

Dianne Reistroffer
 MS 105-4 Methodist Heritage: History and Doctrine of Methodism
 Spring, 2009 – Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:30-6:20 p.m.
 Schlegel 120

HISTORY AND DOCTRINE OF METHODISM

This online syllabus should be used to gain a better understanding of the content and focus of a course. The syllabus given out in the class may differ from this online version and its content supersedes that of the online syllabus.

Course Description, Purpose, Objectives, and Core Competencies with Assessment Strategies

The course is designed to provide an overview of the history and doctrine of the Methodist movement. Significant time is spent on the life, work, and theology of John Wesley and the Wesleyan roots of Methodism as well as on the American Methodist experience. Close attention is paid to the institutional history of the predecessor denominations of The United Methodist Church, to the emergence of the AME, AMEZ, and CME churches, and to the specific traditions that have come together to form these denominations.

The purpose of the course is to acquaint students with the historical and theological uniqueness of Methodism and to inspire students to inquire in greater detail about different aspects of that heritage. This course also meets the history and doctrine denominational requirements for ordination as an elder and as a deacon in full connection in The United Methodist Church. This course also fulfills the denominational heritage requirement for students from the AME, AMEZ, CME, Wesleyan, and Nazarene Church traditions.

Course objectives include:

1. Helping students understand the Methodist tradition in the context of the cultures from which it has emerged and in light of its sources (catholic, evangelical, reformed), its antecedent organizations, the world family of Methodist churches, and the ecumenical Christian community;
2. Assisting students in the interpretation of the Methodist tradition in order that they may participate responsibly in the life and leadership of the church, critically appropriate and effectively communicate the tradition, and actively engage in ecumenical dialogue; and,
3. Encouraging students to relate historical understanding and theological reflection to the mission and ministry of the contemporary church through a knowledge of the rationale and the ordering of church structures, an understanding of the nature of authority and power in the church, and a commitment to an on-going process of renewal.

Louisville Seminary M.Div. Core Competency	How this competency will be demonstrated
Students will be:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to think critically and theologically. 	In the two major doctrinal papers, students will exercise and be graded on their ability to think critically and theologically about key doctrines in Methodism.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpret the church's history and tradition. 	Through class lectures and discussion, in the two papers assigned, and in the mid-term and

	final exams, students will not only present facts about Methodist heritage, but also different interpretations, including their own, of that history and tradition.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articulate and discuss Reformed theology, as well as theology of their own ecclesial traditions. 	In the first four lectures and through class discussion, students will examine and evaluate the Reformation roots of Methodism (including Reformed/Puritan) and in the course itself engage the theology of their own Methodist heritage. In the mid-term and final exams and in the major two papers, students will articulate and discuss the major theological beliefs of Methodism.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articulate what they believe to others. 	In the first four lectures and through class discussion, students will examine and evaluate the Reformation roots of Methodism and in the course engage the theology of their own Methodist traditions. In the mid-term and final exams and in the two major papers, students will articulate and discuss the major theological beliefs of Methodism.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize racism, sexism, classism, homophobia, and other oppressions that marginalize and dehumanize and respond to them creatively, constructively, and redemptively. 	Through discussion and lectures during sessions 13, 19, and 23, students will encounter the racial dilemma in American Methodism, its unfortunate legacy in church and society, and recent efforts through the Pan Methodist movement to bring about racial reconciliation in American Methodism.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discern their vocation and help others to do so and be able to articulate a theology of ministry. 	In leading devotions using John Wesley's Standard Sermons, through class discussion, and in writing the two major doctrinal papers, students will demonstrate their vocation and help others to celebrate theirs through prayer, reflection, and shared tradition in word and song.

Course Methodology and Format

The teaching methodology for this course is primarily lecture, but there is some discussion and independent research activity as well. The format for instruction is chronological and thematic.

Course Requirements

1. Preparation and participation. Students are expected to read the assigned material, attend

class regularly, lead devotions from time to time (based on John Wesley's Sermons), and, when required, participate in class discussion. Active and informed participation in class discussions is expected of all students. (10% of final grade)

2. Writing assignments. Two major doctrinal papers (due March 19 and May 7, 2009) offer students an opportunity to critically and appropriately explain and relate Methodist doctrine to the church's theological task today. Details on these assignments are on separate pages. (40% of the final grade)
3. A Mid-Term Examination. This exam covers material from the first half of the course, includes both objective and short essay questions, and is scheduled for March 31, 2009. (25% of the final grade)
4. A Final Examination. This exam covers material from the second half of the course, includes both objective and short essay questions, and is scheduled for May 13 or 14, 2009. (25% of the final grade)

Course Textbooks

Required

*Heitzenrater, Richard P. *Wesley and the People Called Methodists*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1995.

Langford, Thomas A., *Practical Divinity: Theology in the Wesleyan Tradition. Volume One*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998.

Langford, Thomas A., *Practical Divinity: Readings in Wesleyan Theology. Volume Two*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1999.

Maddox, Randy. *Responsible Grace*. Nashville: Kingswood, 1994.

*Norwood, Frederick A. *The Story of American Methodism*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1974.

*Outler, Albert C. and Heitzenrater, Richard P., eds. *John Wesley's Sermons: An Anthology*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1987.

Rack, Henry D. *Reasonable Enthusiast: John Wesley and the Rise of Methodism*. Third edition. Nashville: Abingdon, 2002.

*Runyon, Theodore. *The New Creation: John Wesley's Theology Today*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998.

*Priority purchases for the course; the rest should be in every Methodist pastor's library.

Recommended

Chilcote, Paul. *She Offered Them Christ: The Legacy of Women Preachers in Early Methodism*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1993.

Collins, Kenneth J. *A Real Christian: The Life of John Wesley*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1999.

Rowe, Kenneth (ed.) *United Methodist Studies: Basic Bibliographies*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998.

Schmidt, Jean Miller. *Grace Sufficient: A History of Women in American Methodism, 1760-1939*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1999.

Thomas, James S. *Methodism's Racial Dilemma: The Story of the Central Jurisdiction*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1992.

Other Recommended Texts and Readings

The following histories of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, and the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church are on reserve.

Campbell, James T. *Songs of Zion: The African Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States and South Africa*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995.

Lakey, Othal H. *The History of the CME Church*. Revised. Memphis: The CME Publishing House, 1996. (Recent paperback edition has come out.)

Walls, William J. *The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church: Reality of the Black Church*. Charlotte, NC: A.M.E. Zion Publishing House, 1974.

Class reading materials, other than the required texts, are on reserve in the library.

Class Schedule and Assigned Readings

T Feb. 10: INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE AND THE SETTING:
EUROPEAN REFORMATIONS; ANGLICAN/PURITAN TRADITION.

Required Readings: Heitzenrater, 1-25.

Recommended Readings: Lindberg, Carter. *The European Reformations*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 1996, 309-356. (Chapter 13: The Reformations in England and Scotland).

R Feb. 12: PIETISM

Required Readings: Heitzenrater, 25-36; Norwood, 23-26.

Recommended Reading: Lindberg, *The Pietist Theologians*, 1-13; 84-96; 100-110.

**T Feb 17: WESLEY'S ENGLAND: AN OVERVIEW
JOHN WESLEY: HIS FOREBEARS AND THE EARLY YEARS**

Required Readings: Heitzenrater, 33-95; Norwood, 27-37.

R Feb. 19: JOHN WESLEY: OXFORD, GEORGIA.

T Feb. 24: JOHN WESLEY: MORAVIANS, ALDERSGATE

R Feb. 26: THE EARLY YEARS OF THE REVIVAL

Required Readings: Heitzenrater, 97-198.

T Mar. 3 LATER SCHISM; INSTITUTIONAL FORMS

Required Reading: Heitzenrater, 199-308.

R Mar. 5: JOHN WESLEY: HIS THEOLOGY, Part One

T Mar. 10: JOHN WESLEY: HIS THEOLOGY, Part Two

Required Reading: Runyon, Theodore. *The New Creation: John Wesley's Theology Today*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998. (This is the official text in doctrine for The United Methodist Church.) Read the first three chapters of this text.

R Mar. 12: EARLY METHODIST SPIRITUALITY AND HYMNODY

Required Reading: Runyon, 102-145.

T Mar. 17: WESLEY'S ECONOMIC ETHICS AND THE POOR

Required Readings: Runyon, 168-221; Heitzenrater, Richard, ed. *The Poor and the People Called Methodists*. Nashville: Kingswood Books, 2001, especially 15-38, 59-81, 121-130.

R Mar. 19: WESLEY AND SLAVERY

HAND IN FIRST WRITING ASSIGNMENT AT THE START OF CLASS

Required Reading: Runyon, Chapter Six, 168-184, especially.

MARCH 23-27: RESEARCH AND STUDY WEEK

T Mar. 31: MIDTERM EXAM

R Apr. 2: AMERICAN METHODISM: THE FOUNDING FATHERS & MOTHERS, I

Required Reading: Norwood, 61-81.

T Apr. 8: AMERICAN METHODISM: THE FOUNDING FATHERS & MOTHERS, II

Required Reading: Norwood, 82-102.

R Apr. 9: NO CLASS – EASTER BREAK

T Apr. 14: THE BECKONING FRONTIER: ORGANIZING TO BEAT THE DEVIL

Required Reading: Norwood, 119-163

R Apr 16: THE GERMAN METHODISTS: ALBRIGHT AND THE EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION. OTTERBEIN AND THE UNITED BRETHREN.

Required Reading: Norwood, 103-118.

Recommended Reading: Behney, J. Bruce and Eller, Paul H. *The History of the Evangelical United Brethren.* Nashville: Abingdon, 1979.

T Apr. 21: NO CLASS – Professor at Louisville Institute Board Meeting in Indianapolis

R Apr. 23: THE ANTI-SLAVERY STRUGGLE AND BLACK METHODISTS.

Required Reading: Norwood, 145-209; 271-281.

Recommended Readings: George, Carol V.R. *Segregated Sabbaths: Richard Allen and the Emergence of Independent Black Churches, 1760-1840.* New York: Oxford University Press, 1973.

The AME, AMEZ, and CME histories listed in the front of the syllabus should also be consulted.

T Apr. 28: IN PURSUIT OF CHURCH UNION, 1868-1939 and 1939-1968

Required Reading: Norwood, 239-270; 406-425.

R Apr. 30: WOMEN IN 19TH CENTURY METHODISM

Required Readings: Norwood, 330-340

Recommended Readings: Robert, Dana L. *American Women in Mission: A Social History of Their Thought and Practice*. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 1996, 125-188. (Chapter Four on Women and Missions in the M.E.C.)

Thomas, Hilah F. and Keller, Rosemary Skinner (eds.) *Women in New Worlds: Historical Perspectives on the Wesleyan Tradition*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1981, 246-292, 310-328. (Essays on the role of women in the M.E.C., M.E.C. South, and A.M.E. churches and The W.C.T.U.)

Schmidt, Jean Miller. *Grace Sufficient: A History of Women in American Methodism, 1760-1939*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1999, 151-231. (Essays on women's ordination, the deaconess movement, and women's struggle for laity rights)

T May 5: FROM SANCTIFICATION TO HOLINESS; THE SOCIAL GOSPEL AND ITS IMPACT ON THE CHURCH.

Required Readings: Norwood, 292-301, 316-329, 341-354; 391-405.

Recommended Reading: White, Charles E. *The Beauty of Holiness: Phoebe Palmer*.

Handy, Robert. *The Social Gospel in America, 1870-1920*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1966.

Evans, Christopher H. (ed.) *The Social Gospel Today*. Louisville: WJKP, 2001. (See my chapter on "Giving Patterns and Practices Among Women in MEC and CME Churches: A Social Gospel Perspective," 86-97.)

R May 7: ISSUES IN TWENTIETH CENTURY METHODISM

HAND IN SECOND WRITING ASSIGNMENT AT THE START OF CLASS

Required Reading: Norwood, 391-442.

Recommended Reading: Thomas, James S. *Methodism's Racial Dilemma*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1992.

W May 13 or R May 14: FINAL EXAM

Revised: January 19, 2009