

ALPS Course of Study

Online May 14-15 and June 11-12, 2027 (required zoom classes-links will be emailed in early May)

Assignment and Course Requirements

Course: COS122-Theological Heritage I/COS132-Theology I

Instructor: Philip Jamieson

Address: 40 Westfield Rd. Amherst, NY 14226

Cell: 615 295-9926

Email: philipjamieson16@gmail.com If you have any questions, please email Dr. Jamieson

Pework must be E-MAILED to the instructor on or before **Midnight May 14, 2026**. Please include the ALPS-MTH “Cover Sheet” found under the General Information Tab on the ALPS-MTH website www.alpsumc.org

Additional written assignments will be **emailed to the instructor** no later than **Midnight June 11, 2027** before the second Friday night course.

Course Videos and instructions: There will be a two or three course videos to watch in the weeks between the two weekends. Links to the videos will be emailed by the instructor.

Course Objectives:

Students will be able to:

1. Reflect on and articulate your understanding of creation, faith, sin, salvation, grace, and the role of doctrine in the life of the church, integrating classical theological terms and themes in ways that connect meaningfully to everyday life, the Church, and the formation of Christian community.
2. Critically engage the historically Wesleyan sources of theological reflection—scripture, tradition, experience, and reason—and consider how each contributes to shaping theological understanding and guides Christian practice.
3. Integrate your developing theological perspective into real-world ministry, applying it to preaching, pastoral responsibilities, and contemporary issues faced by the Church and broader society.
4. Explore doctrines such as creation, atonement, and stewardship in conversation with post-colonial insights and diverse personal experiences, cultivating a broader, more empathetic, and more critically aware understanding of Christian theology.

Texts:

Gonzales, Justo L. & Zaida Moldonado Perez. *An Introduction to Christian Theology* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002).

Campbell, Ted A. *Methodist Doctrine: The Essentials* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, rev. ed. 2011).

Allison, C. FitzSimons. *The Cruelty of Heresy* (Harrisburg: Morehouse Publishing, 1994)

Reference:

2020-2024 Book of Discipline

Collins, Ken. *The Theology of John Wesley: Holy Love and the Shape of Grace* (Nashville: Abingdon, 2007).

Pre-work Assignments First Weekend: Due emailed to the instructor by Midnight May 12, 2026.

1. Read *An Introduction to Christian Theology*, pp. 7-96; *Methodist Doctrine: The Essentials*, pp. 9-58; *The Cruelty of Heresy*, pp. 15-94 and the *United Methodist Book of Discipline 2016*, pp. 47-91.
2. In the light of your reading, write a 4-5 page paper on the doctrine of the Trinity. What is unique about the Christian understanding of God and why does it matter in pastoral terms?
3. In the light of your reading, write a 4-5 page paper on the doctrine of Jesus Christ. Why is the Chalcedonian definition of *one person in two natures* important? How do you understand Christ's saving work?
4. In the light of your reading, write a 4-5 page paper on our doctrinal standards. How would you summarize what is unique about this aspect of United Methodism?

Mid Course Assignment: Due emailed to the instructor by Midnight June 11, 2027

1. Read *An Introduction to Christian Theology*, pp. 97-158; *Methodist Doctrine: The Essentials*, pp. 59-112; and *The Cruelty of Heresy*, pp. 95-178.
2. In the light of your reading, write a 4-5 page paper on ecclesiology, the doctrine of the Church. What is unique about the United Methodist understanding?
3. In the light of your reading, write a 4-5 page paper on the resurrection and Christian hope. How do we offer encouragement and promise regarding the future?
4. In the light of your reading, write a 4-5 page paper on the distinctively United Methodist relationship between theology and ethics. How does what we believe effect how we live? How does the way in which we live effect what we believe?

Grade Evaluation Percentages:

Pework 40%

Midwork 30%

Course Participation 30%

Policy on the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The learning outcomes in this class seek to form students as "pastor theologians" equipped to "participate responsibly to the life and leadership of the United Methodist Church" through the work of close reading of primary (historical) texts and articulation of doctrinal and theological commitments in the Wesleyan tradition. The skills required for such historical and theological study area also skills required for faithful leadership in the work of ordained and pastoral ministry, including critical thinking and clear writing, foundational to the practices of preaching, teaching, and leading in mission and ministry.

Given these learning outcomes and their role in shaping students for faithful work in pastoral and ordained ministry, all assignments in this class should be entirely prepared and completed by the student. While the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) continues to offer a growing set of tools that may be useful and helpful in both academic and pastoral work, it is essential that students learn the foundational skills in reading, comprehending, and writing as prerequisite to the academic and ethical use of AI tools for this class assumes that outside of these reviewing functions, all work submitted by students --drafts and final works--will be generated by the students themselves and without the use of AI tools. As a result, the use of generative AI tools beyond basic proofreading and grammar review may then constitute a violation of the academic honesty policy.