

## COURSE OF STUDY BASICS

Course of Study is The United Methodist Church's theological education program designed for licensed local pastors and those certified for ordained ministry. At Saint Paul School of Theology, COS school prepares pastoral leaders for local church ministry. This year-round experience teaches foundational classes that expose students to both theory and application. At Saint Paul, we offer all 20 courses multiple times a year in a flexible format to help you complete your educational requirements on your terms.

### CLASS ELEMENTS

COS school classes have a standardized class and assignment structure for clarity and flexibility.

#### 20 Contact Hours

2-hour virtual orientation, 10 hours online lectures and forums, and 6-hour class day online. Contact hours may vary per term.

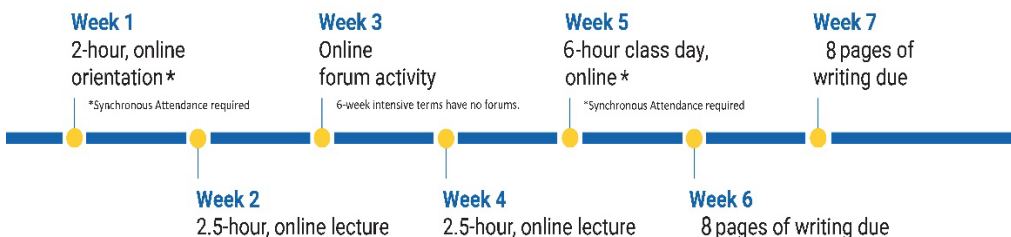
#### 2 Required Readings

Carefully selected textbooks on major thoughts

#### 1 Growing Leadership Portfolio

Three writing assignments to analyze the course texts, reflect on personal leadership development, and plan a practical ministry project.

### CLASS STRUCTURE



Learn more at [www.spst.edu/cos](http://www.spst.edu/cos)

### Course of Study School at Saint Paul School of Theology

*Course of Study is the United Methodist Church's (UMC) theological education program designed for licensed local pastors and those certified for ordained ministry. At Saint Paul School of Theology, under the direction of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM), as per the Book of Discipline of the UMC, the Course of Study School (COS) prepares pastoral leaders for local church ministry. This year-round experience teaches foundational classes that expose students to both theory and application. At Saint Paul, we offer all 20 courses multiple times a year in a flexible format to help you complete your educational requirements. The COS School is a part of the larger Christian community of Saint Paul School of Theology.*

#### Saint Paul COS School – 7 Week Class Format:

Saint Paul Course of Study classes follow this weekly format:

- Week One: A 2 hour introductory class is held via Zoom synchronous and is mandatory
- Week Two: A 2.5 hour lecture via zoom synchronous for participating at that time and/or asynchronous watching later
- Week Three: Moodle forums week to for classmate interaction. N/A to 6 week term
- Week Four: A second 2.5 hour lecture follows
- Week Five: A 5 hour class meeting via Zoom synchronous and is mandatory
- Week Six: First 6 to 8-page paper due
- Week Seven: Second and Third 3 to 5-page papers due

#### Admissions:

Saint Paul COS School has instituted an online admissions form. Answer the pertinent questions, which then uploads you into our Populi student management system. The registrar and help desk will be notified, so that new login credentials can be provided to you.

#### Saint Paul COS School Email:

Course of Study students are an important part of our greater seminary family. As a Course of Study student at Saint Paul, you will receive an spst.edu email that will allow access to Microsoft Office 365. Your login credentials will be issued to you within a week after admission via our helpdesk@spst.edu.

#### Class Registration and Fees:

Class registration opens 2 months before the semester and closes 3 weeks before class starts. There is a 6 student class minimum, 20 max. Detailed schedules are found on our website. 14 to 20 classes are offered during the summer, and then again throughout the year in fall, winter, spring. You will register online through Populi. You will then receive an automatic email to obtain approvals from your DS and LPR. \$75.00 non-refundable per class registration is due immediately, followed by \$300.00 tuition per class. Pay online or via check. Check with your Conference or District or Church for scholarship aid.

#### Moodle and Populi:

Moodle is our online class and learning platform and is used by all Saint Paul students. Students access Moodle with spst.edu login credentials & password. Moodle is critical: the syllabus, booklist, assignments, and various other modules are here, along with due dates, grading, and attendance. You can NOT register for class in Moodle, as you will register in Populi. Populi, is our student management platform. Inside of populi is your way to register for classes, pay your invoiced bill using a credit card or checking account, locate receipts and unofficial transcripts.

#### Saint Paul COS School – Library and Books:

As a student, you have library access. This is via a physical library on our campuses, and many online libraries that are afforded to all seminary and COS students. COS required books may be available.

The United Methodist Book of Discipline (paragraphs 310 thru 319 for COS) provides guidelines to Local Licensed Pastors to begin their UMC COS journey. Some of the basics include:

- Make initial contact with an elder / deacon in your local parish.
- Read *The Christian as Minister*.
- Visit with your District Superintendent (DS).
- Contact your board of ordained ministry for help with the discernment process.
- If affirmed and a setting is available, you may be appointed to part-time or full-time ministry.
- Attend licensing school facilitated by your annual conference's board of ordained ministry.
- Request for your six digit PID number from GBHEM. [cosregistrar@gbhem.org](mailto:cosregistrar@gbhem.org).
- Register to attend COS School. New Saint Paul COS Students, submit admission form.
- Receive login credentials to access Populi, so you may register yourself into class(es).
- After registering, use your credentials to access your class page inside of Moodle.
- Locate syllabus in Moodle, which includes your booklist and assignments.

#### Completed the COS program?

#### You may be interested in Advanced COS / MACM Degree:

The Master of Arts in Christian Ministry, MACM, degree is ideal for part-time ministers, lay leaders, and community leaders seeking to broaden competencies to serve diverse populations. Additionally, persons interested in Advanced Course of Study (ACOS) or preparing for Deacon Ordination in the United Methodist Church would benefit from this degree. The MACM is a two-year, 38-credit hour professional master's degree program created to prepare you to explore and experience fully the ways God is calling you to minister to the church, and to the world. This would include United Methodist History, Doctrine, and Polity. Please contact Shannon Hancock in our Saint Paul School of Theology Admissions Department at [Shannon.Hancock@spst.edu](mailto:Shannon.Hancock@spst.edu) or 913-253-5084. She will be able to explain this degree in more detail, explain the seminary admission process, and any fees involved. You may also want to contact our Regional Director of COS, [Lucas.Endicott@spst.edu](mailto:Lucas.Endicott@spst.edu).

- Saint Paul students can pursue the United Methodist courses in 2 ways:
  - As a degree seeking student pursuing the [MACM degree UM Studies Specialization](#) which is a 38-credit hour degree program, or
  - As a non-degree seeking student taking the courses independently resulting in an ACOS certificate.



[www.spst.edu/COS](http://www.spst.edu/COS)

#### Social Media Connections:

<https://www.facebook.com/spst1958>  
<https://www.instagram.com/spst1958/>  
<https://www.linkedin.com/school/spst1958>  
<https://www.youtube.com/saintpaulschooloftheology>

COS School Administrative and Business Office:

**Saint Paul School of Theology**

**COS School**

13720 Roe Avenue, Building C, C137

Leawood, Kansas 66224

913-253-5051

## CLASS SCHEDULES for 2025/2026

### Course of Study School at Saint Paul School of Theology

All classes online

You may take more than one class each semester, except winter. Each color represents a different class day.

#### DRAFT

Dates will remain the same, modules may change, classes may be added or dropped.

SAINT PAUL - COURSE OF STUDY - 6 WEEK INTENSIVE - ONLINE - SUMMER 2025 - 13 classes/4 sessions							
Course (& Session)	ZOOM Intro - 2 hrs	LECTURE - 2 hrs		LECTURE - 2 hrs	ZOOM CLASS - 5 hrs	Assignment Due - 6-8 pgs	Assignments Due - 3-5 pgs ea
121, 321, 421 - M1	MONDAY 7/14	MON 7/21		MON 7/28	MON 8/04	MON 8/11	MON 8/18
122, 322, 422, 522 - T1	TUESDAY 7/15	TUE 7/22		TUE 7/29	TUE 8/05	TUE 8/12	TUE 8/19
123, 223 - W1	WEDNESDAY 7/16	WED 7/23		WED 7/30	WED 8/06	WED 8/13	WED 8/20
124, 324, 424, 524 - Th1	THURSDAY 7/17	THU 7/24		THU 7/31	THU 8/07	THU 8/14	THU 8/21
SESSIONS are as follows: M1 is MONDAYS Starting in WEEK 1 & meeting/due dates are MONDAYS, M2 is MONDAYS starting in WEEK 2; T1 - TUESDAYS 1, T2 - TUESDAYS 2; W1 - WEDNESDAYS 1, W2 - WEDNESDAYS 2; TH1 - THURSDAYS 1, TH2 - THURSDAYS 2.							
SEE SCHEDULE ON WEBSITE OR SYLLABUS FOR EXACT TIMES <a href="http://www.spst.edu/cos">www.spst.edu/cos</a>							

SAINT PAUL - COURSE OF STUDY - ONLINE - FALL 2025 - 13 classes/5 sessions (draft)							
Course (& Session)	ZOOM Intro	LECTURE	Forums	LECTURE	ZOOM CLASS	Assignment Due	Assignments Due
121, 321, 521 - M1	MONDAY 09/29	MON 10/06	week 10/13	MON 10/20	MON 10/27	MON 11/03	MON 11/10
221, 421 - M2	MONDAY 10/06	MON 10/13	week 10/20	MON 10/27	MON 11/03	MON 11/10	MON 11/17
122, 322, 522 - T1	TUESDAY 09/30	TUE 10/07	week 10/14	TUE 10/21	TUE 10/28	TUE 11/04	TUE 11/11
123, 323, 523 - W1	WEDNESDAY 10/01	WED 10/08	week 10/15	WED 10/22	WED 10/29	WED 11/05	WED 11/12
124, 524 - Th1	THURSDAY 10/02	THU 10/09	week 10/16	THU 10/23	THU 10/30	THU 11/06	THU 11/13

SAINT PAUL - COURSE OF STUDY - 6 WEEKS INTENSIVE - ONLINE - WINTER 2026 - 10 classes/2 sessions (preliminary draft)							
Course (& Session)	ZOOM Intro	LECTURE		LECTURE	ZOOM CLASS	Assignment Due	Assignments Due
122, 124, 222, 224, 324 - T1	TUESDAY 1/20	TUE 1/27		TUE 2/03	TUE 2/10	TUE 2/17	TUE 2/24
321, 323, 423, 521, 523 - Th1	THURSDAY 1/22	THU 1/29		THU 2/5	THU 2/12	THU 2/19	THU 2/26

SAINT PAUL - COURSE OF STUDY - ONLINE - SPRING 2026 - 11 classes/4 sessions (preliminary draft)							
Course (& Session)	ZOOM Intro	LECTURE	Forums	LECTURE	ZOOM CLASS	Assignment Due	Assignments Due
121 - M1	MONDAY 4/06	MON 4/13	week 4/20	MON 4/27	MON 5/04	MON 5/11	MON 5/18
122, 222, 322, 422-T1	TUESDAY 4/07	TUE 4/14	week 4/20	TUE 4/28	TUE 5/05	TUE 5/12	TUE 5/19
223, 423, 523 - W1	WEDNESDAY 4/08	WED 4/15	week 4/20	WED 4/29	WED 5/06	WED 5/13	WED 5/20
224, 324, 424 - Th1	THURSDAY 4/03	THU 4/16	week 4/20	THU 4/30	THU 5/07	THU 5/14	THU 5/21

## Course of Study School at Saint Paul School of Theology—Adjunct Instructors 2025/26

### Rev. Mark Statler



MDiv  
Biblical Interpretation, Intro to Bible;  
Missouri Conference;  
Extension Ministry in MO Conference.

**COS 121-** Bible I: Introduction: Attention to inspiration, formation, and function of the canon, the development of a methodology of interpretation consistent with the nature of scripture. Importance of the Bible as witness to life and faith of ancient Israel and earliest Christianity. Sum25, Fal25, Spr26.

### Rev. Dr. Tiffany A. Nagel Monroe



Dmin, Church Leadership Excellence  
Theological Heritage;  
Oklahoma Conference;  
Sr. Pastor, Edmond First UMC.

**COS 122** – Theological Heritage I: Introduction: Introduces student to theological reflection in Wesleyan tradition. Basic terms, tasks, & methods of Christian theology introduced. Classical themes will be defined. Provides a foundation for historical and theological study. Sum25, Fal25, Win26, Spr26.

### Rev. Dr. Derrek Belase



DMin  
Leadership Development, Discipleship;  
Oklahoma Conference;  
Exec Director Connectional Ministry.

**COS 123**– Formation and Discipline: Grounds student in the theology and core practices of personal and congregational formation and discipleship. Articulate theological basis for Wesleyan emphasis on spiritual disciplines, practice them as means of grace. Sum25, Fal25.

### Rev. H. Eduardo Bousson



EdD, Interdisciplinary Leadership  
Leadership Studies;  
Great Plains Conference;  
GBHEM- Director of Schools, Universities.

**COS 124-** Transformative Leadership: This course forms the student's identity as a pastoral leader and change agent in congregations, the UMC, & the world. Sum25, Fal25, Win26.

### Dr. Brendon Benz



PhD, Hebrew Bible, Ancient Near East  
History, Religion, Theology;  
Associate Professor of History at  
William Jewell College.

**COS 221** – Bible II: Torah, and Israel's History: Interpret critical events, developing institutions, and traditions of Israel. Earliest Covenants, to the Exodus, to the rise of the monarchy, and to other events up to 8<sup>th</sup> century prophets. Fal25.

### Dr. Amy Oden



PhD, Religious Studies  
Early Church History, Spiritual Formation  
Adjunct & Prior Professor at Saint Paul  
School of Theology.

**COS 222** – Theological Heritage II: Early Church: History and theology of Church through the first five centuries. Students will reflect on significant individuals, events, and the articulation of the Christian faith during this period. Win26, Spr26.

### Rev. Dr. Phyliss Provost-Saas



DMin, Pastoral Counseling  
Worship and Sacraments;  
Great Plains Conference;  
Winfield Grandview UMC Kansas.

**COS 223** – Worship and Sacraments: Examines worship within The UMC including liturgy, sacraments, & special services. Attention is given to the pastor's role and duties as leader in worship. Sum25, Spr26.

### Rev. Steve Jones



MDiv; JD  
UM Polity, Gospels, Social Justice;  
Missouri Conference;  
Pastor 1st UMC in Maryville, MO.

**COS 224** – Polity and Administration: Develops student's competency as administrator in a UM congregation. Special consideration is given to UMC polity & discipline. Win26, Spr26.

### Dr. Jill Engelhardt



PhD, Biblical Interpretation  
New Testament;  
Adjunct Professor, TCU & SPST.

**COS 321-** Bible III: Gospels: Focuses on content and message of the Gospels, as well as theological perspectives of Gospel writers. Practice of exegesis will be emphasized. Sum25, Fal25, Win26.

### Dr. Kyle Butler



PhD, Systematic Theology  
Theological Heritage, Social Outreach;  
Exec Dir. LifeBridge at Kirkwood UMC.

**COS 322** – Theological Heritage III: Medieval through the Reformation: Major movements beginning with split between Eastern and Western forms of Christianity, through the Reformation. Reflect on individuals, events, developments. Sum25, Spr26.

### Rev. Tino Herrera



MDiv, DMin Candidate  
Congregational Care, Justice;  
Great Plains Conference;  
Sr. Pastor Trinity UMC Kansas City, MO

**COS 323**– Congregational Care: Practices of congregational care and responsibility in caregiving. Care and organization of such in varieties of settings, using boundaries and sensitivity. Fal25.

### Rev. Adam L. Mustoe



MDiv  
Preaching and Communications;  
Missouri Conference;  
First UMC Kearney, MO.

**COS 324** – Preaching: Preaching the gospel from the Old and New Testaments. Articulate theology of proclamation, evaluate sermons, exegete biblical passages. Sum25, Win26, Spr26.

### Rev. Dr. Choongho Kwon



DMin, Biblical Interpretation  
Biblical Interpretation & Preaching;  
Missouri Conference;  
Sr. Pastor, First UMC Kirksville, MO.

**COS 421** –Bible IV: Prophets, Psalms, Wisdom Literature: Examines history of God's Word through Israel's prophets, selected Psalms, & selected literature passages. Exegete biblical literature. Su/Fa25.

### Rev. Dr. Henry “Hal” Knight, III



PhD, Theological Studies  
Wesleyan Studies, Evangelism;  
Emeritus Professor at Saint Paul School  
of Theology.

**COS 422** – Theological Heritage IV: Wesleyan Movement: Covers significant individuals, decisive events, & theology of Methodist movement. Using grace, faith, & holiness, the student will better understand Wesleyan heritage & identity. Sum25.

### Rev. Trista Soendker Nicholson



MDiv; PhD Candidate  
Wesleyan Theology, History, Polity;  
Missouri Conference;  
Sr Pastor, St. Paul's UMC Raymore, MO.

**COS 422** – Theological Heritage IV: Wesleyan. Spr26.

### Dr. Lucas Endicott



EdD – Doctor of Education;  
Mission, Service and Justice;  
Missouri Conference.

**COS 423** – Mission: Introduces theology of mission, pastor's role in leading congregations as agents of God's redemption. Examine unjust social realities and Christian response. Win26, Spr26.

### Rev. Mark Davies



**COS 424** – Ethics: Biblical & theological bases for Christian behavior, emphasizing pastoral skills for moral leadership in congregations and community. Use of Social Principles of UMC as a resource for ethical reflection & action. Sum25.



**Rev. Zhenya Gurina-Rodriguez, PhD.**



PhD, New Testament, Early Christianity  
Hebrew Bible & New Testament;  
Central Texas Conference  
Assoc Pastor First UMC Fort Worth, TX.

**COS 521-** Bible V: Acts, Epistles, and Revelation:  
Content and context of these writings, and theological  
emphases. Acts and Revelation, Romans, 1  
Corinthians, Hebrews, James, and 1 John are covered.  
Students will articulate a theology of scripture and  
exegete these forms of biblical literature. F25

**Rev. Dr. Aaron Stauffer**



PhD, Theology and Ethics  
Social Ethics, Ecumenical Studies;  
Assoc. Director-Online Learning at  
Vanderbilt, Nashville, TN.

**COS 522** – Theology in the Contemporary Church:  
Covers significant individuals, movements, events, &  
theological developments from 19th century  
including ecumenism and process theology.  
Recognizing various movements. F25

**Rev. Carlos Ramirez**



MATS, New Testament  
Congregation Vitality, Hispanic Ministry;  
Oklahoma Conference;  
Sr. Minister Southern Hills UMC.

**COS 523** –Evangelism: Introduces the theology &  
practices of evangelism as an expression of the  
mission of God. Interpret the Wesleyan heritage of  
evangelism. Reflect on & implement strategies for  
evangelism by the congregation. W26, Sp26

**Rev. Kate Walker**



MDiv  
Facilitator, Discernment, Formation;  
Texas Conference;  
Pastor Grace Heights, Houston, TX.

**COS 524** - Theological Reflection on the Practice of  
Ministry: Capstone to the student's basic COS. Focus  
on integration of the biblical, theological, & practical  
aspects of ministry. Articulate a Trinitarian theology.  
State the mission of the Church & relation to pastoral  
ministry. S25, F25

**Course of Study School at Saint Paul  
Administration**



**Dr. Lucas Endicott**

Regional Director of Course of Study School  
At Saint Paul School of Theology;  
EdD – Doctor of Education,  
Mission, Service and Justice,  
Missouri Conference.  
[Lucas.endicott@spst.edu](mailto:Lucas.endicott@spst.edu)



**Jennifer M. Smith**

Registrar of Course of Study School  
At Saint Paul School of Theology;  
Coordinator to the CFO and the VPAAD  
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