

1-1-2009

# IS 501 Christian Formation: Kingdom, Church and World

R. Jeffrey Hiatt

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## Syllabus

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**Course:** IS501 W1 (SP 2009)

**Title:** Christian Formation: Kingdom, Church and World

**Hours:** 3.00

**Published:** Yes, on 02/02/2009

**Prerequisites:**

*None*

**Department:** Integrative Studies

**Faculty:** Dr. Jeff Hiatt



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### Meetings:

During 02/09/2009 to 05/22/2009 on Wednesday from 9:00a to 12:00p in AD306.

**Maximum Registration:** 35

**Catalog Description:** What is the mission of the church? Behind this question is a cluster of related questions, the most important focused on the nature of God's creative and redemptive purpose (as this is expressed in the biblical story), its ongoing expression in the world, and its consummation in the eschaton. Participants in this course will explore how the church might discern, embrace, and participate in God's own mission.

## Objectives:

### IS 501W1

#### **Christian Formation: Kingdom, Church and World (3 Credits, Wednesday 9:00 – 12:00)**

Spring 2009

Professor: Rev. Dr. R. Jeffrey Hiatt, D.Miss.

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**WELCOME** to Kingdom, Church and World! This course is an avenue to examine our presuppositions and commitments regarding the nature of the kingdom of God, its relationship to the church, and their relationship to the world. These are three distinct, but intimately related aspects of the reality in which we all live and engage in ministry. This class gives us an opportunity to examine and think through them. The components of the class give an indication of the curriculum that lies ahead in theological study, while inviting you "to taste and see the Lord" in your daily routines. In this regard, this course integrates theological reflection and biblically informed practice that demonstrates its significance missiologically for God's people.

The global church is shifting from its traditional centers in the North and West to the South and East. We need to listen to the theological voices of the church in these areas. They are growing and we are plodding. They have something to teach us, if we will listen. By 2050, the various predictions from census figures claim that 25% or more of the population in the U.S. will be Hispanic. This is a trend which will affect all communities and all churches in the U.S. We who will be in ministry need to recognize this shifting cultural reality and prepare for its effects and possibilities. In your work through this course, you may want to focus your group project or specialized research in this area.

#### **Course Description:**

What is the mission of the church? Behind this question lay a cluster of related questions. The most important is focused on the nature of God's creative and redemptive purpose (as this is expressed in the biblical story), its ongoing expression in the world, and its consummation in the eschaton. Participants in this course will explore how the church might discern, embrace, and participate in God's

own mission.

We will consider the following questions, along with others which may arise:

1. What is the Kingdom of God?
2. What is the Church?
3. How is the Kingdom present in the World through the Church?
4. How are we to participate as the Church in God's mission to the World?

Sometimes these questions may challenge you and your accepted view of the world. Please remember that this is an on-going journey that we are all on, and different people may be at different stages. Always listen, critique, and debate in an attitude which expresses the love of God to others.

### **Basic Structure of the Course:**

This course is loosely divided thematically into three major sections, based on simple communication theory. To communicate successfully, one needs a communicator (the Church), a message (the Kingdom of God), and an audience (the World). For effective ministry we need to understand each of these foundational elements and how they work together.

This course will begin by examining the message of the Kingdom of God. We will then look at our roles as communicators of this message. What does it mean to be the Church? Finally, we will look at the changing world around us and how that context shapes our ministry. Your work will be evaluated based upon the written demonstration of your ability to reflect on and integrate the assigned texts, class lectures, discussions, and class assignments in practical ministry.

### **Course Objectives:**

Having successfully completed this course, students should be able to:

1. Articulate their understanding of the biblical narrative that comes to focus for us best in Jesus' proclamation of the Kingdom of God;
2. Identify the particular contribution of the Wesleyan tradition to our understanding of this narrative;
3. Convey the major theological, moral, and philosophical implications of the message of the Kingdom of God for us as the Church, in terms of our identity, nature, and mission.
4. Evaluate various aspects of culture (e.g., literature, television, movies, advertisements, print media, music) in light of major theological, moral, and philosophical implications;
5. Be able to critique one's own cultural context and evaluate another culture's possible strengths and growth areas in light of these theological, moral, and philosophical implications.
6. Articulate the ecclesial and missional implications of this narrative – specifically for one's own context and generally for our shared global context;
7. Demonstrate the relationship between spiritual growth and theological reflection in the practice of kingdom ministry by a commitment to a life of "works of piety" and "works of mercy" formed through social holiness, holy love, and immersion in the means of grace; and
8. Exhibit a heightened sense of commitment to serving the Kingdom of God in mission in the world.

### **Required Readings (Total 30%): (read all 5; choose only 4 of 5 to review in set A)**

#### **Set A(20%).**

Bartholomew, Craig and Michael Goheen. *The Drama of Scripture*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2004.

Clapp, Rodney. *Border Crossings*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2000.

Jenkins, Philip. *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*. New York: Oxford UP, 2007.

Snyder, Howard. *Kingdom, Church, and World: Biblical Themes for Today*. Wipf & Stock, 2001. (Originally published as *A Kingdom Manifesto*, IVP, 1985.)

Snyder, Howard. *Models of the Kingdom*. Wipf & Stock, 2001.

#### **Pick one each from B and C; read it, and submit a reflection paper on it.**

#### **Set B (5%).**

Campbell, Ted A. & Michael Burns; Robert Mullholland, ed. *Wesleyan Essentials in a Multicultural Society*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 2004.

**-or-**

Collins, Kenneth J. *A Real Christian: The Life of John Wesley*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 2000.

#### **Set C (5%).**

Glasser, Arthur. *Announcing the Kingdom*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2003.

**-or-**

Escobar, Samuel. *The New Global Mission*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2003.

### **Web-based John Wesley Documents:**

The material below is for the small group devotional readings. These sermons are grouped according to a prominent emphasis in the writing and the course themes. Make selections according to course weekly themes. Use appropriate Wesley material from his other writings as desired, but let me know if you are using something different.

• **Kingdom/Mission**

[A Caution against Bigotry](#) Mark 9:38-39  
[Catholic Spirit](#) 2 Kings 10:15  
[The General Spread of the Gospel](#) Isa 11:9  
[God's Love to Fallen Man](#) Rom 5:15  
[On God's Vineyard](#) Isa 5:4  
[Scriptural Christianity](#) Acts 4:31  
[The Signs of the Times](#) Matt 16:3  
[Some Account of the Late Work of God . . .](#) Ezek 1:16  
[The Way of the Kingdom](#) Mark 1:15

• **Church**

[The Ministerial Office](#) Heb 5:4  
[Of the Church](#) Eph 4:1-6  
[On Attending the Church Service](#) 1 Sam 2:17  
[On Corrupting the Word of God](#) 2 Cor 2:17  
[On Obedience to Pastors](#) Heb 13:17  
[On Schism](#) 1 Cor 12:5

• **Works of Mercy**

[The Good Steward](#) Luke 21:2  
[On Charity](#) 1 Cor 13:1-3  
[On Visiting the Sick](#) Matt 25:36  
[The Use of Money](#) Luke 16:9

• **Works of Piety**

[The Duty of Constant Communion](#) Luke 22:19  
[The Means of Grace](#) Mal 3:7 -OR- <http://gbgm-umc.org/umw/wesley/serm-016.stm>  
 See the site below for an interpretive view of Wesley's views by George Lyons  
[http://wesley.nnu.edu/john\\_wesley/covenant/means.htm](http://wesley.nnu.edu/john_wesley/covenant/means.htm)  
[The More Excellent Way](#) 1 Cor 12:31  
[On Working out Own Salvation](#) Phil 2:12-13  
[The Repentance of Believers](#) Mark 1:15  
[Sermon on the Mount, Six](#) Matt 6:1-15  
[Sermon on the Mount, Seven](#) Matt 6:16-18  
[Self-Denial](#) Luke 9:23

• **A Wesley Distinctive**

[The Witness of the Spirit, One](#) Rom 8:16  
[The Witness of the Spirit, Two](#) 2 Cor 1:12  
[The Witness of our own Spirit](#) 2 Cor 1:12  
 A Plain Account of Christian Perfection <http://gbgm-umc.org/Umhistory/Wesley/perfect.html>

• **World/Anthropology**

[The Duty of Reproving our Neighbour](#) Lev 19:17  
[God's Approbation of his Works](#) Gen 1:31  
[The Heavenly Treasure in Earthen Vessels](#) 2 Cor 9:7  
[Imperfection of Human Knowledge](#) 1 Cor 13:9  
[In What Sense We Are to Leave the World](#) 2 Cor 6:17-18  
[On Friendship with the World](#) Jas 4:4  
[On the Deceitfulness of the Human Heart](#) Jer 17:9  
[The Reformation of Manners](#) Ps 94:16  
[The Trouble and Rest of Good Men](#) Job 3:17  
[What is Man?](#) Ps 8:3,4  
[What is Man?](#) Ps 8:4

**ATS Chapel Resources:**

Audio (listen for March 4 class): Tom Sine Chapels

[http://media.asburyseminary.edu/audio/is502/rdanielson/beyond\\_secular\\_humanism\\_sine.mp3](http://media.asburyseminary.edu/audio/is502/rdanielson/beyond_secular_humanism_sine.mp3)

[http://media.asburyseminary.edu/audio/is502/rdanielson/beyond\\_the\\_american\\_dream\\_sine.mp3](http://media.asburyseminary.edu/audio/is502/rdanielson/beyond_the_american_dream_sine.mp3)

Video (watch for April 8 class): Tom Skinner Chapels

<http://media.asburyseminary.edu/flash/courses/is501/rdanielson/>

<http://media.asburyseminary.edu/flash/courses/is501/rdanielson/skinner2.php>

Audio: (listen for Apr.29 class) Miriam Adeney Chapels

<http://media.asburyseminary.edu/flash/courses/is501/adeney/index.php>

<http://media.asburyseminary.edu/flash/courses/is501/adeney/index2.php>

## Course Requirements and Evaluations:

### I. Choose either option #1 or #2 (30% of grade):

**(Option #1)** 6 Book Reflection/Evaluations (described above) (30%):

A two-page book review of 6 books we use in the class. The due date of each paper is in the schedule.

- OR -

**(Option #2)** Write a Term Paper (30%):

The theme of the 15page term paper should reflect the changing face of contemporary mission. **Due: Wed., May 6.** Choose your topic in consultation with the professor. Note: choosing this option does not exempt the student from reading the books, only writing the reflection papers. The books still contain essential concepts related to the term paper.

### II. Spiritual Formation & Leadership Group (30% of grade):

Reflection paper **Due: Wed., Apr. 29**

Because a commitment to *social holiness* (spiritual formation as holy love in community) is a central emphasis of biblical faith, the Wesleyan tradition, and an important part of this course, you will participate weekly in a 3-4-person group (assigned in class) that provides a framework for sharing and prayer. Begin this commitment by the second week of class (Feb. 18 – May 6). To open the class, volunteer groups will take a turn in leading the devotion with a world Christian flavor of praise and prayer (10-15 minutes).

Break into individual groups to discuss your spiritual life and the weekly devotional readings from Wesley (see above list) together. Members of the group are expected to encourage each other to live faithfully as children of God's kingdom. Prayer and other forms of mutual support should be used to hold each other accountable. Each student is expected to make good contribution in the discussion including leadership of three meetings. Each student will submit a 5-6 page reflection paper on this group experience, covering: the student's own experience, value of the materials used, methodology, and thoughts on the other members' participation in, and leadership of, the group.

*Goals for the spiritual formation group:* Engage with "means of grace" in order to cultivate attentiveness to God's presence and mission in our lives. Provide an opportunity for mutual accountability and leadership. Participants designate their own goals and all share the journey of growth in grace. Focus on prayer – corporate and personal. Mutual sharing: When you are the designated facilitator, this is not a "me teach you" format, but a "let's learn together as members of God's family" approach.

### III. Kingdom Project (40% of grade):

Through the cooperation of two spiritual formation groups, a group of 6-7 students will participate in a "Kingdom Project" together. These projects provide an avenue of active participation in some form of "kingdom" ministry. In a real sense, this work should be an outflow of your spiritual journey, but is also a factor in your own spiritual growth among your peers. Each student in a group is required to spend 12 hours of personal work/involvement in the project. Record your time/date and task/focus for each hour worked. A list of local ministries and resources can be provided to facilitate the selection of the project. Groups are also encouraged to find other suitable (in consultation with professor) churches, para-church organizations, social service agencies, and community related organizations where they may complete the Kingdom Project.

The outcome of the project will be presented in two ways:

- After completion of the project, the group will share its experience in class (10%).
- Each student will write a 5-6 page reflection paper which should include the theological and ministerial significance of the project, group dynamics, and the interaction with the people of the ministry setting (20%). Attach the log of how many hours you worked, noting the main work you did for each hour to the paper (10%).

### Kingdom Project Description

The Kingdom Project assignment is an attempt to link the more theoretical aspects of a theological education with a set of concrete practices. This embodiment of our Christian faith is a vital necessity if we are to truly be ministers who proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ and indeed are "salt and light" in a tasteless, dark world.

The temptation—and one that will be exacerbated by the time constraints of a busy semester—will be to allow this assignment to become just one more task to be accomplished. The pull will be toward reducing the assignment to a mere service project whereby a good deed is done, but without the Divine-human involvement, interaction, and theological reflection that distinguish a Kingdom Project. By design, the best projects involve *people* and are intended to establish links and relationships which generate avenues of understanding and the means to break down the walls that hold us apart. This is not an easy task. One line in the ridiculously bad William Shattner song "Common People" rings true as he puts it, "Everybody hates a tourist."

Spending a night on the streets of Lexington does not make me homeless any more than serving dinner at the Catholic Action center means I'm hungry. Because of our station in life (most likely), there is a gap between us and those we serve. With one phone call or a short drive we find ourselves home again safe and sound. The question then becomes, "Is this good enough for a people that bear the name of Jesus Christ and carry his gospel into the world?" Are there ways to transcend the barriers that divide us today and allow the characteristics of the God's kingdom—preaching the good news: release for the captive, recovery of sight for the blind and freedom for the oppressed, the favor of God, for example—to be actualized? Are the bonds that unite us able to breach the walls that divide us? This is no doubt a tall order and a group project involving twelve hours of service will more likely generate more questions than answers. Nevertheless, such a project is a start and a necessary reminder that our words, our thoughts, and our works, and relationships need to be tightly linked.

Ø Start planning early! A semester is shorter and more intense than it might initially appear. By the second week of class solid

conversation regarding your group's Kingdom Project should be taking place.

- Ø Take initiative & leadership. The group needs a person who will be the liaison to the organization to be contacted. Someone needs to be responsible for taking notes at meetings. Everyone needs to record thoughts about the daily encounters of the project. Someone should take responsibility for communication and coordination of the group. Someone needs to lead/organize the group presentation efforts. Everyone should share creatively and have an active part.
- Ø If you have any questions...Ask! We are here to help you succeed in this class and we believe (as evidenced by the relative grade weighting) that the Kingdom Project is a key component of Kingdom, Church, and World.
- Ø Be creative! Opportunities abound for fresh application of this assignment. Have your eyes open for possibilities here in Wilmore, Jessamine County, Lexington, and possibly beyond.
- Ø Have fun with this assignment!
- Ø Warning: It may have lasting impact on you, those you serve with, and those whom you serve! This is a wonderful opportunity to build connections with both your teammates and the people of the broader community.

### **Kingdom Project Expectations**

The purpose of the kingdom project, the class presentation, and the reflection paper is to give a theological account of the undertaking of your group work. There should be some demonstration of what you did (build a Habitat house, feed hungry people, talk with street kids, etc.) and there should be some theological reflection on the project. What do we mean by theological reflection in the context of the KCW class? The course examines the nature of the kingdom of God, the church, and the world. We talk about God's narrative and about the way in which Jesus demonstrates the kingdom of God. Reflection that is able to discern the kingdom reasons behind the project that you engage in will be well on the way to a strong presentation.

### **Guidelines for the group presentation:**

1. Turn in a page with all the names of your team on it and the number of hours completed by each person on the team.
2. Tell, **briefly**, what you did.
3. Demonstrate how this is a **kingdom** project:  
The following are suggestions or guidelines for your own theological reflection:
  - a) tell the narrative of the kingdom (in 1-2 min.) and how your project connects to it;
  - b) relate your project to one or more of the themes of the kingdom;
  - c) how did your work enact the kingdom through the church for the sake of the world;
  - d) share significant OT & NT Scriptures (summarize) that relate to your project;
  - e) show how your project interacts with one or more of the course readings.
4. Time limit: about 10 minutes, 13 max. We have to take the time limit seriously since each group must share in the limited period of time.
5. Media: creativity is encouraged; however, please do not use too much media. If you are using a computer or any other technology, please make sure that it works in the classroom prior to the day of the class presentations.
6. Presentation: this can take any form you want it to have (speaking, singing, skit, mime, art, food, etc.). Again, remain aware of your time limit. Creativity is part of the kingdom of the Creator, so have fun and enjoy sharing what your group did with the rest of us.

### **Guidelines for the kingdom project paper:**

The paper should give a description of the project putting it in context (20% limit). But the majority of the paper (80%) should be taken up with a theological reflection on the events and the group encounters. The reflection will demonstrate how the work was **kingdom** work. How does this project embody your learning about the kingdom of God this semester? This paper is one of the components of your formation portfolio.

### **Grading Policy**

Asbury Seminary defines grades using the following criteria (catalog, p. 24). I will grade all submitted work and will seek to return your papers in a timely fashion (usually 1 week).

A= Exceptional work: outstanding or surpassing achievement of course objectives

B= Good work: strong, significant achievement of course objectives

C= Acceptable work: essential achievement of course objectives

\*\* Remember that a good grade for an ATS class is a "B."

#### **Grading Scale**

A = 100-95    B+ = 89-87    B- = 83-80    C = 76-70    F = 59-0

A- = 94-90    B = 86-84    C+ = 79-77    D = 69-60

### **Attendance Policy:**

It is expected that each student will attend class each week. Since we only meet once a week, it is vital that you are here. Any absences will be reflected in your participation grade. Absences or delays in submitting assignments should only occur under unusual circumstances and must be arranged in advance if at all possible.

One week of class may be missed without makeup. After one week, extra reading is required (50 pages per day missed: from the recommended reading list) and a one page single-spaced paper summarizing the extra reading. If three weeks are missed, a conversation with the professor is needed and there will be a reduction of grade. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the attendance sheet is marked prior to leaving class.

### **Late & Incomplete Work:**

All assignments are due at the beginning of class, by the stated due dates. Late assignments will be penalized one letter grade for up

to one week late. For example, a B paper turned in one day late becomes a C, etc. Late assignments turned in more than one week late are not accepted.

\*\*\**Grace Note Exception*: If you cannot meet one particular personal deadline during the semester (group deadlines excluded), let me know as soon as possible and up to one week of "grace" may be extended for that assignment.

A grade of "I" denotes that the work of a course has not been completed due to an unavoidable emergency, which does not include delinquency or attending to church work or other employment. If the work of a course is incomplete at the end of a term without an emergency, a letter grade will be given based on the grades of work done, with incomplete work counted as "F." (See ATS Catalog)

### Discussion:

A crucial element of this course is the dialog that we enter into with each other. All discussions are to be in the vein of encouragement, gentleness, patience, persistence, and hope. This does not mean that we will not challenge, confront, or question each other. It does mean that these things will be undertaken for the purpose of growth and stimulation to think and understand the subject at hand more deeply and more intimately, while conveying it in love.

### Writing Issues:

Please use gender inclusive language in all of your writing. Use appropriate language and professional grammar. Communicate in as concise a manner as possible without losing important elements of the presentation. Use adjectives and adverbs sparingly. In submitted assignments, use one-inch margins, a 12-point plain font such as Arial or TNR, double-space lines, and indented paragraphs. Document your sources within the body of the paper, for example (Lewis 45) and give your Works Cited information at the end of your paper.

Papers must conform to MLA or APA form and style according to Slade or Turabian [available in the ATS bookstore and in the library].

## Detailed Weekly Guide for KCW Spiritual Formation Groups

### Introduction

Long before the current renewal of interest in "small groups," the Methodist movement of the 18<sup>th</sup> century set in place an ingenious requirement of small group participation to grow in grace through "works of piety" and "works of mercy" to help each other "work out their salvation." The details of this system are recorded in your reading in Henderson's *A Model for Making Disciples* for WEEK TWO (below). The material for reflection/meditation/discussion for the 10 weeks will focus on select Wesley Hymns, and Wesley Sermons.

For our purposes in KCW, we will begin each class with an emphasis on worship, and then break into the small group sessions. The purpose of this Wesleyan spiritual friendship group is to acknowledge each other's desire for God, to encourage that desire, to help each other discover and maintain life patterns consistent with that desire, to assist one another in paying attention to what God is doing among us, and to respond faithfully to God's presence.

### Suggested Order of the Group:

- A. Silence. Begin your time with silence, to create space to listen to God.
- B. Invocation. The leader for that day (rotate each session) should begin with prayer asking God to guide your time together, and help each one listen to each other, and be aware of God's movement in your lives.
- C. Meditation. Next, read, or sing, the suggested hymn for the day. Share: (1) What is the main theme or message of the hymn? (2) How do you experience God in it? (3) What feelings, desires, or actions does it elicit from you toward God? Toward yourself? Toward your group, (or the church)? About the kingdom? Toward the world?
- D. Self-Examination. During your reflection time, these questions should hone your interaction with the material, each other, and God:
  1. How is it with your soul?
  2. Have you done all the good you could and avoided all the evil you could this week?
  3. How have you availed yourself of the means of grace (prayer, scripture, worship, sacrament, fellowship, fasting, acts of mercy, Christian witness . . .)?
  4. How can we as a group best pray for and support you?
- E. Supplication. Pray for each other's needs.  
(Normally, your time of prayer and sharing A through E should take approximately 20 minutes; however, flexibility is your option as a group, determined by each week's leader.)
- F. Discernment. Following this time of sharing, discuss the questions associated with each week's Wesley Sermon emphasis.

### Week One: Introduction (no prior assignment)

February 11

1. Meet with your group and get acquainted. Each person should take 2-3 minutes to tell a brief account of where he/she is from and how he/she got to Asbury Seminary (you may include degree programs, your understanding of your direction in ministry, significant people or communities, parts of your spiritual journey, your favorite...(pick one) pet, ice-cream, vacation, present, etc..)
2. Select a "leader" for each group session. Twelve group sessions means that each member will give leadership about four times during the semester.
3. Make a list of who lead each session and turn it in with your Spiritual formation Group reflection paper.
4. Each week's leader should facilitate the discussion using suggested questions. There is obviously a limited amount of time for discussion, and the leader should direct the discussion to those questions that appear to be most profitable for the group.

**Week Two: Groups in the Wesleyan Tradition**

February 18

Come having read Henderson's *A Model for Making Disciples*, or *A Plain Account of the People Called Methodist*, a lengthy letter of John Wesley (1748), both clarify the beginnings of the Methodist movement and the importance of small groups.

Each week the leader should follow the Suggested Order for the small groups. Each person in the group should take approximately 2 minutes each to answer the questions listed in the Suggested Order before moving on to discussing the chosen Wesley Sermons reading and the discussion questions as possible.

More Discussion Questions (if needed):

What prompted the use of small groups for the Wesleys? How have you seen similar concerns dealt with? What were some of the arguments against small groups in his day? How are attitudes similar or different in the church today? What new insights have you gleaned from this reading? How has this reading helped you understand the role of small groups in the Kingdom, Church, and World class?

**Week Three: Biblical Perspective on the Kingdom Retold**

February 25

Come having read as much of the following Scriptures as you can:

Deut. 5; Ps. 106; Acts 7; Hebrews 11;

Each of these passages does two things: it recounts a narrative, and it locates the people of God in the context of that narrative.

How does the retelling of history help the people of God tell them about who God is, know who they are and what they are about? What would it mean for you to locate yourself within the history of God starting with Creation and going on through the advent of the church? How does this relate to your understanding of the kingdom?

Luke 4:1-30; Isaiah 61

In what ways does the recounting of Jesus' temptation and baptism parallel the account of the wilderness generation? In what important ways is it different? What is the context of Isaiah 61? What is the situation into which this declaration is being proclaimed? In what ways do the promises made here reflect God's promises to Israel in the Pentateuch (cf. Leviticus 25)? When Jesus reads from Isaiah 61 and declares that this Scripture has been fulfilled in their presence, what is Jesus asserting about the kingdom?

What implications does Jesus' reading of the Isaiah passage have for us in our context/s?

**Week Four: Kingdom Context for Today**

March 4

The leader should facilitate the group in prayer and sharing using the Suggested Order questions.

Discuss Wesley Sermon Theme: Kingdom (your choice)

**Week Five: The Wesleyan Way of Salvation**

March 11

The leader should facilitate the group in prayer and sharing using the Suggested Order questions and then proceed to the discussion below as time permits.

Discuss Wesley Sermon Theme: Church. Reading: *An Earnest Appeal to Men of Reason and Religion* and *A Farther Appeal to Men of Reason and Religion*. These summarize much of Wesley's theology and apologetic of how God works on the human mind and heart to bring to us the "medicine of life."

What is Wesley's understanding of the way of salvation? How is this obtained? What sequence of experiences does Wesley defend? What is the role of reason? . . . of faith? . . . of experience? . . . of the Holy Spirit? Where do you find yourself agreeing with Wesley? Where do you hold a different perspective? How does Wesley's "way of salvation" contribute to the discussion of the kingdom of God that we've had in the KCW course?

**Week Six: Who are the People of God?**

March 18

The leader should facilitate the group in prayer and sharing using the Suggested Order questions and then proceed to the discussion below as time permits.

Discuss Wesley Sermon Theme: Church (your choice)

Supplemental discussion on the following Scriptures: Exodus 19; Acts 2; 1 Corinthians 12

How is our identity as the people of God related to these accounts of who God is and how God acts? What characterizes the people of God in each of these Scriptures? How do these Scriptures influence your understanding of the nature of the people of God today? In what ways do these passages ask us to be radically different from our culture?

**Week Seven: The Church in Mission**

March 25

The leader should facilitate the group in prayer and sharing using the Suggested Order questions and then proceed to the discussion.

Discuss Wesley Sermon Theme: Church (your choice)



## Week Eight: Spring Break

March 30

## Week Nine: The Church in Renewal

April 8

The leader should facilitate the group in prayer and sharing using the Suggested Order questions and then proceed to the discussion.

Discuss Wesley Sermon Theme: Church (your choice)

## Week Ten: Kingdom values in Action in the World

April 15

The leader should facilitate the group in prayer and sharing using the Suggested Order questions and then proceed to the discussion below as time permits.

Discuss Wesley Sermon Theme: World (your choice of Wesley's several sermons on Money, Riches or Steward(ship))

Supplemental discussion on Wesley and stewardship: Come having reread the last 8 pages of *A Plain Account of the People Called Methodist* and read Wesley's *Thoughts Upon Methodism*. These articles help clarify Wesley's commitment to "social holiness" and the stewardship of money.

How does Wesley's "medicine of life" gospel address the life quality issues of his day? What are the life quality issues of our day? What was Wesley's fear about the future of Methodism (or any movement of reforming faith)? What concerns do you have for your church today? What is the role and meaning of money in living our lives as those who have the mind of Christ?

## Week Eleven: Context of the Church in the World

April 22

The leader should facilitate the group in prayer and sharing using the Suggested Order questions and then proceed to the discussion.

Discuss Wesley Sermon Theme: World (your choice)

## Week Twelve: Where in the World are the Reapers?

April 29 *Spiritual Formation Group Paper Due*

The leader should facilitate the group in prayer and sharing using the Suggested Order questions and then proceed to the discussion below as time permits.

Discuss Wesley Sermon Theme: World

Come having read the following Scriptures: Matthew 28:16-20; John 13; Acts 4 and Wesley's sermon *The General Spread of the Gospel*.

Each of these biblical passages presents a different way of speaking in the world. What are these ways and how are these embedded in the narrative of the kingdom? What challenges do these passages present to us in terms of the kingdom narrative and our lives within it? What does Wesley perceive is the means by which the gospel will spread to the whole world? How does this compare with your own views on helping "thy kingdom come"? What have you learned this semester about connecting "Kingdom, Church and World"?

## Week Thirteen: Reaching the World: *Small Group Closure*

May 6

The leader should facilitate the group in prayer and sharing using the Suggested Order questions and then proceed to the discussion.

Reflect on the cumulative experience of our semester together and our understanding of the relationship between Kingdom, Church, and World and specifically how the small group impacted your spiritual journey.

## Week Fourteen: Ministry of the Kingdom in the World:

### Presentation of Kingdom Projects

May 13

### Course Calendar at a Glance

Week	Dates	Class Theme	Class Reading Guide	Major Due Dates	Spiritual Formation Group
1	Feb. 11	KINGDOM Welcome & Organization	Syllabus Why KCW?	Form Kingdom Projects Groups	Welcome Organized & Form group

2	Feb. 18	KINGDOM The Kingdom Mega-narrative	B & G skim whole book	Response paper for Drama of Scripture Book Review (1)	Get acquainted read Henderson, pp 83-160 Hymn #111 & #1
3	Feb. 25	KINGDOM Bib. & Wesleyan Perspectives on the Kingdom	Snyder: KCW-Bib. Themes <a href="#">Sermon on the Mount, Six</a> Matt 6:1-15	Response paper for Snyder-KCW Book Review (2)	KINGDOM Wesley Reading Hymn #43 & #114
4	Mar 4	KINGDOM Today's Context:	Guest speaker (tentative) Audio: Tom Sine-Beyond the Am. Dream		KINGDOM Wesley Reading Hymn #122
5	Mar 11	CHURCH Spiritual Autobiography	Read choice for Set B Discuss marks of the church	Response paper for Set B (3)	KINGDOM Wesley Reading Hymn (all 12vv)
6	Mar 18	CHURCH Who are we?	Snyder: Models of the Kingdom	Response paper for Models of the Kingdom (4)	CHURCH Wesley Reading Hymn #107
7	Mar 25	CHURCH in Mission	Mission of Hope: Guest speaker: Patrick Kihiu (o) Tom Skinner Chapels		CHURCH Wesley Reading Hymn #123
8	Mar 30 - Apr 4	READING	WEEK	NO CLASS	(o) group meeting Hymn #104
9	Apr 8	CHURCH The Church In Renewal	Review CSWCRM articles Video: Tom Skinner Chapels		CHURCH Wesley Reading Hymn #131 & #153
10	Apr 15	WORLD Kingdom Values in Action	Mission through Banking: Guest speaker: Mr. John Swaim	Response paper for Set C (5)	WORLD Wesley Reading Hymn
11	Apr 22	WORLD The Context of the Church Today	Jenkins: Next Christendom	Response paper for Next Christendom (6)	WORLD Wesley Reading Hymn #2
12	Apr 29	WORLD Where are the reapers?	Audio: Miriam Adeney chapels	Spiritual Formation Group Report	WORLD Wesley Reading Hymn 162
13	May 6	WORLD Reaching the World for Christ: <i>Missio Dei</i>	Evangelism Resources Guest speaker: Thelma Braun Read: Clapp, Border Crossings	Term paper -or- Response paper for Border Crossings (7)	WORLD Small Group Closure Hymn #95
14	May 13	WORLD Ministry of the Kingdom of God in the World	No additional reading Discuss Clapp	Oral presentations of the kingdom projects	
15	May 20	KCW: Come to the Feast: Food of the Kingdom	Wrap Up and Blessings	Final Exam week	

(o) Designates optional reading

### Oral Presentation Assessment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Introduction (15 points total):

- (5 points) a. Style—Hook, inclusive lang., Grammar, etc.,
- (4 points) b. Length
- (3 points) c. Format—creative, appropriate method
- (3 points) d. Personal appearance: neat, appropriate to presentation

#### Material Content (55 points total):

- (7 points) a. Understanding of material
- (7 points) b. Analysis material
- (7 points) c. Logical and ordered
- (7 points) d. Understandability/communication of material
- (5 points) e. Structure: introduction, main body, conclusion
- (5 points) f. Flow of presentation—good transitions
- (5 points) g. Synthesize ideas, materials, & life experiences
- (4 points) h. Present material data

- (4 points) i. Reserve judgment in summary
- (4 points) j. Creativity, appropriate for topic

\_\_\_\_\_ **Conclusion** (15 points total):

- (7 points) a. Overall elements included
- (4 points) b. Summary (appropriate content & length)
- (2 points) c. No new information introduced
- (2 points) d. Solid memorable idea, challenge

\_\_\_\_\_ **Delivery** (15 points):

- (3 points) a. Enthusiasm
- (2 points) b. Poise (includes no distracting habits)
- (2 point) c. Eye contact (whole audience)
- (1 point) d. Facial expressions
- (1 point) e. Hand gestures
- (1 point) f. Volume/rate of expression
- (1 point) g. Pronunciation/diction
- (1 point) h. Voice inflection
- (1 point) i. Few verbal pauses (uhs, ums, & "likes")
- (1 point) j. Visuals
- (1 point) k. Length (stayed between 7-10 min.)

**Total Points** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_ (100 points for 10% of final grade)

**Comments:**