

1-1-2002

## DO 690 John Wesley's Theology for Today

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### Recommended Citation

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**DO 690**  
**JOHN WESLEY'S THEOLOGY FOR TODAY**

Fall Semester 2002  
ATS Florida  
Thursday, 9:00-10:40 a.m. (2 sem hrs)  
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**PURPOSE/DESCRIPTION**

This course focuses upon the distinctive theological contributions of the Wesleys to the larger Christian tradition, exploring the dynamic of living faith that characterized early Methodism and made the movement a potent source for spiritual and social renewal. It will explore vital Wesleyan syntheses and will intentionally integrate theology and the practice of ministry so as to demonstrate the relevance of a Wesleyan theological method and model for the contemporary church.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

This course will seek to equip students:

1. To identify the formative influences upon the Wesley brothers that helped shape the theology of the Methodist movement;
2. To articulate the so-called “Wesleyan quadrilateral” as a model of authority within the life of contemporary Methodism;
3. To describe how Wesleyan theology revolves around the over-arching theme of grace;
4. To discuss the “synthetic” nature and method of early Methodist theology;
5. To articulate the distinctive Wesleyan “way of salvation,” demonstrating a well-developed understanding of repentance, faith, and holiness;
6. To demonstrate the significance of the Christian life as a “way of devotion” and how accountable discipleship informs Christian ministry;
7. To discuss how Wesleyan theology was translated into the life of the church, its sacraments, and ministry;
8. To evaluate one's Christian vocation in the light of the Wesleyan theological heritage.

**SCHEDULE/OUTLINE**

Tue	Sep 03	Introductions/Outline and Resources
Tue	Sep 10	Theological Renewal: Background and Context
Tue	Sep 17	“John Wesley, Preacher” and Charles Wesley, Poet Wesleyan “Evangelical-Catholicism”

Reading: Langford, “Charles Wesley as Theologian” (hnd)  
Outler, “John Wesley as Theologian” (hnd)  
Outler, *Wesley*, 3-33, 51-69, 87-116

DO691 Reading:

Outler, *Wesley*, 41-50, 70-86

Whaling, *Wesley*, 276-89, 291-95

Tue Sep 24

“Living Faith”: An Introduction to Wesleyan Theology

Reading: Outler, *Theology in the Wesleyan Spirit* (entirety)

Outler, *Wesley*, 119-47; 181-96

Wesley, *Sermons*, 49-60

DS691 Reading:

Wesley, *Sermons*, 33-38, 85-95

Whaling, *Wesley*, 175-86

### **Part 1. The Message: The Height of Sovereign Grace**

Tue Oct 01

Free Grace (Proclamation): Faith & Works

Reading: Chilcote, *Living Faith*, chapter 1

Outler, *Wesley*, 197-209, 271-305

Wesley, *Sermons*, 39-48, 325-46

DS691 Reading:

Wesley, *Sermons*, 97-110, 173-82

Whaling, *Wesley*, 186-239

Tue Oct 08

Inclusive Love (Preaching): Word & Spirit

Quiz on Terms related to Wesleyan Theology

**Quiz**

Reading: Chilcote, *Living Faith*, chapter 2

Outler, *Wesley*, 492-99

Wesley, *Sermons*, 61-68, 287-98

Whaling, *Wesley*, 192-95, 289-91

DO691 Reading:

Wesley, *Sermons*, 145-55, 223-38

### **Part 2. The Community: The Depth of Caring Relationship**

Tue Oct 15

Shared Experience (Fellowship): Personal & Social

Reading: Chilcote, *Living Faith*, chapter 3

Outler, *Wesley*, 177-81, 384-97

Wesley, *Sermons*, 193-206

DO691 Reading:

Outler, *Wesley*, 209-20, 475-84

Whaling, *Wesley*, 229-35, 273-75

Tue Oct 22 Enthused Disciples (Partnership): Form & Power

Reading: Chilcote, *Living Faith*, chapter 4  
Outler, *Wesley*, 353-76, 397-424  
Wesley, *Sermons*, 157-72

DO691 Reading:

Wesley, *Sermons*, 381-91, 405-17

Whaling, *Wesley*, 236-39

### **Part 3. The Discipline: The Length of Christian Pilgrimage**

Tue Oct 29 Wholistic Formation (Instruction): Heart & Head

Reading: Chilcote, *Living Faith*, chapter 5  
Outler, *Wesley*, 317-32  
Wesley, *Sermons*, 431-40  
Whaling, *Wesley*, 146-61

DO691 Reading:

Wesley, *Sermons*, 255-76, 567-72

Tue Nov 05 Spiritual Nourishment (Guidance): Pulpit & Table  
Eucharistic Celebration

Reading: Chilcote, *Living Faith*, chapter 6  
Outler, *Wesley*, 231-37, 332-44  
Whaling, *Wesley*, 251-72

DO691 Reading:

Whaling, *Wesley*, 77-89, 162-71

Tue Nov 12 NO CLASS (Dr. Chilcote in Zimbabwe)

### **Part 4. The Servanthood: The Breadth of Compassionate Witness**

Tue Nov 19 Transformational Vocation (Mission): Christ & Culture

Reading: Chilcote, *Living Faith*, chapter 7  
Outler, *Wesley*, 306-17  
Wesley, *Sermons*, 485-500, 511-22, 541-48

DO691 Reading:  
Whaling, *Wesley*, 208-17, 239-50

## FALL READING BREAK

Tue Dec 03 Incarnational Ministry (Service): Piety & Mercy

Reading: Chilcote, *Living Faith*, chapter 8  
Outler, *Wesley*, 238-50  
Wesley, *Sermons*, 251-74, 419-30, 549-58

DO691 Reading:  
Wesley, *Sermons*, 239-53

Tue Dec 10 Final Examination

## RESOURCES

### Required Texts:

Paul W. Chilcote, *Living Faith* (manuscript provided)  
Paul W. Chilcote, *Praying in the Wesleyan Spirit*  
Albert C. Outler, ed., *John Wesley*  
Albert C. Outler, *Theology in the Wesleyan Spirit*

### Supplemental Texts:

Albert Outler & Richard Heitzenrater, eds., *John Wesley's Sermons* (excerpts)  
Frank Whaling, ed., *John and Charles Wesley* (excerpts)

### Recommended Texts (for Book Reports)

Teresa Berger, *Theology in Hymns?*  
Gregory S. Clapper, *As If the Heart Mattered*  
John Cobb, *Grace and Responsibility*  
Ken Collins, *A Real Christian*  
Ken Collins, *The Scripture Way of Salvation*  
W. Steve Gunter, ed., *Wesley and the Quadrilateral*  
Steve Harper, *Wesley's Message for Today*  
S T Kimbrough, ed., *Charles Wesley: Poet and Theologian*  
Randy Maddox, *Responsible Grace*  
Randy Maddox, ed., *Rethinking Wesley's Theology*  
Thomas Oden, *John Wesley's Scriptural Christianity*

Henry Rack, *Reasonable Enthusiast*  
Ted Runyon, *The New Creation*  
John Wesley, *A Plain Account of Christian Perfection*  
Colin Williams, *John Wesley's Theology Today*

## REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

1. **Reflection Report** (10%). Each student must complete a reflection report on Chilcote, *Praying in the Wesleyan Spirit*. The purpose of this assignment is for you to reflect on how this reading of the Wesleyan “Standard Sermons-as-prayers” and hymns has shaped your understanding of Christian vocation and ministry. The report must be at least *two pages* (typed and double-spaced). The paper is **due no later than Tuesday, Nov. 19**.
2. **Book Report** (30%). Each student must complete *one* book report on a work related to Wesleyan theology (a book of about 200 pages, or combination of books from the “Recommended Texts” list above totally about 200 pages, or a book approved by the instructor). The report must be *four pages* (typed and double-spaced). The Report **must be completed no later than Tuesday, Dec. 3**.
3. **Quiz on Terms related to Wesleyan Theology** (20%). A quiz on theological terms related to the Wesleyan tradition will be administered on **Tuesday, Oct. 8**. A list of terms for potential inclusion on the exam is appended to the syllabus. Specific information concerning the format of the exam will be discussed in class.
4. **Final Examination** (40%). A comprehensive final examination will be administered on **Tuesday, Dec. 10**. An examination study guide is appended to this syllabus so that students can be working on the areas to be covered by reading and lecture from the outset of the course.

*Unite the pair so long disjoined  
Knowledge and vital piety;  
Learning and holiness combined  
And truth and love let all men see  
In these, whom up to thee we give  
Thine, wholly thine, to die and live*

- Charles Wesley

## BOOK REPORT GUIDELINES

The purpose of a reflection paper is to enter into a dialog with the material, that is to say, the person or community that has communicated their thoughts, feelings, and actions to you. 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.

A Reflection Paper in this course has a prescribed format. It should be four pages (typed and double-spaced) and divided into four distinct sections (one 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. If and when you do quote directly from the source (which should be extremely minimal, if at all), use explicit and visible quote marks. (Page One)

**ANALYSIS.** What questions 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 them down. In this section, list and briefly engage two or three of these central questions. 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 questions, make sure that they relate directly to the material content of the reading. (Page Two)

**ANECDOTE.** Describe one or two personal experiences which reading this material has brought to mind. Here is your chance to be a storyteller. Relate the experiences 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 experiences 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. (Page Three)

**APPLICATION.** So what are you going to do about all of 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 Masurable, Attainable, Specific, and able to be accomplished within a given Timeframe. 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. (Page Four)

# REFLECTION PAPER EVALUATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## ABSTRACT

Written from the original author's point of view; no commentary; no evaluation of content.  
Concise, linguistically and stylistically correct, coherent, and clear.

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

Included 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 three or four 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

GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

## 50 IMPORTANT WESLEYAN TERMS

Accountable Discipleship	Imparted/Imputed righteousness	Universal redemption
Aldersgate		
Anglicanism	“Justification by Grace through Faith”	Virtues
Antinomianism	“Law and Gospel”	“Wesleyan Quadrilateral”
Arminianism	Lyrical Theology	“Witness of the Spirit”
<i>Articles of Religion</i>	“Means of Grace”	“Works of Mercy”
Assurance	Moravians	“Works of Piety”
Authority of Scripture	“New Birth”	
<i>Book of Common Prayer</i>	<i>Ordo Salutis</i>	
“Catholic Spirit”	“Original Sin”	
“Christian Perfection”	Pardon	
Conversion	Pelagianism	
Deism	“Prevenient grace”	
<i>Ecclesiola in ecclesia</i>	Puritanism	
Evangelical Revival	Quietism	
“Faith”	Regeneration	
“Free Grace”	Repentance	
“Grace”	“Sacramental grace”	
Holiness	Sanctification	
Holy Communion	Synergism	
<i>Homo unius libri</i>	Synthesis	
Hymns	<i>Theosis</i>	
	“Total Depravity”	

## FINAL EXAMINATION STUDY GUIDE

1. Discuss the formative influences upon the Wesley brothers that helped to shape the theology of the early Methodist movement.
2. John Wesley's theology is sometimes described as a "theology of grace." What does he mean by grace, and how is Methodist doctrine shaped by this over-arching theme?
3. Wesleyan theology has been described in class as an expression of "living faith." Discuss the "synthetic" nature of this theology with reference to two characteristic conjunctions.
4. Describe Wesley's so-called "order of salvation."
5. The Wesleys viewed the Christian life as a "way of devotion." What does this mean and how does this understanding influence your conception of ministry?
6. The Wesleyan Revival was both evangelical and sacramental. Discuss.
7. The "means of grace" figured prominently in early Methodism. What are these means, and what continued relevance do they have for the life of the church today?
8. Describe the so-called "Wesleyan quadrilateral" as a model of authority within the life of contemporary Methodism.
9. Personal piety and social action are necessary components of Christian vocation from the Wesleyan perspective. Discuss.
10. How can Wesleyan theology be translated into the life of the church, its sacraments, and ministry today?

Runyon sets Wesley's own discussion of the "way of salvation" in the larger context of Christian doctrine, beginning with the Creation (and the Fall) and moving through the drama of salvation towards its eschatological fulfillment in the "new creation" of all things. "This is for me the Wesley book at the end of the century, with new perspectives for the next millennium. Reliable in historical research, brilliantly written, it offers the social witness of John Wesley for today's crises. Professor Runyon gives a coherent picture of Wesley's theology for t...Â @inproceedings{Runyon1998TheNC, title={The New Creation: John Wesley's Theology Today}, author={Theodore Runyon}, year={1998} }. Theodore Runyon. Published 1998. John Wesley's Theology Today book. Read 2 reviews from the world's largest community for readers. A study of the Wesleyan tradition in the light of curre...Â Start by marking "John Wesley's Theology Today" as Want to Read: Want to Read savingâ€| Want to Read. Currently Reading. Read. Other editions. Enlarge cover. Current Issue. November 2020 Subscribe. Read This Issue. Christians Invented Health Insurance. Can They Make Something Better? Meet the TikTok Generation of Televangelists. I Was a World Series Hero on the Brink of Suicide. Subscribe to Christianity Today and get instant access to past issues of Christian History! Follow @ctmagazine. Christianity Today Weekly (Weekly)CTWeekly delivers the best content from ChristianityToday.com to your inbox each week. Today in Christian History (Daily)A daily newsletter featuring the most important and significant events on each day in Christian History. Chri