

*“The mission of Tyndale Seminary is to provide Christ-centred graduate theological education for leaders in the church and society whose lives are marked by intellectual maturity, spiritual vigour and moral integrity, and whose witness will faithfully engage culture with the Gospel.”*

<b>Course</b>	<b>JOHN WESLEY’S THEOLOGY: RENEWING THE HEART, RENEWING THE CHURCH</b> THEO 0629H
<b>Date and Time</b>	MAY 7 – JUNE 25, 2021 HYBRID ONLINE/LIVESTREAM
<b>Instructor</b>	<b>JAMES E. PEDLAR, PhD</b> Telephone/voice mail: (416) 226-6620 Ext. 2215 Email: <a href="mailto:jpedlar@tyndale.ca">jpedlar@tyndale.ca</a>
<b>Class Information</b>	<p><b>*Video lectures with irregular 8-week schedule*</b>  <b>*See <a href="#">Section IV</a> below for details*</b></p> <p>Two days of six intensive 60-minute livestream sessions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Friday, May 7, 2021 - 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM, and 1:30 PM</li> <li>2. Friday, June 18, 2021 - 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM, and 1:30 PM</li> </ol> <p>Four asynchronous forum discussions during other weeks.</p> <p>Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1:00 pm or at a separate time by appointment.</p>
<b>Course Material</b>	<p>Access course material at <a href="https://classes.tyndale.ca">classes.tyndale.ca</a> or other services at <a href="#">Tyndale One</a>.</p> <p>Course emails will be sent to your @MyTyndale.ca e-mail account only. <a href="#">Learn how to access and forward emails to your personal account.</a></p>

## I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An examination of the life and thought of John Wesley, and of early Methodism as a movement of evangelism, renewal and mission within the larger Christian Church. Students will explore

major aspects of Wesley's theology and the dynamics of early Methodism as a movement, with attention to how Wesley's theology can help inform a holistic understanding of Christian life and mission in the contemporary context.

## II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Discuss the major themes of John Wesley's theology, and relate these themes to events in his life and ministry.
2. Analyze early Methodism as a movement of renewal and evangelism.
3. Engage in close, critical, and charitable reading of primary source material relevant to Wesley's life and theology.
4. Critically evaluate and discuss a particular area of Wesley studies in detail.

## III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### A. REQUIRED READING

Thorsen, Don. [\*Calvin vs. Wesley: Bringing Belief in Line with Practice\*](#). Nashville: Abingdon, 2013. ISBN: 9781426743351

Other required readings will be posted on the course page, as per the course schedule below.

### B. SUPPLEMENTARY / RECOMMENDED READING AND TOOLS

Much of the course reading will be focused on Wesley's sermons, which are available in multiple places online. I recommend [the pdf file of the sermons from the Christian Classics Ethereal Library](#).

If students wish to purchase a hard-copy collection of Wesley's sermons, the following collection contains most (but not all) of the sermons discussed in this course. It is also available as an eBook from Tyndale library.

Collins, Kenneth J., and Jason E. Vickers, eds. [\*The Sermons of John Wesley: A Collection for the Christian Journey\*](#). Nashville: Abingdon, 2013.

Tyndale recommends [www.stepbible.org](http://www.stepbible.org) – a free and reputable online resource developed by Tyndale House (Cambridge, England) – for word searches of original-language texts, as well as for topical searches, interlinear texts, dictionaries, etc. Refer to the library for other [online resources for Biblical Studies](#).

## C. INTERACTIVE LIVESTREAM AND/OR HYBRID COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Livestream attendance at announced times
- Headphones (preferred), built-in microphone, and web-camera
- Well-lit and quiet room
- Stable high-speed internet connection, preferably using an Ethernet cable over Wi-Fi

## D. GUIDELINES FOR INTERACTIONS

Tyndale University prides itself in being a trans-denominational community. We anticipate our students to have varied viewpoints which will enrich the discussions in our learning community. Therefore, we ask our students to be charitable and respectful in their interactions with each other, and to remain focused on the topic of discussion, out of respect to others who have committed to being a part of this learning community. Please refer to “Guidelines for Interactions” on your course resource page at [classes.tyndale.ca](http://classes.tyndale.ca).

## E. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Please note: Attendance during the online discussion weeks in this course is demonstrated by regular log-ins and up-to-date participation in forums.

### 1. Online Group Discussions (30%).

All students will participate in four online group discussions during the following weeks: May 10-14, May 17-21, May 31-June 4, June 7-11 (see the [course schedule](#) below). Following our livestream discussions on May 7, the class will be divided into groups of four or five. These groups will remain fixed for the duration of the course. The purpose of the discussions is to engage the content of the course and explore the implications of the material covered for discipleship and ministry. The instructor will post a question each week for group reflection. Students are expected to post their own response by 11:55 PM (Eastern Time) on Tuesday evening of the week in question, and then reply to the reflections of each of the other students in their group by 11:55 PM (Eastern Time) on Thursday of that same week. Your individual contributions to these discussions will be assessed on a weekly basis.

### 2. Students can choose one of the following options:

#### a) Critical book review (30%; 5-6 pages, double-spaced; due 11:55 PM on May 28).

Students will write a critical book review of the Thorsen text. The review should demonstrate a clear understanding of the author’s argument and a critical evaluation of its strengths and weaknesses.

#### b) Research Paper Proposal (30%, 3-4 pages plus bibliography, due 11:55 PM on May 28).

This proposal should include a statement of the topic, a tentative thesis, an outline of the

major sections of your paper with a brief description of each section, and a preliminary bibliography. The outline will help you to get a good start on the paper, and will provide the instructor with an opportunity to give you feedback before you have finished your work.

### **3. Research Paper (40%; 10-12 pages, double-spaced; due 11:55 PM on July 16).**

Students will write a research paper on an aspect of John Wesley's theology and/or practice as discussed in class. Papers should demonstrate rigorous engagement with primary and secondary sources, an awareness of Wesley's context, and sensitivity to his overall theological perspective. A list of potential topics will be provided in class.

## **F. EQUITY OF ACCESS**

Students with permanent or temporary disabilities who need academic accommodations must [contact](#) the [Accessibility Services](#) at the [Centre for Academic Excellence](#) to [register](#) and discuss their specific needs. *New students* must self-identify and register with the Accessibility Office at the beginning of the semester or as early as possible to access appropriate services. *Current students* must renew their plans as early as possible to have active accommodations in place.

## **G. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING**

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

Forums	30 %
Critical Book Review or Research Paper Proposal	30 %
Research Paper	40 %
Total Grade	100 %

## **H. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK**

**Assignments are to be uploaded to the assignment submission section of the course page in pdf or Microsoft Word format by 11:55 PM (Eastern Time) on the assigned due date.** Papers submitted after 11:55 PM on the due date will receive a 1/3 grade deduction (i.e., B+ to B) for each day (or part thereof) following the due date. This late policy will apply to all assignments for which no extension has been granted. Extensions will be granted only for serious personal, family, or health situations.

Assignments should be double-spaced, in 12 pt Times New Roman font, with 1" margins. The standard citation method for theological papers is **full footnotes with a complete bibliography** in the [Chicago style](#), as explained in the [popular guidebook written by Kate L. Turabian](#). For proper citation style, consult the [Chicago-Style Quick Guide](#) (Tyndale e-resource) or the full edition of the [Chicago Manual of Style Online](#), especially [ch. 14](#). For citing scripture texts, refer to sections [10.44 to 10.48](#) and [14.238 to 14.241](#).

## **Academic Integrity**

Integrity in academic work is required of all our students. Academic dishonesty is any breach of this integrity, and includes such practices as cheating (the use of unauthorized material on tests and examinations), submitting the same work for different classes without permission of the instructors; using false information (including false references to secondary sources) in an assignment; improper or unacknowledged collaboration with other students, and plagiarism. Tyndale University takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty.

Students are encouraged to consult [Writing Services](#). Citation and other [tip sheets](#).

Students should also consult the current [Academic Calendar](#) for academic policies on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System.

## **Research Ethics**

All course-based assignments involving human participants requires ethical review and may require approval by the [Tyndale Research Ethics Board \(REB\)](#). Check with the Seminary Dean's Office ([aau@tyndale.ca](mailto:aau@tyndale.ca)) before proceeding.

## **I. COURSE EVALUATION**

Tyndale Seminary values quality in the courses it offers its students. End-of-course evaluations provide valuable student feedback and are one of the ways that Tyndale Seminary works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student's learning experience. Student involvement in this process is critical to enhance the general quality of teaching and learning.

Before the end of the course, students will receive a MyTyndale email with a link to the online course evaluation. The link can also be found in the left column on the course page. The evaluation period is 2 weeks; after the evaluation period has ended, it cannot be reopened.

Course Evaluation results will not be disclosed to the instructor before final grades in the course have been submitted and processed. Student names will be kept confidential and the instructor will only see the aggregated results of the class.

#### IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS

Note that pre-reading is expected prior to the first livestream day on May 7. Late registrants are responsible for the consequences of partial preparation.

DATE AND TOPIC	READINGS (all readings other than course texts are accessible on our course page as pdf files or via links to Tyndale library e-books)
<p><b>May 7 – Livestream Day</b>  <b>View first three lectures and complete readings before class discussions.</b></p>	
<p><b>9:00 am</b>  livestream discussion  <b>Wesley’s Life</b></p>	<p>Collins, “Wesley’s Life and Ministry.” In <i>The Cambridge Companion to John Wesley</i>, ed. Randy L. Maddox and Jason E. Vickers, 43-59. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2010.</p>
<p><b>10:30 am</b>  livestream discussion  <b>Theological Method</b></p>	<p>Wesley, “Preface” to <i>Sermons on Several Occasions</i>. In <i>The Works of John Wesley</i>, vol. 1, 103-107. Nashville: Abingdon, 1984.  Thorsen, chapter 2.  Wall, “Wesley as Biblical Interpreter,” in <i>The Cambridge Companion</i>, 113-128.  Supplementary (not required):  Langford, “John Wesley and Theological Method.” In <i>Rethinking Wesley’s Theology for Contemporary Methodism</i>, edited by Randy L. Maddox, 35-48. Nashville: Kingswood, 1998.</p>
<p><b>1:30 pm</b>  livestream discussion  <b>Humanity: Image of God, Original Sin, Prevenient Grace</b></p>	<p>Sermon 44, “Original Sin.”  Sermon #141 (Outler’s numbering), “The Image of God.”  Sermon 85, “On Working Our Our Own Salvation.”  Thorsen, chapters 3 and 4.</p>
<p><b>May 10-14</b>  Video lecture +  online forum  <b>Predestination and the Character of God</b></p>	<p>Sermon 128, “Free Grace.”  Sermon 58, “On Predestination.”  Wesley’s <i>Journal</i>, March to May 1739, February to April 1741.  Thorsen, chapters 1 and 5.</p>
<p><b>May 17-21</b>  Video lecture +  online forum</p>	<p>Sermon 5, “Justification by Faith.”  Sermon 20, “The Lord Our Righteousness.”  Sermon 45, “The New Birth.”  Supplementary (not required):</p>

<b>Justification and Regeneration</b>	Sermon 1, "Salvation by Faith." Sermon 6, "The Righteousness of Faith."
<b>May 24-28</b> Video lecture + optional forum <b>Assurance</b> <b>Ongoing repentance</b>	Sermon 10, "The Witness of the Spirit, Discourse One." Sermon 11, "The Witness of the Spirit, Discourse Two." Sermon 14, "The Repentance of Believers." Supplementary (not required): Sermon 12, "The Witness of Our Own Spirit." Sermon 13, "On Sin in Believers." Wesley's <i>Journal</i> , May 24 to June 7, 1738.
<b>May 31-June 4</b> Video lecture + online forum <b>The Means of Grace</b>	Sermon 16, "The Means of Grace." Sermon 101, "The Duty of Constant Communion." Sermon 98, "On Visiting the Sick."
<b>June 7-11</b> Video lecture + online forum <b>Law &amp; Gospel</b> <b>Spiritual Darkness</b>	Sermon 25, "Sermon on the Mount: Discourse Five." Sermon 46, "The Wilderness State." Sermon 47, "Heaviness Through Manifold Temptations."
<b>June 18 – Livestream Day</b> <b>View first three lectures and complete readings before class discussions.</b>	
<b>9:00 am</b> livestream discussion <b>The Church</b>	Sermon 74, "Of the Church." Sermon 75, "On Schism." Sermon 39, "Catholic Spirit." Thorsen, chapter 7. Supplementary (not required): Outler, Albert C. "Do Methodists Have a Doctrine of the Church?" In <i>The Wesleyan Theological Heritage</i> , edited by Thomas C. Oden and Leicester R. Longden, 211–226. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991.
<b>10:30 am</b> livestream discussion <b>Renewal &amp; Mission</b> <b>Social Christianity</b>	Wesley, "General Rules and Rules of the Band Societies." Sermon 24, "Sermon on the Mount: Discourse Four." Thorsen, Chapter 8. Supplementary (not required): Wesley, "A Plain Account of the People Called Methodists." Snyder, Howard, A. "Toward a Wesleyan Theology of Mission." in <i>Yes in Christ</i> , 69-90. Toronto: Clements Academic, 2011.
<b>1:30 pm</b>	Sermon 43, "The Scripture Way of Salvation."

livestream discussion <b>Christian Perfection</b>	Sermon 40, "Christian Perfection." Sermon 41, "Wandering Thoughts." Thorsen, chapter 6. Supplementary (not required): Sermon 17, "The Circumcision of the Heart." Noble, T.A. "Wesley's Doctrine of Christian Perfecting." In <i>Holy Trinity, Holy People: The Theology of Christian Perfecting</i> , 73-96. Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2013.
<b>June 21-25</b> Video lecture + optional forum <b>The New Creation</b> <b>Stewardship</b>	Sermon 60, "The General Deliverance." Sermon 64, "The New Creation." Sermon 50, "The Use of Money." Supplementary (not required): Sermon 87, "The Danger of Riches." Pedlar, James E. "'His Mercy Is Over All His Works': John Wesley's Mature Doctrine of New Creation." <i>Canadian Theological Review</i> 2, no. 2 (2013): 45-56.

## V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

[Tyndale Library](#) supports this course with [e-journals, e-books](#), and the [mail delivery of books](#) and circulating materials. See the [Library FAQ page](#).

### Primary Sources

There are two standard editions of Wesley's Works. The "Bicentennial Edition" is the modern, scholarly edition (still in production). The "Jackson Edition" is an older and more complete collection, but it has no scholarly apparatus.

Baker, Frank, and Richard P. Heitzenrater, eds. *The Works of John Wesley*. Bicentennial Edition. Nashville: Abingdon, 1984-. [see the [Wesley Works Editorial Project](#) webpage for details of available and planned volumes, along with other useful Wesley resources]

Jackson, Thomas, ed. *The Works of John Wesley*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007 [1872].

Some of Wesley's letters are available in the Jackson edition and vols 25-27 of the Bicentennial Edition. The most complete collection (not available at Tyndale) is:

Telford, John, ed. *The Letters of the Rev. John Wesley, A.M.* 8 vols. London: Epworth Press, 1931.



Those interested in the hymnody and poetry of the Wesleys should see this updated edition of a nineteenth century collection (multiple volume eBooks, vol. 1 linked below).

Rogal, Samuel J, ed. [\*A New and Critical Edition of George Osborn's the Poetical Works of John and Charles Wesley \(1868-1872\): With the Addition of Notes, Annotations, Biographical and Background Information\*](#). Lewiston: Edwin Mellen Press, 2009.

Other compilations of representative primary sources include:

Outler, Albert C., ed. *John Wesley*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1980.

Whaling, Frank, ed. *John and Charles Wesley: Selected Prayers, Hymns, Journal Notes, Sermons, Letters and Treatises*. Classics of Western Spirituality. New York: Paulist Press, 1981.

## Secondary Sources

Abraham, William J. *Aldersgate and Athens: John Wesley and the Foundations of Christian Belief*. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2010.

Abraham, William J., and James E. Kirby, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Methodist Studies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Baker, Frank. *John Wesley and the Church of England*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1970.

Bratton, Amy Caswell. *Witnesses of Perfect Love: Narratives of Christian Perfection in Early Methodism*. Tyndale Studies in Wesleyan History and Theology 4. Toronto: Clements Academic, 2014.

Campbell, Ted. *John Wesley and Christian Antiquity: Religious Vision and Cultural Change*. Nashville: Kingswood Books, 1991.

Campbell, Ted A. *The Religion of the Heart: A Study of European Religious Life in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries*. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1991.

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Chilcote, Paul W. *A Faith That Sings: Biblical Themes in the Lyrical Theology of Charles Wesley*. Wesleyan Doctrine Series 12. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2016.

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Collins, Kenneth J. *A Real Christian: The Life of John Wesley*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1999.

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———. *The Theology of John Wesley: Holy Love and the Shape of Grace*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2007.

Collins, Kenneth J., and Jason E. Vickers, eds. *The Sermons of John Wesley: A Collection for the Christian Journey*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2013.

Colyer, Elmer M. *The Trinitarian Dimension of John Wesley's Theology*. Nashville: New Room Books, 2019.

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- Davies, Rupert E. *Methodism*. Baltimore: Penguin, 1963.
- Field, David N. *Bid Our Jarring Conflicts Cease: A Wesleyan Theology and Praxis of Church Unity*. Nashville, TN: Foundery Books, 2017.
- Forsyth, Peter, William Gibson, Peter S Forsyth, and Martin Wellings, eds. *The Ashgate Research Companion on World Methodism*. Farnham, UK: Ashgate, 2013.
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- Hammond, Geordan. *John Wesley in America: Restoring Primitive Christianity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014.
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- . *Wesley and the People Called Methodists*. 2nd ed. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2013.
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- . *John Wesley: Optimist of Grace*. Cascade Companions 32. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2018.
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- . *John Wesley's Teachings, Volume 2: Christ and Salvation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012.
- . *John Wesley's Teachings, Volume 3: Pastoral Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.
- . *John Wesley's Teachings, Volume 4: Ethics and Society*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014.
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- . "'His Mercy Is Over All His Works': John Wesley's Mature Doctrine of New Creation." *Canadian Theological Review* 2, no. 2 (2013): 45–56.
- . "Sensing the Spirit: Wesley's Empiricism and His Use of the Language of Spiritual Sensation." *Asbury Journal* 67, no. 2 (2012): 85–104.
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### Other Online Resources

[Manchester Wesley Research Centre](#)

[Oxford Centre for Methodism and Church History](#)

[Center for Studies in the Wesleyan Tradition \(Duke University\)](#)

[The Oxford Institute for Methodist Theological Studies](#)

[Wesley Historical Society Page on Biblical Studies.org](#)

[Wesley Works Editorial Project](#)

[Australasian Centre for Wesleyan Research](#)

[The Wesley Centre Online \(Northwest Nazarene University\)](#)

[Tyndale Wesley Studies Symposium Archives](#)

[Seedbed posts on Wesleyan Theology \(Asbury Theological Seminary\)](#)

[Victor Shepherd's Wesley Resources](#)

[Howard Snyder's Blog](#)

[James Pedlar's Wesley Resources](#)