

Wesleyan Theology Overview

Course Requirements

This course is structured like an intensive, or concentrated, course with pre-course readings, in-class participation and discussion, and post-course assignments. Ordination in the Free Methodist Church requires 3 credits of Wesleyan Theology. This course fulfills that requirement by giving (1) credit through the Self-Directed Study Project.

1. Pre-Course Readings

Below you will find the required texts for the class and a text that is strongly recommended by the instructor. The items marked with an * are to be completed when you arrive the first weekend.

Mildred B. Wynkoop, *Foundations of Wesleyan-Arminian Theology*. Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press, 1967. Read pages 1-127*

John Wesley's Sermons: An Anthology. Nashville: Abingdon, 1991.

Read Wesley's sermons on:

- “The Image of God” *
- “The Circumcision of the Heart”*
- “The One Thing Needful”*
- “The Witness of the Spirit” I
- “The Witness of the Spirit” II
- “The Marks of the New Birth”
- “On Sin in the Believers”
- “The Scripture Way of Salvation”*
- “Christian Perfection”

John Wesley, *A Plain Account of Christian Perfection*. Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press, 1996, Read pages 9-119.

Wesley Duewel, *God's Great Salvation*. Greenwood, IN: OMS International, Inc., 1991. Read pages 232-245 and 264-287.

Olson, Roger E., Arminian Theology: Myths and Realities, InterVarsity Press, 2006

2. In-Class Participation

a. Attendance

Attendance in all class sessions is required. If you are tardy and miss over 15 minutes of a class session or if you are not present for any reason, this part of your final grade will suffer a reduction.

b. Discussion

The student is encouraged to take an active part in the class discussions. Class attendance and

discussion will make up 30% of the final grade.

c. Syllabus

Because of the intensive nature of the course and brevity of our time together, a rather complete syllabus has been prepared to guide our study, to facilitate note-taking, and to ensure a more complete and uniform communication of Wesley's theological thoughts to students. The complete syllabus should serve as a valuable tool for the student and pastor/teacher to pass our core theology on to other people. (2 Tim. 2:2) Careful attention should be given to sample texts from Wesley's sermons and to biblical references, especially those pertaining to the sections on Holiness of Heart and Life and Christian Perfection.

d. Writing requirements

(1) Each student will be required to write a 6-8 page paper doing an analysis on the Article of Religion titled "Entire Sanctification" from the Free Methodist Book of Discipline and Paragraph A/306. Scriptural support must be provided to give the basis for the student's analysis and conclusions. (see Appendix D)

(2) Each student will be expected to write a minimum two-page review and analysis of two of the nine Wesley sermons that are required reading.

3. Post-Course Assignments

a. Glossary of Terms

Give a short but clear definition of the terms found on page 85 of the Syllabus. The terms "Arminianism" through "Assurance of Salvation" should be defined from the Arminian point of view and the terms "Calvinism" through "Perseverance of the Saints" from the Calvinist point of view.

These should be sent to the instructor by 3 weeks following close of the class.

b. Self-Directed Study Project

Since ordination in the Free Methodist Church requires 3 credits of Wesleyan Theology, two of which are being earned in the classroom instruction, the student must fulfill the additional credit by doing a self-directed study project. A form is included for your use in proposing a project.

This project must be approved by the instructor and must be completed and mailed to him/her by 3 weeks following the close of classes to avoid receiving an incomplete grade.

Student Evaluation and Final Grade

1. Class attendance and discussion = 30%
2. Completion of reading requirements = 25%
3. Completion of writing requirements = 15%
4. Glossary of Terms = 10%
5. Self-directed Study Project = 20%

Grading Profile

94 - 100 points = A

86 - 93 points = B

78 - 85 points = C

70 - 77 points = D

Below 70 points = F

Inc. (Incomplete)

Students must receive C or above to count for ordination purposes.

Class Overview - This is a guide for the material being covered in this course. Adjustments will be made during the class.

Registration

Getting Acquainted

Distribution of Syllabus and explanation of class process.

I. Historical and Theological Background for Wesley's Thought

Lesson 1 - From the early Church to Arminius

Lesson 2 - From Arminius to Wesley

Lesson 3 - The Life of John Wesley and Factors in the Development of his Theological Thought

Lesson 4 - Theological Characteristics of Calvinism, Arminianism and Wesleyanism

Lesson 5 - Wesleyan Influence on Classical Theology

Lesson 6 - God's Existence and Attributes

Lesson 7 - In the Image of God

II. The Soteriological Heart of Wesley's Thought

Lesson 8 - God's All-Encompassing Grace and Grace for All Humankind

Lesson 9 - From Slumber to Awakening – pages 36-37

Lesson 10 - Convincing Grace: Awakening and Initial Repentance pages 37-38

Lesson 11 - Pardon (Justification)

Lesson 12 - The New Birth

Lesson 13 - From Spirit to spirit —Assurance of Salvation

Lesson 14 - Holiness of Heart and Life

Lesson 15 - The Journey of the Christian Life, or the Process of Sanctification

Lesson 16 - Practicing and Partaking of the Means of Grace as part of the Christian life

Lesson 17 - The Gift of Christian Perfection

Lesson 18 - The Gift of Christian Perfection continued