

COS 122 Theological Heritage 1: Intro

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About me: I earned a B.A. in Theological Studies (Eureka College), M.T.S. in Historical Theology (Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary), and a Ph.D. in Theology and Ethics (G-ETS). I have published articles on worship, apologetics, bioethics, and Pentecostalism for *Liturgy*, *The Christian Century*, the Society for Pentecostal Studies, and the *Baker Dictionary of Cults and World Religions*. My first book, *Apologetics After Lindbeck*, is an application of postmodern philosophy on Christian apologetics. My work experience includes Associate Pastor and Pastor of Youth and Worship Ministries in churches in Wisconsin and Illinois before coming to UIndy in 2009 as University Chaplain and Director of the Lantz Center.

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.

Disability Needs: *If you have a disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please inform me immediately so that your learning needs may be appropriately met.*

Textbooks: Required and reference books are chosen to help a student build his/her own library. Assignments assure the use of the reference books; they are not classroom texts. Supplemental texts are valuable, but optional texts if a student wants to pursue an area of ministry.

Required Texts:

Ted Campbell, Methodist Doctrine: The Essentials, 2nd edition

Justo Gonzales & Zaida Perez, An Introduction to Christian Theology

N.T. Wright, Scripture and the Authority of God

2016 Book of Discipline (Reference book)

United Methodist Hymnal (Reference book)

Writing and Submission of assignments: All assignments for the class should be submitted via email to jeremiah.gibbs@inumc.org. All assignments should be double-spaced, 12-point font, and margins of 1 inch on all sides. I do not need lots of header content taking up space at the beginning of an assignment either, your name and the name of the assignment is enough. Files should also be named in a similar fashion with last name, assignment title (example: "Gibbs, Sources of Theology summary"). References can be noted by any means of standard practice (MLA, APA, Chicago, etc.). I am not specific about the style of formatting as long as all references are made such to avoid plagiarism and formatting is consistent in style.

January 18-19

Sources of Theology

1. **Read:** *Book of Discipline* (BOD) Part III
Campbell, Chapter 1
Wright, Entire book

2. **Write:** (9 pages)
 - a. 3 pages: Summarize N.T. Wright's explanation of the authority of Scripture and the Bible's place in our theological task.
 - b. 3 pages: Based on Paragraphs 102, 103, and 105 of the Book of Discipline as well as Campbell's summary, how might Methodists think differently than or add to Wright's explanation of the use of Scripture. At minimum, explain how the Wesleyan Quadrilateral helps, modifies, or is in conflict with Wright's understanding.
 - c. 3 pages: Explain some specific ways that these readings clarified your understanding of the sources of theology, and explain some specific ways that these readings challenged your understanding.

March 9

Doctrines of God, Humanity, and Salvation

1. **Read:** Gonzalez/Perez, Parts II, III, and IV
Campbell, Chapter 2-4
Review BOD, Para 104
2. **Write: (5 pages)** A one-page statement of your understanding of each of the following doctrines. Each one-page summary should substantially reference two different texts from this unit's readings. During class time you will be sharing one of these with a small group of your colleagues as a point of discussion. You may want to consider which ones could most benefit from the feedback of colleagues and/or the ones which your colleagues may find most helpful.
 - a. God/Trinity
 - b. Creation
 - c. Humanity/Theological Anthropology
 - d. Jesus Christ
 - e. Way of Salvation

April 13

Church, Eschatology and Ethics

Assignments:

1. **Read:** Bod, Part IV and V, para 301-305
Gonzalez/Perez, V-VII
Campbell, V and VI
2. **Write: (2 Pages)** Explain the doctrine of the church and the roles of ministry. Include two references from each of the three texts for this unit.
3. **Write:** 3 papers of 2 pages (**6 Pages total**) each that explain an ethical issue that you struggle to preach about in ways that point toward the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Two of these papers should be items addressed by the Social Principles in Part V of the *Book of Discipline*. The third paper can be an ethical issue that you struggle to address in preaching that *may or may not* be addressed by the Social Principles.
Each paper should address the following: 1. Explain the ethical issue that is difficult to preach and why it is difficult for you. 2. What are some things you have said when you have tried to preach/teach on this topic? 3. How does the Methodist understandings of the issue help you to explain the issue or make it more difficult to explain the issue?

Class Attendance Policy: With such a short and concentrated class time, it is important that you attend all class sessions. According to standards of the Indiana Extension Course of Study, it is possible to pass a class while missing part or all of **one** of the days of class. It is not possible to pass the class if more than one is missed.

Points Earned for each Assignment:

Sources of Theology paper: 60 points
Doctrine of God/Humanity statements: 60 points
Doctrine of the Church statement: 20 points
Preaching Ethical issues papers: 60 points

Grading: 200 Total Points Possible

A	189-200	C	159-164
A-	185-189	C-	155-158
B+	181-184	D+	151-154
B	173-180	D	143-150
B-	169-172	D-	139-142
C+	165-168	F	≤ 138

In all cases, papers will be graded based on point totals that are roughly similar to this sample rubric:

60 point paper sample:

10 points: Well-written paper with correct spelling, proper grammar, and well-constructed sentences. Communicates clearly without redundancy or unnecessary words. Paper is well organized. Reflects the writing of well-educated person.

15 points: Communicates the content of the assigned readings without significant bias. Reflects a healthy balance between generosity and critique in interpretation of those authors.

15 points: Shows insight into the meaning and intentions of the author. Gives details when necessary. Provides summaries of big ideas and conclusions. Does not get sidetracked into issues or ideas that were not central to the author themselves. (Majors on the majors and minors on the minors!)

20 points: Clearly articulates application of the work of that assignment into one's own faith and ministry. States one's own position in response to the readings when appropriate. Explains where the learning of this assignment is relevant to the work of pastoral ministry.