

STMM 592 United Methodist Doctrine
Syllabus, Winter 2008
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I. Goals:

- A. To examine the nature and dynamics of United Methodist doctrine
- B. To introduce the theology of John and Charles Wesley and to explore the continuing influence of writings and hymnology on current UM doctrinal disputes
- C. To explore the place of Wesleyan/United Methodist Theology within the larger Christian family
- D. To review recent UM General Conference doctrinal debates

II. Major Texts (not available at SU bookstore because I have a very low cost used book source for these volumes)

John Wesley's Sermons: An Anthology, Edited by Albert Outler and Richard Heitzenrater. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1991.

Scott J. Jones. *United Methodist Doctrine: The Extreme Center*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1998.

Randy L. Maddox. *Responsible Grace: John Wesley's Practical Theology*. Nashville, TN: Kingswood Books, 1994.

III. Learning/Teaching Style

We assume an adult learning model. Everyone brings to the enterprise experience wisdom and skill. The most fruitful use of time will be adult conversation with shared leadership

IV. Expectations and Evaluation

1. After the first session, students are expected to be present and to participate in discussion of the reading assignments for each session. Each student is encouraged to bring questions and/or comments arising from assigned readings. 25% of grade.
2. Students will make one presentation to the class regarding a doctrinal issue that has impacted a local church that the student has attended. This will be a "case" presentation that will require interviews of key persons and collection of relevant documents. The form of the presentation (lecture, multi-media, roundtable discussion, etc.) is to be determined in consultation with the instructor. Dates of presentation TBD in the second half of the term. 30% of grade.
3. Each student will prepare a ten page paper on a major UM doctrinal theme (e.g. justification, prevenient grace, sanctification, Holy Spirit, role of sacraments, sources of theological authority, etc.) In this paper, students will include historical roots, developments and struggle in the course of UM history and personal assessment of current relevance of the theme. 45% of grade.
- 4.

Schedule of Sessions

- 1/7 Introductions, tour of UM Book of Discipline, setting remainder of schedule, discussion of current doctrinal debates
- 1/14 Choosing topics for class presentation and term papers. Discussion of UM Discipline, paragraphs 100-104
- 1/21 MLK holiday
- 1/28 The nature of UM Doctrine – read Jones, section I
- 2/4 Wesley as theologian and the nature and work of God – read Jones chapter 4 and pp. 105-11; Maddox chapters 1 and 2; *Sermons* 299, 49, 531, 567
- 2/11 Theological Anthropology/Christ and the Holy Spirit - read Jones chapter 5 and 99-105; Maddox chapters 3, 4, 5; *Sermons* 13, 325, 475, 485, 145, 255, 277, 431
- 2/22 (make up day for classes cancelled on 2/18 – consult winter calendar) Soteriology and Sanctification Read Maddox, chs 6 and 7; *Sermons* 33, 39, 359, 69, 371, 511, 183, 405 – Reports continue
- 2/25 Means of Grace – Read Jones chapter 9; Maddox chapter 8; *Sermons* 157, 223, 465, 501, 173, 335 – Reports continue
- 3/3 Eschatology/Ecclesiology/Ethics – Maddox chapter 9; *Sermons* 347, 419, 493, 549, 193, 239, 311, 451, 541 – Reports continue
- 3/10 Building an inclusive bibliography – Reports concluded – Term paper due