1-1-2009

DO 671 United Methodist Theology

Robert G. Tuttle

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Course: DO671 O1 (SP 2009)
Title: Readings: United Meth Theology
Hours: 1.00
Published: Yes, on 11/17/2008
Prerequisites:

DO670†
- or -
DO770†
† indicates this may be fulfilled as a co-requisite.

Department: Doctrine
Faculty: Dr. Robert Tuttle

Meetings:
During 02/09/2009 to 05/22/2009 on Thursday from 2:30p to 5:15p in EXLEXL.

Maximum Registration: 30
Catalog Description: This course provides an additional opportunity for further reading in the United Methodist theology. Taught concurrently with DO670 United Methodist Theology, it affords students greater familiarity with theological documents of United Methodism and its antecedent bodies. ST501 is a recommended preparatory course.

Objectives:
DO670

I. PURPOSE:
At Asbury Theological Seminary, there are four classes designed to meet the denominational requirements of The United Methodist Church for ordained ministry. They are DO 690 – John Wesley’s Theology Today; CH 600 – History of Methodism; PM 604 - United Methodist Polity; and this class DO 670 - United Methodist Theology.

The purpose of this class is (1) to examine what constitutes United Methodist doctrine as well as its standards and norms, (2) to survey Methodist theology after John Wesley to the present with a special focus upon its American developments, (3) and to study a variety of theological perspectives existing presently within the denomination.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES:
As a result of this course, our class both individually and corporately should be equipped to do the following:

(1) We should be able to appreciate, articulate and explain United Methodist doctrinal standards.
(2) We should be acquainted with some of the representative theological trends, movements, and theologians within United Methodism.
(3) We should be acquainted with some of the representative theological trends, movements, and theologians outside the United Methodist tradition that are impacting the United Methodist Church.
(4) We should be able critically to assess past and present theological trends in light of United Methodist doctrinal standards.
(5) We should be able to recognize the relationship of United Methodist Theology to all spheres of parish and denominational life and

DO670

United Methodist Theology (2 hours)

DO671 (1 hour)
Thursdays 2:30-5:15
Spring, 2009
Robert G. Tuttle, Jr., Ph.D.

e-mail Address: robert_tuttle@asburyseminary.edu
Office Phone: 407 482 7658
Office Hours: TBA

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(4) We should be able critically to assess past and present theological trends in light of United Methodist doctrinal standards.
(5) We should be able to recognize the relationship of United Methodist Theology to all spheres of parish and denominational life and
make applications.
(6) We should be prepared to address the doctrinal questions, stated in The Discipline of the United Methodist Church, which are a part of the Church's ordination requirements.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The success of our class is dependent on the timely completion of all assignments, in active participation in class discussion, and in building relationships with one another. During the semester you will be required to do the following for individual grades:

1. Assigned Readings: You will be responsible for all reading assignments specified for each class. It would serve you well to have read at least one of the texts before the class begins. 10% of final grade.

2. Research Paper: You will select a topic from those covered during the semester and write a 10-12 page research paper (typed, doubled spaced) on that topic. The research paper will be due May 8. On questions of style with regard to paper organization and references, see Carole Slade, Form and Style: Research Papers, Reports, Theses (10th ed., Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1997). 30% of final grade.

3. Reflective Essays: You will be given one reflective question for each class to help you critically process course materials and connect them to the local church. Over the course of the semester each student will choose three of those questions and write an essay (200-300 words max) and bring that to class for discussion. A sign up sheet will be provided during the first class. 30% of final grade.

4. Class Participation: You will actively and thoughtfully participate as a member of a learning community. We will be interacting with and learning from one another. Expectations will be spelled out on the first day of class. 30% of final grade.

During the semester you are also asked and encouraged to do the following:

(1) Pray Daily for All Participants in Our Course: I encourage you to pray for everyone in our class and for our seminary. Please feel free to share prayer requests throughout the semester. Know that I will pray daily for you individually and as a group.

(2) Enjoy and Go Deeper: God has given us the awesome ability to know each other and to know Him. This semester in our work, in our discussions, in our readings, and in our chats we have an opportunity to deepen our connection to Christ and to deepen our relationship with each other.

Online Section Descriptions and Communication Guidelines

The Virtual Classroom is built upon the open-source Moodle platform. By logging into http://one.asburyseminary.edu and clicking on the Virtual Campus tab (upper right corner) you will have access to this course and be able to collaborate with participant-colleagues and me throughout the course. The following are functions with which you should familiarize yourself:

1. The Course Information Center contains many features to be used throughout the semester:
   a) Course News and Announcements, where I will post items important for the entire class;
   b) Syllabus, where a copy of the syllabus is provided;
   c) To Professor, which is a way for you to post a message directly to me and we can discuss an issue privately;
   d) Course Questions, which is a public forum where you can publicly post any questions you have regarding the course so others may see your message and respond. Anytime you have a question or comment about the course, the schedule, the assignments, or anything else that may be of interest to other participants and me you should post it to the Course Questions Forum;
   e) Prayer Forum, which is a public forum where you can post prayer concerns and praises for all to see. This is a way for us to build community;
   f) Open Forum, which is a public forum where you can post anything that is not course-related for all to see. Examples include someone getting married, an upcoming birthday, discussions on topics not course-related, etc. This is a way for us to build community.

2. Modules, which are located below the Course Information Center, will contain forums where group discussions will take place, documents or other files to download or view online, and assignment links where you will post your assignments to me. Modules will be clearly labeled so you can follow along during the semester.

Virtual Support Contact Information

For technical support, library research support, library loans, and Virtual media contact Information Commons: Info_Commons@asburyseminary.edu Phone: (859) 858-2233; Toll-free: (866) 454-2733

For general questions and administrative assistance regarding the Virtual program, contact Dale Hale: ExL_Office@asburyseminary.edu Phone: (859) 858-2393

Accessing Information Commons Materials

1. General Questions:
   a. The Information Commons is a "one-stop shop" for all student research, circulation and technical needs. The Information Commons hours are posted here: http://www.asburyseminary.edu/information/hours.htm

2. Materials Requests:
   a. To search the library catalog for available materials, click here: http://www.asburyseminary.edu/information/index.htm
   b. Virtual Students may request books, photocopies or emailed attachments of journal articles/portions of reference books from Asbury SeminaryOs Library. Please allow 3-10 business days for all requests to be filled. Contact the Information Commons for costs and instructions on how to make requests.
   c. Virtual students are encouraged to make use of local library resources. Students who live within a 50 mile radius of either the Florida or the Kentucky campus should come to campus to obtain their materials.

3. Research Questions:
a. Virtual students are encouraged to contact the Information Commons for research assistance including help determining the best sources to use for a paper, finding book reviews, or research questions about using the online databases or any other library materials.

4. Online Databases:
a. To access the online library resources including the library catalog and full-text journal databases, go to http://www.asburyseminary.edu/information/index.htm and enter your 10-digit student ID# number in the login box. Your student ID# is provided on the biographical information section of the student registration webpage. Add a 2 and enough 0’s to the front to make a 10-digit number (20000XXXXX where XXXXX = your student id).

Copyright Policies
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IV. ASSIGNED TEXTS:
These textbooks may be obtained from the Asbury Theological Seminary Cokesbury Bookstore.

Required Texts:

Collateral Texts:

V. COURSE OUTLINE:
The following is a broad outline of the classes for the course.

Assigned Reading:
Sanctity without Starch, entire book.

Reflective question for the Feb. 19 discussion.
If John WesleyOs theology of grace focused upon the work of the Holy Spirit, how is that significant for your own ministry in the local church?

Assigned Reading:
The Book of Discipline, 2000, pp. 41-86.
Reflective question for the Feb. 26 discussion.
Comment on the so-called Wesleyan Quadrilateral. How would you describe this to a layperson?

Feb. 26: United Methodism moves toward ordination.
Assigned Reading:
Doctrines and Disciplines, United Methodism and American Culture, pp. 1-95.
Reflective question for the Mar. 4 discussion.
In "Doctrines and Discipline" Greg Jones asks the question in his article, "What Makes 'United Methodist Theology' Methodist?" How would you rewrite this article if you were asked to respond to the same question?

Mar. 5: The Theological Task, I.
Assigned Reading:
Doctrines and Disciplines, pp. 97-212.
Reflective question for the Mar. 11 discussion.
In ÔDoctrines and DisciplineÔ Greg SchneiderÔs chapter raises the question as to whether or not culture is a friend to be embraced as a gift from God or our enemy to be rejected as dangerous to the life of holiness.

Mar. 12: The Theological Task, II.
Assigned Reading:
Theological Transitions in American Methodism, pp. 13-114.
Reflective question for the Mar. 18 discussion.

In *Theological Transitions in American Methodism*, let's talk about the transitions from reason to faith and then faith to reason.

**Mar. 19: Theological Developments in American Methodism from 1790 to 1935, I.**

Assigned Reading:
*Theological Transitions in American Methodism*, pp. 115-213.

Reflective question for the Mar. 25 discussion.

In *Theological Transitions*, talk about the transition from law to grace.

**Mar. 26: Theological Developments in American Methodism from 1790 to 1935, II.**

Assigned Reading:

Reflective questions for Apr. 8.

In "Practical Divinity" (vol. 2) which of the personalities presented in the assignment for today speaks most to you at this point in your ministry and why?

**Spring Reading Week (Mar. 30-Apr. 3).**

**Apr. 9: Those Who Have Shaped Us, Part I.**

Assigned Reading

Reflective question for Apr. 15.

Georgia Harkness was not only the first woman Methodist professor to teach in a School of Theology, she was one of the first theologians in the 20th century to speak of the work of the Holy Spirit. How do you understand her significance to Methodist theology?

**Apr. 16: Those Who Have Shaped Us, Part II.**

Assigned Reading:

Reflective question for the Apr. 22 discussion.

Albert Outler did as much to preserve some of the grand old Methodist doctrines as anyone on the contemporary scene. What was his catalyst and how did he manage to pull it off?

**Apr. 23: Those Who Are Still Shaping Us, Part I.**

Assigned Reading:
*Practical Divinity*, pp. 253-324.

Reflective question for the April 29 discussion.

During the last 25 years most UM seminaries have capitulated to a Whiteheadian philosophical approach to theology called Process Theology. Ogden (and John Cobb to follow) contributed to this scene. How would you critique this theology?

**April 30: Those Who Are Still Shaping Us, Part II.**

Assigned Reading:
*Practical Divinity*, pp. 225-252.

Reflective question for the May 5 discussion.

Jose Miguez Bonino has been called the grandfather of Liberation Theology. Can you describe the Latin American contribution to this and his influence on Cone’s Black Theology?

**May 7: Those Who Are Still Shaping Us, Part III.**

Assigned reading:

Reflective question for the May 13 discussion.

One of the reasons I like Abraham's book is that he is good at providing specific suggestions. In the last chapter he gives 8 responses to the question, "What Then Shall We Do?" Of the 8 which do you think is most important and why?

**May 14: Men and Women in Ministry—the Future.**

Just a thought—From the collateral reading, *On Giant Shoulders*, Part I. Chapters two and three speak of lay beginnings and ordination. If lay leadership is, according to Wesley, our peculiar genius then what is the significance of ordination?

**Term paper due May 7!**

**May 18-22: Exam week (No Final Exam).**

**VI. GRADING:**

Asbury Theological Seminary uses the 4.00-point system for grading and evaluation. The grading system is:

- **A**
  - 4.00
  - Exceptional work: outstanding achievement of course objectives
- **A-**
  - 3.70
- **B+**
  - 3.30
- **B**
  - Good work: substantial achievement of course objectives
- **B-**
  - 3.00
Acceptable work: essential achievement of course objectives

C
2.00
C-
1.70
D+
1.30

Marginal work: minimal or inadequate achievement of course objectives

D
1.00
D-
0.70
F
0.00

Unacceptable work: failure of course objectives

VII: LEARN AND ENJOY:
I fully expect you to enjoy this learning experience. It would help if you would enlist people to pray for our week together. I want you better prepared for life as well as ministry. Let God arise. Hos. 6:3.

ÓReadings in Methodist TheologyÓ: for those who would like to extend the course to 3 hours by adding DO671, this requires an additional 400 pages of reading and extends your research paper to 12-15 pages. Note: lectures for all students will have the 3-hour, instead of the 2-hour format.

DO670 UM Theology

Sign up sheets for the reflective questions for in class discussion: A copy of this will be circulated on the first day of class.

Students will sign up for three reflective questions during the course of the semester and bring to class an essay (200-300 max) for critical reflection and process.

Reflective question for the Feb. 19 discussion.
If John Wesley’s theology of grace focused upon the work of the Holy Spirit, how is that significant for your own ministry in the local church?

Reflective question for the Feb. 26 discussion.
Comment on the so-called Wesleyan Quadrilateral. How would you describe this to a layperson?

Reflective question for the Mar. 5 discussion.
In "Doctrines and Discipline" Greg Jones asks the question in his article, "What Makes 'United Methodist Theology' Methodist?" How would you rewrite this article if you were asked to respond to the same question?

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Just a thought--From the collateral reading, On Giant Shoulders, Part 1, Chapters two and three speak of lay beginnings and ordination. If lay leadership is, according to Wesley, our peculiar genius then what is the significance of ordination?

[1] For those taking the one-hour DO671 as well, note the addendum at the end of the syllabus.