

INDIANA EXTENSION COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL
Summer Hybrid Course
Summer 2019

University of Indianapolis

COS 123 FORMATION and DISCIPLESHIP

Dr. Andrew Kinsey

This new hybrid course grounds the student in the theology and core practices of personal and congregational formation and discipleship and utilizes the approved curriculum of the Division of Ordained Ministry of the United Methodist Church.

OBJECTIVES of the course, by the Division of Ordained Ministry, will enable students to:

1. Articulate a theological basis for the Wesleyan emphasis on spiritual disciplines and practice them as means of grace.
2. Explain and implement the General Rules and the practices of small groups in a congregation.
3. Educate and resource a congregation in the disciplines Christian formation.
4. Organize congregations to help people discern their callings and gifts for ministry.

TEXTBOOKS

Required:

M. Robert Mulholland – *Invitation to a Journey: A Roadmap to Spiritual Formation*

Sondra Matthaei – *Formation in the Faith: The Congregational Ministry of Making Disciples*

Marjorie J Thompson – *Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life*

Anne Wimberly & Evelyn Park *In Search of Wisdom: Faith Formation in the Black Church*

Paul Chilcote – *Recapturing the Wesleys' Vision*

Grading: Grades are assigned in the traditional academic format: A, B, C, D F.

INSTRUCTOR'S INFORMATION If you have any questions, I can be reached at the following:
1300 East Adams Drive, Franklin, IN 46131; Phone: 317-736-7962; follow on Facebook.
pastorandy@franklingrace.org Dr. Andrew Kinsey

MAY SESSION:

May 18

Each student will maintain a “journal” of the way the class assignments speak to the life of ministry in the church. Students may use a notebook and pen/pencil, notepad or iPad, to write about the journey – whatever works best to relate experiences of interacting with the class materials. Students will determine how frequently they make entries into their journals. No less than eight entries. Journals are due on the final day of class in June.

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- A) For your initial journey entry please describe the emotions/feelings you have as you prepare for this class and how Thompson's *Soul Feast* describes the Christian practices.
- B) Please read Thompson's *Soul Feast* and write a **three-page paper**, focusing on **one of the practices** that meant the most to you. Be prepared to discuss this text in class:
- C) Please also write a **three-page summary or review** of Mulholland's book, sharing how he understands the spiritual formation: what main points stuck out to you?
- D) We will engage in some of the practices that Thompson writes of, e.g., *Lectio Divina*, writing our own Psalm, Holy Communion, etc., in and during class.
- E) Students will discuss the main points of these books in class; Marjorie Thompson's text will be utilized in ALL the class sessions.

ONLINE SESSIONS IN JUNE:

Month of June

Please read and be prepared to discuss the following:

- A) Read Matthaëi's *Formation in Faith* and **SHARE WITH TWO OTHER STUDENTS IN THE CLASS WHAT ONE ASPECT** of the book spoke to you about forming faith in the local church? What challenges do you face?
- B) Read Paul Chilcote's *Reclaiming the Wesleys' Vision* and share with **TWO OTHER STUDENTS (DIFFERENT FROM THE TWO IN THE PREVIOUS CHAT)** how Chicote presents the Wesleys' vision of discipleship as a "**series of conjunctives**": why is this important to a Wesleyan understanding of the Christian life?

The instructor will also take part in these Online Chats bringing to bear other insights and suggestions.

- C) Continue with **PERSONAL JOURNAL** entries on the spiritual practices as outlined in Thompson's work.
- D) Online Discussions about Projects: Sharing insights and questions regarding the projects students are carrying out in their churches.

JUNE SESSION:

June 29

Please read and be prepared to engage in the following:

- A) Read *In Search of Wisdom: Faith Formation in the Black Church* and write a **three-page reflection paper** on the importance of their work to the wider church's formation of disciples: what insights did you learn that would inform how you go about forming persons in your church in the Christian faith? Bring the paper to class.

- B) Discuss and share more of Thompson’s book.
- C) Sharing in other practices.
- D) Discuss and share feedback from Online Chats and Assignments.

Paper due at the beginning of class.
 Journals due at the beginning of class.
 Final Project due.

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FINAL PROJECT:

Prepare to teach a one-session class in your congregation on a Wesleyan spiritual discipline or disciplines in your congregation – e.g., Holy Communion, prayer, fasting, preaching, worship, small group Bible study.

Since each congregation has its own “personality” or “character” it will be necessary to develop this short-term study in a way that utilizes what is beneficial to both student and parishioners.

As you compose this study, bear in mind how the practice or practices and/or disciplines are means of grace, communicating God’s grace and love.

Grading:	
Preparation and Participation in Class and Online Chats	30%
Journaling	0%
Papers	30%
Final Project	20%

Revised 4-4-19