Dianne Reistroffer  
ET 105-4  Methodist Heritage: History and Doctrine of Methodism  
Spring, 2012 – Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:00-5:50 p.m.  
Schlegel 120

HISTORY AND DOCTRINE OF METHODISM

Course Description, Purpose, Objectives, and Core Competencies with Assessment Strategies

The course is designed to provide an overview of the history and doctrine of the Methodist movement. Significant time is spent on the life, work, and theology of John Wesley and the Wesleyan roots of Methodism as well as on the American Methodist experience. Close attention is paid to the institutional history of the predecessor denominations of The United Methodist Church, to the emergence of the AME, AMEZ, and CME churches, and to the specific traditions that have come together to form these denominations.

The purpose of the course is to acquaint students with the historical and theological uniqueness of Methodism and to inspire students to inquire in greater detail about different aspects of that heritage. This course also meets the history and doctrine denominational requirements for ordination as an elder and as a deacon in full connection in The United Methodist Church. This course also fulfills the denominational heritage requirement for students from the AME, AMEZ, CME, Wesleyan, and Nazarene Church traditions.

Course objectives include:

1. Helping students understand the Methodist tradition in the context of the cultures from which it has emerged and in light of its sources (catholic, evangelical, reformed), its antecedent organizations, the world family of Methodist churches, and the ecumenical Christian community;
2. Assisting students in the interpretation of the Methodist tradition in order that they may participate responsibly in the life and leadership of the church, critically appropriate and effectively communicate the tradition, and actively engage in ecumenical dialogue; and,
3. Encouraging students to relate historical understanding and theological reflection to the mission and ministry of the contemporary church through a knowledge of the rationale and the ordering of church structures, an understanding of the nature of authority and power in the church, and a commitment to an on-going process of renewal.

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<th>Louisville Seminary M.Div. Core Competency</th>
<th>How this competency will be demonstrated</th>
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<td>Students will be:</td>
<td>In the two major doctrinal papers, students will exercise and be graded on their ability to think critically and theologically about key doctrines in Methodism.</td>
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<td>• Able to think critically and theologically.</td>
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<td>• Interpret the church’s history and tradition.</td>
<td>Through class lectures and discussion, in the two papers assigned, and in the mid-term and final exams, students will not only present facts about Methodist heritage, but also different interpretations, including their own, of that history and tradition.</td>
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<td>• Articulate and discuss Reformed theology, as well as theology of their own ecclesial traditions.</td>
<td>In the first four lectures and through class discussion, students will examine and evaluate the Reformation roots of Methodism (including Reformed/Puritan) and in the course itself engage the theology of their own Methodist heritage. In the mid-term and final exams and in the major two papers, students will articulate and discuss the major theological beliefs of Methodism.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Articulate what they believe to others.</td>
<td>In the first four lectures and through class discussion, students will examine and evaluate the Reformation roots of Methodism and in the course engage the theology of their own Methodist traditions. In the mid-term and final exams and in the two major papers, students will articulate and discuss the major theological beliefs of Methodism.</td>
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<td>• Recognize racism, sexism, classism, homophobia, and other oppressions that marginalize and dehumanize and respond to them creatively, constructively, and redemptively.</td>
<td>Through discussion and lectures during sessions 11, 17, 18, and 23, students will encounter the racial dilemma in American Methodism, its unfortunate legacy in church and society, and recent efforts through the Pan Methodist movement to bring about racial reconciliation in American Methodism.</td>
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<td>• Discern their vocation and help others to do so and be able to articulate a theology of ministry.</td>
<td>In leading devotions using John Wesley’s Standard Sermons, through class discussion, and in writing the two major doctrinal papers, students will demonstrate their vocation and help others to celebrate theirs through prayer, reflection, and shared tradition in word and song.</td>
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*Course Methodology and Format*

The teaching methodology for this course is primarily lecture, but there is some discussion and independent research activity as well. The format for instruction is chronological and thematic.
Course Requirements

1. **Preparation and participation.** Students are expected to read the assigned material, attend class regularly, lead devotions from time to time (based on John Wesley’s Sermons), and, when required, participate in class discussion. Active and informed participation in class discussions is expected of all students. (10% of final grade)

2. **Writing assignments.** Two major doctrinal papers (due March 15 and May 8, 2012) offer students an opportunity to critically and appropriately explain and relate Methodist doctrine to the church’s theological task today. Details on these assignments are on separate pages. (40% of the final grade)

3. **A Mid-Term Examination.** This exam covers material from the first half of the course, includes both objective and short essay questions, and is scheduled for March 27, 2012. (25% of the final grade)

4. **A Final Examination.** This exam covers material from the second half of the course, includes both objective and short essay questions, and is scheduled for May 16 or 17, 2012. (25% of the final grade)

Course Textbooks

*Required*


*Runyon, Theodore. The New Creation: John Wesley’s Theology Today.* Nashville:

*Priority purchases for the course; the rest should be in every Methodist pastor’s library.

Recommended


Other Recommended Texts and Readings

The following histories of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, and the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church are on reserve.


Class reading materials, other than the required texts, are on reserve in the library.
Class Schedule and Assigned Readings

**R  Feb. 9:**  INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE AND THE SETTING: EUROPEAN REFORMATIONS; ANGLICAN/PURITAN TRADITION.

*Required Readings:* Heitzenrater, 1-25.


**T  Feb. 14:**  PIETISM


*Recommended Reading:* Lindberg, *The Pietist Theologians,* 1-13; 84-96; 100-110.

**R  Feb 16:**  WESLEY’S ENGLAND: AN OVERVIEW

JOHN WESLEY: HIS FOREBEARS AND THE EARLY YEARS

*Required Readings:* Heitzenrater, 33-95; Norwood, 27-37.

**T  Feb. 21:**  JOHN WESLEY: OXFORD, GEORGIA.

**R  Feb. 23:**  JOHN WESLEY: MORAVIANS, ALDERSGATE

**T  Feb. 28:**  THE EARLY YEARS OF THE REVIVAL

*Required Readings:* Heitzenrater, 97-198.

**R  Mar. 1**  LATER SCHISM; INSTITUTIONAL FORMS

*Required Reading:* Heitzenrater, 199-308.

**T  Mar. 6:**  JOHN WESLEY: HIS THEOLOGY, Part One

**R  Mar. 8:**  JOHN WESLEY: HIS THEOLOGY, Part Two

*Required Reading:* Runyon, Theodore. *The New Creation: John Wesley’s Theology Today.* Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998. (This is the official text in doctrine for The United Methodist Church.) Read the first three chapters of this text.

**T  Mar. 13:**  EARLY METHODIST SPIRITUALITY AND HYMNODY

*Required Reading:* Runyon, 102-145.
R Mar. 15:  WESLEY’S ECONOMIC ETHICS AND THE POOR; WESLEY AND SLAVERY


HAND IN FIRST WRITING ASSIGNMENT AT THE START OF CLASS

MARCH 19-23: RESEARCH AND STUDY WEEK

T Mar. 27:  MIDTERM EXAM

R Mar 29:  AMERICAN METHODISM: THE FOUNDING FATHERS & MOTHERS, I

Required Reading:  Norwood, 61-81.

T Apr. 3:  AMERICAN METHODISM: THE FOUNDING FATHERS & MOTHERS, II

Required Reading:  Norwood, 82-102.

NO CLASS ON MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 5.

T Apr. 10:  THE BECKONING FRONTIER: ORGANIZING TO BEAT THE DEVIL

Required Reading:  Norwood, 119-163


Required Reading:  Norwood, 103-118.


T Apr. 17:  THE ANTI-SLAVERY STRUGGLE AND BLACK METHODISTS, Part I

R Apr. 19:  THE ANTI-SLAVERY STRUGGLE AND BLACK METHODISTS, Part II


also be consulted.

**T Apr. 24:**  IN PURSUIT OF CHURCH UNION, 1868-1939 and 1939-1968

*Required Reading:* Norwood, 239-270; 406-425.

**R Apr. 26:**  WOMEN IN 19TH CENTURY METHODISM

*Required Readings:* Norwood, 330-340


**T May 1:**  FROM SANCTIFICATION TO HOLINESS


**R May 3:**  THE SOCIAL GOSPEL, LIBERALISM, & THEIR IMPACT ON THE CHURCH

*Required Reading:* Norwood, 341-354; 381-405.


**T May 8:**  ISSUES IN TWENTIETH CENTURY AND TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY
METHODOISM, Part I

HAND IN SECOND WRITING ASSIGNMENT AT THE START OF CLASS


R May 10: ISSUES IN TWENTIETH CENTURY AND TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

METHODOISM, Part II

REVIEW FOR THE FINAL EXAM (EITHER MAY 16 OR 17)