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DO 691 Readings in Wesley

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DO 691
READINGS IN WESLEY
(Provisional)

Spring Semester 2005                          Dr. Paul W. Chilcote
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PURPOSE/DESCRIPTION

This course provides an additional opportunity for further reading on the life and theology of the Wesleys. Taught concurrently with DO690, John Wesley’s Theology for Today, it affords students greater familiarity with primary documents within the Wesleyan corpus and concepts related to Wesleyan theology.

SCHEDULE/OUTLINE

Tue    Apr 19    Wesleyan Spirituality

   Reading:    Whaling, Wesley, 1-64, 77-89, 162-71
                Wesley, Sermons, The Image of God, 13-22
                The One Thing Needful, 33-38
                Scriptural Christianity, 97-110

Tue    Apr 26    Charles Wesley’s Lyrical Theology

   Reading:    Whaling, Wesley, 162-250, 273-95
                Wesley, Sermons, Awake, Thou, 85-96
                The Witness of the Spirit, I, 145-56
                The Great Privilege, 183-92

Tue    May 03    A Plain Account of Christian Perfection, Part 1

   Reading:    Manskar, A Perfect Love, 5-48
                Wesley, Sermons, Circumcision of the Heart, 23-32
                On Sin in Believers, 359-70
                Repentance of Believers, 405-18

Tue    May 10    A Plain Account of Christian Perfection, Part 2

   Reading:    Manskar, A Perfect Love, 49-87
                Wesley, Sermons, Use of the Law, 255-66
                The Lord our Righteousness, 381-92
                On the Wedding Garment, 559-66
RESOURCES

Required Texts:

Steven W. Manskar, *A Perfect Love*  
A. Outler & R. Heitzenrater, eds., *John Wesley’s Sermons*  
Frank Whaling, ed., *John and Charles Wesley*

ISBN 0881773883  
ISBN 068720495X  
ISBN 0809123681

REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

1. **Band Meeting Participation.** Each student will be assigned to a Band Meeting consisting of about four students each. Participation in Band discussions is absolutely essential and required. Due to the brevity of this readings course, no student will be permitted to miss any session. Discussion will be based upon assigned readings for the day. Each block session will involve small group work, plenary discussion, time for questions/answers and prayer.

2. **Reading Report.** A reading report which indicates that the student has completed all of the assigned readings is due no later than **Tuesday, May 10**.

3. **Written Assignments.** A reflection paper (two pages/about 500 words/typed in 12 point font,double spaced) must be turned in at the conclusion of each session. Two of these papers must be reflection praxis plans and the other two simple reflective exercises. Students may complete these assignments in any order they choose, but one paper must be turned in each week. In the **Reflective Praxis Plans** you are to identify a central characteristic, theme, principal, or practice that you wish to exemplify in your own life and/or ministry. After articulating the theme and your vision, you are to discuss in concrete, practical terms how you hope to accomplish this in your setting of ministry. The primary means of fulfilling the **Reflective Exercises** is to prepare standard Reflection Papers, using the Guidelines provided separately. Some of you may have a creative bent that you would like to exercise. Therefore, you may choose to do some sort of creative reflection on **one** of these assignments. “Creative reflection” is a term that covers a multitude of possibilities! You may wish to submit poetry, artwork, dramas, multi-media or power point presentations, music, liturgical items, etc., etc. The only stipulation associated with this option is that you submit an “Abstract” of the material upon which you are reflecting (see Reflection Paper Guidelines), and you include a concise narrative of **one page** describing your project and its meaning in light of the topic/text.

4. **Grading.** The final grade for this readings course will be based upon completion of assigned readings (60%), and evaluation of papers (40%). In order to qualify for an “A” grade, at least 100 pages in addition to required reading must be documented. A **one page** paper (12 point font/single spaced), due no later than **Tuesday, May 10**, must discuss the relevance of this extra material read to the life of the church today.
REFLECTIVE EXERCISE GUIDELINES

The purpose of the reflective exercise is to enter into a dialog with the material. Reflection, therefore, is an exciting adventure, a conversation, a means of growth. It is one of the important ways by which we can explore our own “inner world” and become open to God’s transforming power in our lives as we encounter others with whom we both agree and disagree.

The Reflective Exercise in this course has a prescribed format. It should be two pages (typed and double-spaced) and divided into four distinct sections (approximately one half page each), headed with the titles, ABSTRACT, ANALYSIS, ANECDOTE, and APPLICATION. (The narrative description of each section that follows is based on the previous work of Dr. Donald Joy and Dr. Steve Seamands.)

ABSTRACT (Readers’ Digest Summary). Simply summarize the content of the assigned reading in your own words. There should be no personal commentary or attempt to evaluate the content of the material. Summarize what the author says. Include as many of the key concepts and ideas as you can. Strive to be both comprehensive and concise. The summary should be stylistically correct, coherent and clear. Communicate the essence of the author’s work in your own language and symbols. (One Paragraph)

ANALYSIS. What singular question came to mind as you worked your way through the material? It would be helpful to you if you were to keep a rough note sheet at hand as you read so you can write questions down. In this section, identify and briefly engage this one central question. Questions may be critical in nature, emerging out of spontaneous curiosity, essentially informational, or related to a serious plumbing of the depths of issues involved. Whatever the nature of your question, make sure that it relates directly to the material content of the reading. (Several Paragraphs)

ANECDOTE. Describe one personal experience which reading this material has brought to mind. Here is your chance to be a storyteller. Relate the experience in “first person,” describing action, quoting exact words you remember hearing or saying. Be as specific and concrete as possible. Interface these memories directly with the material. Why are these memories related to the reading? What is it that has elicited this memory? If possible, here is an excellent opportunity to draw your experience out of vocational circumstances. How do the “pastoral memories or accounts” relate to the issues that arise in the reading. The presupposition here is that if you can connect what you are reading and hearing with what you have previously lived or observed, you will be profoundly changed in the process. Here is where genuine insight can occur most meaningfully. (Several Paragraphs)

APPLICATION. So what are you going to do about this, anyway? Learning that is related to ministry must lead to “acts of piety and mercy,” whether these are transformative actions for your inner person or acquired skills and methods that have an impact on the lives of other people. In this section, describe what you feel called to do in response to what you have discovered in this reflective process. What has the Lord laid upon your heart? How can you translate that “word” or “call” into concrete action? To use a metaphor to help explain the ideal; you need a MAST upon which to attach this new sail into which the Spirit can blow. Whatever your action is, it should be Measurable, Attainable, Specific, and able to be accomplished within a given Time frame. To provide a specific example, “For the next month during my times of prayer, I will meditate on a different attribute of God for five minutes.” Here is another opportunity to relate your learning to some specific aspect of your vocation or setting of ministry as well. Do not feel compelled to fill this final page, but some reflection upon why this action is necessary will be helpful to you. (One Paragraph)
REFLECTIVE EXERCISE EVALUATION

NAME___________________________________ DATE____________________

ABSTRACT
Written from the original author’s point of view; no commentary; no evaluation of content, including the all of the key concepts in the assigned material in the summary.

0 ----- 1 ----- 2 ----- 3 ----- 4 ----- 5 ----- 6 ----- 7 ----- 8 ----- 9 ----- 10

ANALYSIS
Honest interrogation of conceptual or factual material. Lists and briefly engages one or two central questions. Dialog is related directly to the material content of the reading.

0 ----- 1 ----- 2 ----- 3 ----- 4 ----- 5 ----- 6 ----- 7 ----- 8 ----- 9 ----- 10

ANECDOTE
Describes one or two personal experiences and interfaces these memories directly with the material. Wherever possible draws experiences out of vocational settings.

0 ----- 1 ----- 2 ----- 3 ----- 4 ----- 5 ----- 6 ----- 7 ----- 8 ----- 9 ----- 10

APPLICATION
Detailed report of something you have already done or need to do if you are to obey the insight or truth that God has revealed to you in the reflective process. Actions should be specific and measurable (MAST).

0 ----- 1 ----- 2 ----- 3 ----- 4 ----- 5 ----- 6 ----- 7 ----- 8 ----- 9 ----- 10

PRESENTATION
Concise, linguistically and stylistically correct, coherent, and clear.

0 ----- 1 ----- 2 ----- 3 ----- 4 ----- 5 ----- 6 ----- 7 ----- 8 ----- 9 ----- 10

GRADE ____________