

**COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL**  
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary  
2121 Sheridan Road  
Evanston, IL 60201

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### **ECOS-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.

### **Learning Objectives**

Students will:

1. Articulate their understanding of faith, sin, salvation, grace, and the place of doctrine in the life of the Church.
2. Understand and use 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.

### **Delivery Method**

This course is offered via a hybrid format (a combination of online and face to face learning). A website (often called the “course hub”) has been constructed for delivery of this course prior to our face to face meeting time in July. The website has learning units that will guide you through the work required for this course. Each unit on the website contains information about course content, the required reading, and the required Online Activities and Written Homework for that unit. All of the Online Activities and Written Homework found on the course website are required and due prior to our meeting time in July.

Five (5) hours of class sessions (Online Activities) will be completed using an online format prior to the residential session and fifteen (15) hours will be completed in face-to-face sessions during the residential session. **The Written Homework is in addition to the five (5) online and fifteen (15) face to face hours.**

As soon as you register for the class, you will be invited to enroll in the class through an online course hub getskos.com. To complete the five online hours, you will need a Google account.

**Online class sessions** (total 5 hours of online sessions, plus reading and written homework)

Unit 1: Welcome and Syllabus

Unit 2: Introductions

Unit 3: You are a Theologian (Yes, you are.)

Unit 4: Written Homework (continued on next page...)

**BE SURE TO COMPLETE YOUR WRITTEN HOMEWORK BEFORE PARTICIPATING IN THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES (Units 5, 6, 7, and 8):**

Unit 5: Levels, limits and functions of theology and our theological task

Unit 6: Doing theology in the Wesleyan spirit

Unit 7: Thinking theologically

Unit 8: Instructions for final assignment due on last day of resident class

**Note about contacting instructor during the online portion: Please allow the instructor 10 days to respond to individual e-mails or questions posted on the discussion boards.**

Your instructor will strive to provide feedback to you on your Online Activities and Written Homework within 10-14 days after you have submitted the work. This will allow for interaction with your instructor prior to meeting in July. You will have the opportunity to set your own deadlines for completing the Online Activities and Written Homework. Other than the June 15, 2019 deadline, the deadlines you set for yourself are flexible and you can revise your deadline schedule anytime and as often as you desire.

**Face-to-face class sessions** (total of 15 hours—3 hours per day for 5 days) – subject to change

Day 1: Introduction to the course in residence & getting to know each other

Theological category: God > exploring doctrines of God

Questions chosen for final assignment

Day 2: Theological category Creation > exploring doctrines of Creation

Theological category Humankind > exploring doctrines of Humankind

Questions chosen for final assignment

Day 3: Theological category Jesus the Christ > exploring doctrines of Jesus the Christ

Theological category Salvation > exploring doctrines of Salvation

Questions chosen for final assignment

Day 4: Theological category Church > exploring doctrines of Church

Theological category Sacrament > exploring doctrines of Sacrament

Questions chosen for final assignment

Day 5: Theological category Hope > exploring doctrines of Hope

Review and Summation

Class evaluations (school, instructor and class, student self-evaluation)

Final assignment due

**Required texts:**

Campbell, Ted A. *Methodist Doctrine: The Essentials*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1999. ISBN 9780687034758.

González, Justo L. *A Concise History of Christian Doctrine*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2005. ISBN 978068734414.

Kapic, Kelly M. *A Little Book for New Theologians: Why and How to Study Theology*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 2012. ISBN 9780830839759.

*The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2012*. Nashville, TN: The United Methodist Publishing House, 2012. ISBN 9781426718120. Also available as e-book, downloadable PDF or online service from Cokesbury (cokesbury.com). Primarily ¶¶102-105 “Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task”; see also ¶310.1.d.; ¶324.9; ¶330.5.

OR

*The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016*. Nashville, TN: The United Methodist Publishing House, 2016. ISBN 9781501833236. Also available as e-book, downloadable PDF or online service from Cokesbury (cokesbury.com).

### Reference texts:

González, Justo L. *Essential Theological Terms*. Louisville, KY: WJK Westminster John Knox, 2005. ISBN 9780664228101.

*The United Methodist Hymnal*. Nashville, TN: The United Methodist Publishing House, 1989.

### Supplementary texts:

González, Justo L. and Zaida Maldonado-Pérez. *An Introduction to Christian Theology*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2002. 9780687095735.

*By Water and The Spirit*. Available for download from the General Board of Discipleship at <http://www.gbod.org/resources/by-water-and-the-spirit-full-text>

Collins, Kenneth J. *The Theology of John Wesley: Holy Love and the Shape of Grace*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2007. ISBN 9780687646333.

Maddox, Randy L. *Responsible Grace: John Wesley’s Practical Theology*. Nashville, TN: Kingswood Books/Abingdon Press, 1994. ISBN 9780687003341.

McGrath, Alister E. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. Fifth Edition. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011. ISBN 9781444335149.

Outler, Albert C. and Richard P. Heitzenrater, Eds. *John Wesley’s Sermons: An Anthology*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1991. Also available as an e-book on Cokesbury (cokesbury.com)

Runyun, Theodore. *The New Creation: John Wesley’s Theology Today*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1998. ISBN 9780687096022.

*This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion*. Available for download from the General Board of Discipleship at <http://www.gbod.org/resources/this-holy-mystery-a-united-methodist-understanding-of-holy-communion1>

Wesley, John. *The Works of John Wesley: Bicentennial Edition*. Vols. 1-26. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2013. Available as a subscription service through Cokesbury (cokesbury.com).

**Useful websites:**

Christian Classical Ethereal Library. <http://www.ccel.org/>  
General Board of Global Ministries <http://www.umcmission.org/Find-Resources/John-Wesley-Sermons/Title-Index/Title-Index-of-John-Wesley-s-Sermons>  
Wesley Center Online. <http://wesley.nnu.edu/john-wesley/>  
Wesley Heritage Foundation. <http://www.wesleyheritagefoundation.org/download.html>  
Wesley, John. *The Works of the Reverend John Wesley M.A.* free e-book books.google.com

**Instructions: How to Format Your Homework**

1. Read the pages, take notes, and answer the questions *entirely in your own words*, using complete sentences (unless otherwise noted). Do not quote extensively from the texts you read. Digest the ideas and information, and then put them in your own words.
2. Follow approximate length given for each item of written work.
3. Format your paper as an MS Word© document (.doc or .docx), double-spaced, using 1” inch margins all around and 12 pt. Arial font. Papers must be submitted electronically; no hard copy printed papers will be accepted. Do not use script, condensed or all caps prints. One page equals approximately 250 words.
4. Use the following convention to name your document file:  
last\_name\_first\_name\_course\_number\_year. For example: jones\_marlene\_ecos122\_2019.
5. Create a header for your paper that includes your name, the class number and the page number. Begin each numbered item on a new sheet of paper, writing that number at the beginning of your answer. Do not include the question before your answer; rather, just type the number of the question and begin your answer.
6. If you quote from a printed text, you must use quotation marks and note the source (including page numbers) in parentheses at the end of each usage. Quotations should never be more than a sentence or two long. Ideas and information should be *stated in your own words*, not in the words of the authors you have read. For assigned texts, you may abbreviate the titles by using the first letter of each word in the title. For example, if the source is *Harper’s Bible Dictionary*, then use (HBD, p. 34-35). If you refer to books that are not listed on the class reading list, then you must give full bibliographic information (author, full title, publishing place and publishing house, date of publication, pages consulted).
7. The final deadline for written homework is June 15, 2019. Assignments turned in after June 15 will receive a 1/3 grade deduction per week (for example, if your work is A level but submitted after June 15, you will receive an A-, and if it is submitted after June 21, you will receive a B+, etc.). Late work is only accepted with prior approval of the Director of the Course of Study School. Late work will receive a lower grade.
8. As you complete your Homework assignments, email your .doc as an attachment to your instructor at [Rene.Schreiner@Garrett.Edu](mailto:Rene.Schreiner@Garrett.Edu) and send a courtesy copy (cc) to [coshomework@garrett.edu](mailto:coshomework@garrett.edu). When composing your email, the subject line should include “COS Last name Homework #” with the Homework number included.
9. Print a copy of your written work for your own use during the residential session (or have an electronic version available to you during classtime).

**Other Required Resources**

Regular internet access is required in order to complete the Activities and access the Homework assignments posted on the course hub (website). See Delivery Method above and the technical requirements available from the Course of Study School Administrator.

## **Avoiding Plagiarism**

A documented case of academic dishonesty, especially plagiarism, requires a conference with the student, faculty member, and the Course of Study Director. The professor is required to submit any suspected instances. Following the conference, the faculty member and COS director will determine the appropriate level of grade deduction and required follow-up work from the student. A second instance of documented academic dishonesty may be cause for the student's automatic dismissal from the COS program. See further information about plagiarism below.

**\*\*Please note that some faculty use plagiarism detection software to assist in checking submitted work.\*\***

### **How to Avoid Plagiarism**

To avoid plagiarism, use one of the following style manuals on writing and citation. Students are expected to follow the style manual guidelines outlined from either:

a. Turabian, Kate. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 7th Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 2007.

b. Chicago Manual of Style. (16th edition). Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 2010. Web resources for *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* and *Chicago Manual of Style*: <http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/DocChicago.html>.

It is also strongly advised that you review the following from the Office of the Provost at Northwestern University about *How to Avoid Plagiarism*:

<http://www.northwestern.edu/provost/students/integrity/plagiarism.html>.

## **Assignments**

### **Reading:**

Read the required texts by González, Campbell, and *The Book of Discipline 2012* ¶¶102-105 thoroughly and carefully before you begin your writing assignments. You may use the reference and supplementary texts to broaden and deepen your responses in the written assignments.

### **Writing:**

Please format your papers as indicated in the previous section and adhere as closely as possible to the suggested page count. You will need to be precise and concise in your writing.

**A. Summary of and reflection on *A Concise History of Christian Doctrine* (13½ pages total).** The purpose of this assignment is to show that you understand classical theological terms and themes as set forth in these texts and can use them as a resource for your pastoral ministry.

After reading the assigned pages in *A Concise History of Christian Doctrine*, summarize the key points related to the following topics. (1 page each topic) Following each summary, write a reflection on the question: “How might these insights form me in my ministry as pastor-theologian?” (1/2 page each topic)

- a) *Concise History* pages 1-34: Doctrine, Bible
- b) *Concise History* pages 35-70: Creation, Culture
- c) *Concise History* pages 71-90: God
- d) *Concise History* pages 91-110: Humankind
- e) *Concise History* pages 111-130: Jesus the Christ
- f) *Concise History* pages 131-170: Church, Sacrament
- g) *Concise History* pages 171-188: Salvation
- h) *Concise History* pages 189-220: Tradition, Hope

You need to prepare a separate summary and reflection for each of the eight topics. Each response should be 1½ pages in length (1 page for summary of key points and ½ page for the reflection on the application question). The assignment as a whole should come to 13½ - 14 pages.

**B. Summary of and reflection on Methodist essentials and the Wesleyan way of salvation (6 pages total)** The purposes of this assignment are to show that you understand Wesleyan theological terms and themes as set forth in these texts and can use them as a resource for your pastoral ministry; and that you can critically consider the sources of theological reflection, including scripture, tradition, experience and reason.

Read Campbell and ¶¶102-105 of the *Book of Discipline 2012 (or 2016)* carefully and thoroughly.

Summarize the key points on the following topics. (2½ pages each topic)

Following each summary, write a reflection on the question: “How do I apply these insights to my ministry as pastor-theologian?” (1/2 page each topic)

- a) The Wesleyan way of salvation (2½ pages)
- b) The nature of “our theological task” (*Book of Discipline 2012* pp. 78ff) and the “method” for theological reflection (2½ pages)

You need to prepare a separate summary and reflection for each of the topics. Each response should be 3 pages in length (2½ pages for summary of key points and ½ page for the reflection on the application question). The assignment as a whole should come to 6 pages.

## Grading System

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary uses a grading system of A, B, C, D, F or no credit.

Grading Standards:

A = exceeds expectation for Course of Study

B = expected quality for Course of Study

C = passing work but not of expected quality

D = unacceptable quality (no credit)

F = fail

Pedagogical Process:

This class will take the form of a seminar held in both online and face-to-face sessions. The online portion is a virtual, asynchronous seminar; the face-to-face portion is a live, synchronous seminar. Dialogue and active participation should characterize the sessions, in which conceptual and practical articulations are made.

There will also be some lectures to advance and organize the dialogue. The pedagogy of collective learning requires that each participant come to class fully prepared to participate in creative and productive dialogue, which at times may involve the confrontation of ideas. This pedagogy also requires the capacity to listen to

the other persons with openness and respect and to speak with maturity and originality. Participation should be spontaneous, dynamic and well-founded so the class is not impeded by “opinionism” or unfocused discussions.

Grading for class participation:

1. You attend every class session and are on time, meeting indicated deadlines.
2. You demonstrate familiarity with the assigned readings.
3. You listen carefully to the instructor and to your classmates or read carefully what your instructor and class mates write on the discussion forum or shared documents in the online portion of the class.
4. You are an active participant in the class discussions, whether in online or face-to-face sessions.
5. You complete class room assignments on time and accomplish what the assignments ask of you.
6. You enter into intelligent, critical conversation with the course texts and lectures and your classmates' contributions.
7. You demonstrate a depth of insight in your theological claims.

Grading criteria for Written Homework:

1. You accomplish what the assignment asks of you.
2. Your response papers are formatted as indicated.
3. Your response papers offer a clear opening or thesis statement, follow a logical organization (as indicated by the assignment), are well developed, and are free of grammatical and spelling errors.
4. You enter into intelligent, critical conversation with the course texts.
5. You demonstrate a depth of insight in your theological claims.

In this class, the final grade is calculated as follows:

Pre-class written homework assignments 40%

Online class participation including assignments and activities 15%

Face-to-face class participation including assignments and activities 40%

Summative assignment 5%