- Are there other books or resources that would be appropriate? Bring them into the conversation.
- Practice being in dialogue with all the authors and their material. Who would say what? How would you and the other writers respond? This practice dialogue will not be included in your papers, but it will help you to move into critical reflection.
- If you strongly agree or disagree with an author's point of view, offer your own affirmation or disagreement, supporting your view with additional resources.
- Watch for unsupported "leaps" made by a writer. What, in your opinion, is missing? Use additional resources to fill in the gaps.

Related to Timeliness

- Submit all your assignments on time.

In the event of an emergency situation, a student may request an **extension** from the Director and assigned faculty to the due date for advance assignments. This request may be made via email, and if granted, may extend to a *three-week maximum*. A student may only receive **two extensions during their tenure as a Saint Paul** Course of Study student – so use them wisely. If assignments are not completed, the policies of the COS are such that the student may be asked postpone participation in a particular session of COS until that individual can complete all the work.

Learning can be fun! Consider your reading as a dialogue with authors – some will be more interesting than others. All will have something to teach us. Share the learning process with friends or colleagues or interested members of your congregations.

Book List:

Each course has Assigned:

Required Texts. Students are required to read them, use them in their assignments and are accountable in the classroom for any discussion or presentation of materials.

Reference Texts (when applicable) are also required; assignments assure the use of the recommended books; they are not classroom texts. Assigned texts and recommended books help the student build their own library.

Recommended (Supplementary) Texts (when applicable) are valuable, but optional texts if a student wants to pursue an area of ministry.

Students may acquire the books in a variety of ways: Order from Cokesbury.com; order from another vendor such as Amazon etc.; purchase a used book; borrow from a colleague; Kindle or e-book.

Instructions for sending assignments to COS office at Saint Paul School of Theology:

Course of Study Students are to upload their papers through Moodle. **You will need to set up a Moodle account in order to submit your assignments.** If you need assistance in setting up your Moodle account, please contact cos@spst.edu for informational handouts. **Additional questions on Moodle can be directed to our IT help desk at helpdesk@spst.edu (hours: M – F 8:00am – 5:00pm).**