1-1-2001

DO 629 Readings in Wesley

Kenneth J. Collins

Follow this and additional works at: http://place.asburyseminary.edu/syllabi

Recommended Citation
http://place.asburyseminary.edu/syllabi/891

This Document is brought to you for free and open access by the eCommons at ePLACE: preserving, learning, and creative exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ePLACE: preserving, learning, and creative exchange. For more information, please contact thad.horner@asburyseminary.edu.
1. Course Description and Objectives:

The course will explore the theology of John Wesley ranging from the doctrine of God to eschatology. Special attention will be paid to the doctrine of God, Christology, pneumatology, as well as to Wesley’s views on providence, grace, and human responsibility. The course will proceed in a Socratic and dialogical manner as it entertains an array of possible meanings of selected texts. This process, intense in many ways, should enhance the ability of students not only to understand the thought of Wesley in greater depth in its eighteenth-century context, but also to think historically and critically. Moreover, the course will be attentive to current scholarly interpretations of Wesley’s theology and will assess such judgments in light of the primary evidence. All the tasks of the course, then, will concern exploring Wesley’s theology in terms of its relevance for twentieth-century theology and ministry.

2. General Goals

Upon completion of the course successful students will be able to do all of the following:

1) Identify the major elements in Wesley’s theology especially in terms of the broad motif of “responsible grace.”
2) Evidence an awareness of historiographical concerns in the interpretation of Wesley’s theology especially with respect to narrow, limited or unfair (biased) perspectives
3) Explore the interplay between religion and culture in terms of the intellectual developments (philosophical and theological) of the eighteenth century as reflected in Wesley’s writings.
4) Display an extensive knowledge of the theological distinctions and nuances employed by Wesley in crafting an articulate and well-developed theology, especially in the areas of justification, the new birth, and entire sanctification.
5) Demonstrate an understanding of the continuing significance of Wesleyan theology today especially for the broader ecumenical community.
6) Conceive one's calling as a minister of the gospel in light of the Methodist theology and practice.
7) Articulate the relevance of Wesleyan theology for effective pastoral ministry today.

3. Texts:

Required:
4. Course Procedures

Competency in this course will consist in satisfying the following criteria:

A. It is imperative that students attend class on a regular basis. Absenteeism (missing more than 2 classes) will result in grade reduction. Class participation, attendance, and completion of the assigned readings are required for course credit.

B. A reading report which indicates that students have completed all of the assigned readings is due on the last day of class.

5. Reading Selections:

Journals
- Wesley’s Journal from October 14, 1735 to August 1738. WJW 1:17-147.

Sermons
- "God’s Love to Fallen Man,” WJW 6:231-240.
- "The Mystery of Iniquity,” WJW 6:253-266.
- "The End of Christ’s Coming,” WJW 6:253-266.
- "The Imperfection of Human Knowledge,” WJW 6:337-349.
- "On Friendship with the World,” WJW 6:452-463.
- "In What Sense We are to Leave the World,” 6:452-463.
- "The Danger of Riches,” WJW. 7:1-14
- "On Visiting the Sick,” WJW 7:117-126.
- "On a Single Eye" WJW 7:297-304.

Treatises

- Minutes of some late Conversations between the Rev. Mr. Wesley and others in 1744, WJW 8:275-298.
- Minutes of Several Conversations between the Rev. Mr. Wesley and others from the year 1744 to 1789, WJW 8:299-338.
- The Character of a Methodist, WJW 8:339-346.
- A Short History of Methodism, WJW 8:347-350.
- The Principles of a Methodist, WJW 8:359-374.
- Predestination Calmly Considered, WJW 10:204-259.
- A Dialogue between a Predestinarian and his Friend, WJW 10:259-265.
- A Dialogue between an Antinomian and his Friend, WJW 10:266-275.
- Serious Thoughts upon the Perseverance of the Saints, WJW 10:284-297.
- Thoughts on the Imputed Righteousness of Christ, WJW 10:312-315.
- A Blow at the Root; or Christ stabbed in the House of his Friends, WJW 10:364-369.

6. Note: this syllabus may be changed, as the instructor sees fit, due to academic considerations

7. Office Hours

The professor will post his office hours on his door (AD 405) on the first day of class.

8. Chronology

Life of John Wesley

- 6/17/03  Born at Epworth
- 2/09/09  Saved from Fire
- 5/12/11  Nominated for Charterhouse
- 1/28/14  Gown-boy at Charterhouse
- 6/24/20  Enters Christ Church
9/19/25    Ordained Deacon
3/17/26    Fellow of Lincoln College
1729       Name Methodist given
1735       Whitefield joins Holy Club
4/25/35    Samuel Sr’s Death

10/21/35   Sails for Georgia
02/05/36   Reaches America
08/11/36   Charles leaves Georgia
12/02/37   John leaves Savannah
02/01/38   John lands at Deal
05/21/38   Charles’ Evangelical Conversion
05/24/38   John’s Evangelical Conversion
06/13/38   Visits the Moravian Church
05/02/39   Field-Preaching in Bristol

11/11/39   Preaches in the Foundery
07/20/40   Withdraws from Fetter Lane
05/28/42   First visit to Newcastle
06/06/42   Preaches on his father’s tomb
07/30/42   Death of Susanna Wesley
05/29/43   Opens West Street Chapel, London
08/26/42   Sets out for Cornwall
10/20/42   Riot at Wednesbury
06/25/44   First Conference

08/24/44   Last University sermon
08/09/47   First visit to Ireland
04/08/49   Marriage of Charles
10/03/49   Grace Murray marries John Bennet
02/18/51   Wesley marries Mrs. Vazeille
April/51   First visit to Scotland
06/01/51   Resigns Fellowship
11/26/53   Writes his Epitaph at Lewisham
Jan/55     Notes Upon the NT  published
05/06/55   Issue of Separation  Discussed

1757       Charles’ itinerancy limited
03/13/57   Ordination of John Fletcher
02/16/59   Public Fast; fear of French invasion
02/21/60   French Landing at Carrickfergus
10/25/60   Death of George II
11/26/62   Answer  to Bishop Warburton
01/07/63 Wesley meets George Bell
Mar/63 Earthquake panic in London

04/28/63 Thomas Maxfield leaves Wesley
04/18/64 Letter to Evangelical Clergy
May/64 Hervey Letters published
Jan/65 Conference on Ordinations
01/31/66 Closer union with Whitefield
1766 Plain Account Published
03/30/67 Wesley visits Ireland
08/18/67 Francis Asbury received on trial

Jan/68 Appointed chaplain to the Countess Dowager
08/24/68 Trevecca College opened
Aug/1770 Doctrinal Minutes of the Bristol Conference
09/30/70 Death of George Whitefield
11/18/70 Wesley preaches at Whitefield’s funeral
01/17/71 Benson dismissed from Trevecca
01/23/71 Mrs. Wesley leaves him
09/04/71 Francis Asbury sails for America

09/04/71 Fletcher’s 1 and 2 Checks published
08/14/72 Meets Howell Harris at Trevecca
08/14/72 Fletcher’s 3 and 4 Checks published
08/14/72 Wesley issues Vols. 11-16 of his Works
03/14/73 Replies to Richard Hill’s Farrago Double-Distilled
Dec/73 Vols. 17-25 of Wesley’s Works published
06/04/74 Arrest in Edinburgh
1775 Calm Address published

04/27/75 Death of Peter Bohler
Aug/75 Asbury decides to stay in America
01/03/76 Death of Westley Hall
08/18/76 Wesley first meets Dr. Coke
04/21/77 Foundation-stone of City Road Chapel laid
01/01/78 First number of Arminian Magazine
05/30/78 Death of Voltaire
11/01/78 Opening of City Road Chapel
1779 Publishes Popery Calmly Considered

08/10/80 Letter to Bishop Lowth on ordination for America
01/25/81 At his Nephew’s concert
10/08/81 Death of Mrs. Wesley
Aug/82 Adam Clarke at Kingswood School
June/83 Visit to Holland
02/28/84 Deed of Declaration
Sep/ 84 Ordinations for America
Dec/ 84 Francis Asbury Ordained
08/14/85 Death of John Fletcher

01/24/86 Hears George III in House of Lords
07/25/86 Conference begins at Bristol
08/08/86 Visits Holland
09/24/86 Dr. Coke sails with three missionaries
Jan/ 87 Begs £ 200 for London poor
08/04/87 Conference in Manchester
1788 Second Series of Sermons Published
03/29/88 Death of Charles Wesley

04/05/88 Burial of Charles Wesley in Marylebone
08/06/88 Conference at Bristol
07/28/89 Conference at Leeds
1790 Revised Translation of the NT published
07/27/90 Wesley’s last Conference in Bristol
07/30/90 Letter to Wilberforce
10/06/90 Last open-air sermon at Winchelsea
10/24/90 Last entry in Wesley’s Journal
02/22/91 Last sermon, at Leatherhead

02/24/91 Last letter, to Wilberforce
03/02/91 Dies at City Road at 10:00 a.m.
03/09/91 Buried at City Road

9. Bibliography

A Wesley Bibliography

Primary Sources: Books

Unpublished at This Point


**Published**


Students may also access the Wesley bibliography (look under “Resources”) on Asbury’s homepage or download from http://wesley.nnc.edu.