

COS 422 – Theological Heritage IV: Wesleyan Movement

Course Dates: Oct. 27-28 and Nov. 10-11.

Location: Martin Methodist College, Pulaski, TN.

Instructor: Jason E. Vickers, Ph.D. – Dr. Vickers is Professor of Theology at Asbury Theological Seminary, an ordained elder on the Western North Carolina conference of the United Methodist Church, and the author or editor of a dozen books in theology and Wesleyan studies. He is also a husband, a father of three, an avid outdoorsman, and a fan of classical country music.

Contact: jason.vickers@asburyseminary.edu

Course Description:

This course covers the significant individuals, decisive events, and theology of the Methodist movement. Utilizing categories of grace, faith, and holiness, the student will appropriate the Wesleyan heritage.

Course Objectives:

Students will be able to:

1. Understand and reflect on the movements, major figures, and events that led to the eighteenth century revivals, especially the lives and ministries of John and Charles Wesley.
2. Understand and articulate the vision of holiness and the theology of grace as it shaped the Wesleys, and the structures of the Methodist movement.
3. Identify and discuss significant theological and historical developments in American Methodism, including ordination and episcopacy.
4. Reflect theologically on their Wesleyan heritage and identity.

Required Texts:

1. Richard Heitzenrater, *Wesley and the People Called Methodists* (Abingdon, 2013). ISBN: 978-1426742248.
2. Russ Richey, Ken Rowe, Jeanne M. Schmidt, *American Methodism: A Compact History* (Abingdon, 2012). ISBN: 978-1426742279.
3. Kenneth J. Collins and Jason E. Vickers, eds. *The Sermons of John Wesley: A Collection for the Christian Journey* (Abingdon, 2013). ISBN: 978-1426742316.

Supplementary Texts:

Randy Maddox, *Responsible Grace: John Wesley's Practical Theology*
John Wigger, *Taking Heaven By Storm*

Course Schedule and Assignments:

PREWORK – DUE AT FIRST CLASS

Weekend #1 (Oct. 27-28) – On the first weekend, we will focus our time and discussion on John and Charles Wesley and the evangelical revival in eighteenth century England. Students must read all of *Wesley and the People Called Methodists* prior to coming to class. They also must submit a book review of *Wesley and the People Called Methodists*. Book reviews should be no less than 4 full pages and no more than 6 full pages. All reviews must be typed and double-spaced. Do not submit a cover page or bibliography (they are not necessary for this assignment). Reviews should cover the entire book. Students should pick out what they take to be the most important themes or issues in each chapter. They should describe these themes or issues in their own words. Do NOT simply copy and paste large quotations from the book. Reviews should be written in a narrative style. Please do not submit a review that consists of an outline or bullet point statements. Finally, students should conclude their reviews with a

paragraph that indicates the single theme or issue from the book that they would most like to discuss in class.

ASSIGNMENT FOR WEEKEND #2

Weekend #2 (Nov. 10-11) – On the second weekend, we will focus our time on the Methodist movement in America. Students must read *American Methodism: A Compact History* prior to coming to class. Students must also submit a written review of this volume. The review is due when students come to class. Book reviews should be no less than 4 full pages and no more than 6 full pages. All reviews must be typed and double-spaced. Do not submit a cover page or bibliography (they are not necessary for this assignment). Reviews should cover the entire book. Students should pick out what they take to be the most important themes or issues in each chapter. They should describe these themes or issues in their own words. Do NOT simply copy and paste large quotations from the book. Reviews should be written in a narrative style. Please do not submit a review that consists of an outline or bullet point statements. Finally, students should conclude their reviews with a paragraph that indicates the single theme or issue from the book that they would most like to discuss in class.

Major Assignment (DUE SECOND WEEKEND):

The major assignment for this course will center of the significance of John Wesley's sermons for Christian life and ministry today. We will discuss this assignment during the first weekend of class. Students should not attempt to work on it prior to that. Instead, students should focus on reading and reviewing the *Heitzenrater* text. Having said this, students may want to begin looking at *The Sermons of John Wesley: A Collection for the Christian Journey*. Students do not need to read anything in this volume prior to the first weekend in class. However, students will be asked to read five sermons of their choosing, so they may want to browse through the volume prior to the first weekend in class. **This assignment will also be due when students come to class on Nov. 11-12.**