

HT 553 D UNITED METHODIST DOCTRINE

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Elmer M. Colyer
3 credits; letter grade

This course deals with the doctrine of the United Methodist Church and the theological heritage out of which it has grown. The course introduces students to the theology of John Wesley and the subsequent theological reflection within the Wesleyan tradition, including the Doctrinal Standards and Theological Task in the current Book of Discipline of the U. M. Church. There will be lectures, readings, and open class discussions. This course fulfills the disciplinary requirement of the United Methodist Church for candidates seeking ordination in that Church.

Course Objectives:

1. To understand the central themes of John Wesley's theology
2. To trace the theological tradition of the U.M. Church
3. To develop a clear grasp of PART II of The Book of Discipline
4. To reflect on & appropriate this theological heritage, including its discipleship & character formation
5. To be prepared to interpret and communicate this heritage in the life of local UM Churches

M.Div. Curricular Goals Fulfilled By this Course (emphasis added):

- X *Nurture habits and disciplines of study, prayer, and reflection that increase their love of God and neighbor and shape their personal and professional lives*
- X *Be formed by, live in, & minister out of Scripture & the historical & theological tradition of the Church*
- X *Interpret the Christian Scriptures through faithful exegesis and in light of the Christian tradition*
- X *Preach the Word of God with faithfulness and clarity*
- X *Lead worship and administer the sacraments with theological integrity and to the glory of God*
- X *Engage contemporary theological and ethical issues with insight and humility*
- X *Educate and equip individuals and congregations to live and minister joyfully and faithfully as part of their own denomination and the ecumenical church*
- X *Integrate theology and practice in all areas of life and ministry*

Required Texts:

- Rowe, Kenneth E., United Methodist Studies: Basic Bibliographies
- Albert C. Outler, John Wesley
- Thomas Langford, Practical Divinity, Volume 1 (revised edition)
- Thomas Langford, Practical Divinity, Volume 2 (revised edition)
- Thomas Langford, Doctrine and Theology in the United Methodist Church
- The Book of Discipline (2008)
- The Book of Discipline (any one from 1972 through 1984)

Course Requirements:

1. Completion of assigned readings (10% of the final grade)
2. Conscientious class participation (10% of the final grade)
3. Mid-term exam (20% of the final grade)
4. A final exam (30% of the final grade)
5. 3 reflection papers OR an 8-10 page research paper (30% of grade)

Assignment for WEEK ONE: (To be completed by class on January 27)

read: Outler, John Wesley, pp. 3-70, 77-80, 82-4, 87-116, 119-120, skim pp. 70-76, 80-82, 84-86
Langford, Practical Divinity, vol. 1, chapter 1