DO 671 Readings in United Methodist Theology

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DO 671
READINGS IN UNITED METHODIST THEOLOGY

Spring Semester 2002                      Dr. Paul W. Chilcote
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PURPOSE/DESCRIPTION

This course provides an additional opportunity for further reading in 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.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will seek to equip students:
1. To identify the formative theologians who have shaped the United Methodist theological heritage;
2. To articulate the central vision of the various theological movements within the life of the tradition as they have been forged by cultural and historical forces;
3. To engage in healthy dialogue with theological texts in the context of intentional community;
4. To analyze the theological insights of a particular Methodist theologian and apply them to their contexts of ministry.

SCHEDULE/OUTLINE

Thr  Feb 14  Introductions & Band Meeting Formation
Thr  Feb 21  Band Meeting
       Reading: Langford, 21-64
Thr  Feb 28  Plenary Meeting
       Reading: Langford, 65-90
Thr  Mar 07  Band Meeting
       Reading: Langford, 91-126
Thr  Mar 14  Plenary Forum
Thr  Mar 21  Band Meeting
       Reading: Langford, 127-61
Thr  Mar 28  Plenary Meeting
       Reading: Langford, 162-203
SPRING READING BREAK

Thr Apr 11  Plenary Meeting
Reading: Langford, 204-18

Thr Apr 18  NO CLASS

Thr Apr 25  Band Meeting
Reading: Langford, 219-49

Thr May 02  Plenary Meeting
Reading: Langford, 250-70

Thr May 09  Band Meeting
Reading: Langford, 271-305

Thr May 16  Plenary Forum

Thr May 23  Closing Eucharist

RESOURCES

Required Texts:
Thomas A. Langford, Practical Divinity, Volume 2

One book selected from the following resources (and not read for DO670):
Robert Chiles, Theological Transition in American Methodism
Georgia Harkness, Understanding the Christian Faith
Phoebe Palmer, Entire Devotion to God
Mildred Wynkoop, The Theology of Love
James Cone, Black Theology of Liberation
Mercy Oduyoye, Hearing and Knowing
Justo Gonzalez, Mañana
Elsa Tamez, The Amnesty of Grace
Geoffrey Wainwright, Doxology
Thomas Oden, Agenda for Theology
David Watson, God Does Not Forclose

Or any one volume in the Kingswood Book series related to United Methodist
Theology upon consultation with the instructor.
REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

1. **Seminar Participation.** This reading course will consist of three distinctive components: Band Meetings, Plenary Meetings, and Plenary Forums. The purpose of the Band Meetings is for small group dialogue, interaction, and conversation over texts. Each student will be assigned to a Band Meeting on the first day of class, normally consisting of four students each. Plenary Meetings will involve staged debates as well as general discussion of texts. Debate topics will be developed in the context of the seminar. Plenary Forums are completely open ended and are intended to be synthetic in nature, bringing closure to topics of interest, as well as raising further questions for exploration. Attendance will be taken at all sessions and absenteeism will result in a grade reduction. Participation in all components is required. Each student must submit a **one full page** (typed and double-spaced) reflection for each of the Band Meetings, beginning with the words: “The central theological insight I gained from this text that bears directly upon my ministry is . . .” with appropriate elaboration.

2. **Reading Report.** A reading report which indicates that the student has completed all of the assigned readings is **due on the last day of class.** This report need only consist of the schedule of readings appended to the syllabus and the dates read.

3. **Book Report.** Each student must complete **one** book report on a work related to United Methodist theology (from the “Texts” list above or a book approved by the instructor). The report must be **four pages** (typed and double-spaced). The format is open.

4. **Grading.** The final grade for this readings course will be based upon Band Meeting participation (30%), completion of assigned readings (30%), and the book report (40%).