

STMA 586
United Methodist Doctrine
Thursdays 1:30-4:20pm
Winter 2014

Joanne Carlson Brown
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Course Description

The goals of this course are to: clarify the nature and dynamics of official United Methodist doctrine; introduce Wesley's theology and its formative influence on United Methodist doctrine and doctrinal disputes; place Wesleyan/Methodist theology within the shared themes and distinguishing emphases of the larger Christian family, and suggest some of its developmental tendencies; and illuminate recent United Methodist debates over our general theological identity and some specific issues.

Required Texts:

Randy Maddox & Jason Vickers (ed), The Cambridge Companion to John Wesley
Robert Burtner and Robert Chiles (ed), John Wesley's Theology
John Wesley, (Mark Olson ed.) A Plain Account of Christian Perfection: The Annotated Edition
Randy Maddox (ed), Rethinking Wesley's Theology
John Cobb, Grace & Responsibility: A Wesleyan Theology for Today
William Willimon, United Methodist Beliefs

Recommended Texts:

NRSV Wesley Study Bible
2012 United Methodist Book of Discipline

Course Requirements:

Read the assigned readings for the day and actively participate in class discussions.
2-3 page reflection paper each week (except the first class) raising something from the readings that excited, angered, puzzled, surprised you, made you want to know more. Put this issue/issues within the context of all the readings for the day. Due at the end of each class.
An 8-10 page paper discussing how your understanding of yourself as a United Methodist, especially theologically, has developed in this class. Use the readings and any outside sources you'd like to support your assessment. Due March 21.

Grading Criteria:

Attendance and participation in class discussions is integral to this class and will be used in determining the final grade. Missing more than 2 classes will result in a failing grade. Reflection papers will be judged on their ability to analyze and relate the issue/s chosen in the context of the readings for the day and the entire course. These will, along with class participation, count as 75% of the grade. The final paper will count as 25% of the grade. Late papers will be graded down.

Academic Honesty:

The School of Theology and Ministry strictly adheres to the Academic Policy concerning academic honesty as published in the Seattle University Student Handbook.

Students with Disabilities:

If you have, think you may have, a disability (including an "invisible disability" such as a learning disability, a chronic health problem, or a mental health condition) that interferes with your performance

as a student in this class, you are encouraged to discuss your needs and arrange support services and/or accommodations through Disabilities Services staff in the Learning Center, Loyola 100 (206-296-5740)

Reading/Class Assignments

- January 9 Maddox & Vickers (ed), The Cambridge Companion to John Wesley, intro & Part I & II
- 16 Maddox & Vickers, pp.81- 189
Burtner and Chiles, John Wesley's Theology, ch. 1-6
- 23 Maddox & Vickers, pp. 190-244
Burtner and Chiles, ch. 7-10
- 30 Wesley, A Plain Account of Christian Perfection
- February 6 Maddox & Vickers, pp. 245-316
John Cobb, Grace & Responsibility, Preface - ch. 4
- 13 Cobb, ch. 5 – Postscript
- 20 Maddox, Rethinking Wesley's Theology, intro-ch. 7
- 27 Maddox, ch. 8-14
- March 6 & 13 Willimon, United Methodist Beliefs
UM Book of Discipline, para 324.9, 330.5, 335, 336