

# COS-422 Theological Heritage IV Wesleyan Movement

Western Jurisdiction Course of Study  
Faculty: Dr. Robert Kohler

## Required Texts:

Heitzenrater, Richard, *Wesley and the People Called Methodists*, Abingdon, 1995.  
Richey, Russell E., Kenneth E. Rowe, and Jean Miller Schmidt, *American Methodism: A Compact History*, Abingdon, 2010.  
Randy Maddox, *Responsible Grace*, Abingdon, 1994.

## Supplementary:

John Wigger, *Taking Heaven By Storm*  
*The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*. 2012. Part III, "Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task," pp. 45-89.

## Written Assignments:

The written assignments are designed to help you identify the primary elements in the development of Methodism in England and in America. Responses to questions should normally be limited to 2 or 3 double spaced pages.

## Questions:

1. After reading in Heitzenrater, identify in a sentence or two the influence of the following on the Christian heritage of England. Be sure to address all of these:

Reformation Parliament	Act of Supremacy
Marian Exiles	Puritan Controversies
Elizabethan Settlement	Religious Societies

2. Reviewing John Wesley's life, identify, by listing, those significant persons/events which influenced his religious development and actions:

- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| (a) During childhood        | (b) The First Rise of Methodism—Oxford |
| (c) The Second Rise—Georgia | (d) The Third Rise of Methodism—London |
| (e) The Revival 1739-1744   |  |

(Beside each listed item, give your reason(s) for listing that person or event)

3. Read the first chapter of the Randy Maddox text, *Responsible Grace*, and write a paper on the *Wesleyan Quadrilateral*, identifying what Wesley included in the Sources/ Criteria for Christian Doctrine: Scripture, Reason, Tradition, and Experience.

4. Read Chapter 7 of *Responsible Grace* and describe Wesley's understanding of *The Way of Salvation*: Regeneration, Awakening, Justification, Faith, and Sanctification
5. After you have read *American Methodism: A Compact History*, Chapters I-II, describe in your own words the primary differences between Methodism as it developed in America and Methodism as it existed in Britain under Wesley, with reference to the individuals who led the church and altered its ways of spreading scriptural holiness throughout the continent.
6. With reference to *American Methodism*, Chapters I-IV, write a paper identifying the major figures in the United Brethren in Christ and the Evangelical Association Churches, the roles they played in the development of these movements and their relationship with the Methodist Episcopal Church. (Use the Table of Contents to identify relevant sections of Chapters I-IV)
7. After reading *American Methodism*, Chapters I-XI, trace the heritage of black Methodism in America, both inside and outside the Methodist Episcopal mainstream. Include an appraisal of the early days, the pre-Civil War years, Reconstruction, and the 20th century. (Use the Table of Contents to identify relevant sections of Chapters I-XI)
8. After reading *American Methodism*, Chapters XI-XII, identify the three most significant issues the UMC is facing today, listing them in order of significance. Write two or three paragraphs on each of the three issues, identifying the issue, the reason you have placed it in the order you have chosen and what you believe The United Methodist Church should do to address the issue.
9. Identify the element of United Methodist polity (church government) which you think stands as the most useful mark of our system. Defend your choice. Write a similar essay on the least useful feature of Methodist polity. (Feel free to limit your discussion to particular periods of time, e.g. 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Methodism)

Dr. Robert Kohler  
[rfkohler@comcast.net](mailto:rfkohler@comcast.net)