



**TYNDALE**

• SEMINARY •

**Course Syllabus**

**WINTER 2018**

**JOHN WESLEY'S THEOLOGY: RENEWING THE HEART, RENEWING THE CHURCH  
THEO 0629 / BSTH 3693**

**JANUARY 8 – APRIL 6, 2018**

**HYBRID WEB-BASED / CLASSROOM COURSE**

**Seven online lectures**

**Two classroom sessions, February 2 and March 23**

**9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Livestream option for classroom sessions**

**INSTRUCTOR: JAMES E. PEDLAR, PhD**

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**Office Hours (Rm. C408):**

Tuesdays, 10:15-11:15 AM

Thursdays, 1:45-2:45 PM

Or by appointment; phone and video calls can be arranged.

To access your course material, please go to <http://classes.tyndale.ca>

Please note that all official Tyndale correspondence will be sent to your @MyTyndale.ca e-mail account. For information on how to access and forward Tyndale e-mails to your personal account, see <http://www.tyndale.ca/it/live-at-edu>

**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 should 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. Describe early Methodism as a movement of renewal and evangelism.
3. Engage in close, critical 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 TEXTS

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.

Much of the course reading will be focused on Wesley's sermons, which are available online. If students wish to purchase a hard-copy collection of Wesley's sermons, the 2013 collection by Collins and Vickers has most (but not all) of the sermons we will read in the course (see the full reference in the bibliography under "primary sources").

### B. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

\*Marking rubrics for all assignments will be provided on the course page\*

**1. Online Group Discussions (4 x 7.5% = 30% total).** All students will participate in online group discussions during the following weeks: January 22-26, February 12-16, February 26-March 2, and March 12-16 (see the course schedule below). The class will be divided into groups of four or five at the end of the second week. These groups will remain fixed for the duration of the course. Each discussion will be based on a question posed by the instructor. Students are expected to post their own response to the question 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 by the instructor.

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

**a) Critical book review (30%; 5-6 pages, double spaced; due 11:55 PM on March 9).** 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 March 9).** 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.

**4. Research Paper (40%; 8-10 pages, double-spaced; due 11:55 PM on April 6).** Students will write a research paper on a particular 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.

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

**Assignments are to be uploaded to the assignment submission section of the course page in Microsoft Word or compatible format by 11:59 PM (Eastern Time) on the assigned due date.** Papers submitted after 11:59 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" or 1.25" margins. The standard citation method for theological papers is **footnotes with a complete bibliography** in the **Chicago style**, as explained in the [popular guidebook written by Kate L. Turabian](#). For proper citation format, consult check the "[Turabian Citation Quick Guide](#)" (follow style for notes ("N") and bibliography ("B")), or see the complete [Chicago Manual of Style online \(Tyndale e-resource\)](#), especially ch. 14.

The bibliographic software **Zotero** is recommended as a helpful citation tool which will save time and help to ensure that proper formatting is followed (available free at [www.zotero.org](http://www.zotero.org)).

### **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 College & Seminary takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty.

Students should consult the current Academic Calendar for academic polices on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System. The Academic Calendar is posted at <http://tyndale.ca/registrar/calendar>.

#### D. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

Online Discussions	30 %
Critical Book Review or Paper Proposal	30 %
Research Paper	40 %
<b>Total Grade</b>	<b>100 %</b>

#### E. 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 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

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)
<b>January 8-11</b> Wesley’s Life	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.
<b>January 15-19</b> Theological Method	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.

	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.
<b>January 22-26</b> Humanity: Image of God, Original Sin, Prevenient Grace	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. <b>ONLINE DISCUSSION ASSIGNMENT #1</b>
<b>IN-CLASS SESSION: FEBRUARY 2</b>	
Predestination and the Character of God	Sermon 128, "Free Grace." Sermon 58, "On Predestination." <i>Wesley's Journal</i> , March to May 1739, February to April 1741. Thorsen, chapters 1 and 5.
Justification and Regeneration	Sermon 5, "Justification by Faith." Sermon 20, "The Lord Our Righteousness." Sermon 45, "The New Birth." Supplementary (not required): Sermon 1, "Salvation by Faith." Sermon 6, "The Righteousness of Faith."
Assurance Ongoing repentance	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." <i>Wesley's Journal</i> , May 24 to June 7, 1738.
<b>NO CLASS FEBRUARY 5-9</b>	
<b>February 12-16</b> The Means of Grace	Sermon 16, "The Means of Grace." Sermon 101, "The Duty of Constant Communion." Sermon 98, "On Visiting the Sick." <b>ONLINE DISCUSSION ASSIGNMENT #2</b>
<b>READING WEEK FEBRUARY 19-23</b>	
<b>Feb. 26-Mar. 2</b> Law & Gospel Spiritual Darkness	Sermon 25, "Sermon on the Mount: Discourse Five." Sermon 46, "The Wilderness State." Sermon 47, "Heaviness Through Manifold Temptations." <b>ONLINE DISCUSSION ASSIGNMENT #3</b>
<b>NO CLASS MARCH 5-9. ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE MARCH 9</b>	
<b>March 12-16</b> The Church	Sermon 74, "Of the Church." Sermon 75, "On Schism." Sermon 39, "Catholic Spirit." Thorsen, chapter 7.

	<p>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.</p> <p><b>ONLINE DISCUSSION ASSIGNMENT #4</b></p>
<b>IN-CLASS SESSION: MARCH 23</b>	
<p>Renewal and Mission  Social Christianity</p>	<p>Wesley, "General Rules and Rules of the Band Societies."  Sermon 24, "Sermon on the Mount: Discourse Four."  Thorsen, Chapter 8.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Christian Perfection</p>	<p>Sermon 43, "The Scripture Way of Salvation."  Sermon 40, "Christian Perfection."  Sermon 41, "Wandering Thoughts."  Thorsen, chapter 6.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>NO CLASS MARCH 26-30</b>	
<p><b>April 2-6</b>  The New Creation  Stewardship</p>	<p>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.</p>
<b>***FINAL PAPER DUE APRIL 6***</b>	

## V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

### PRIMARY SOURCES

*There are two standard editions of Wesley's works. The "Bicentennial Edition" is the modern, scholarly edition, with introductions, footnotes, etc. (several volumes have not yet been published). 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-. [[A list of volumes in print and future volumes is available here](#)]

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

*A recent collection that contains most of the sermons to be discussed in class is:*

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

## **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.

Castelo, Daniel, ed. *Embodying Wesley's Catholic Spirit*. Eugene, OR, 2017.

Chilcote, Paul W. *Faith That Sings: Biblical Themes in the Lyrical Theology of Charles Wesley*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2017.

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.

Cunningham, Joseph W. *John Wesley's Pneumatology: Perceptible Inspiration*. New York: Routledge, 2016.

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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<http://public.eblib.com/choice/publicfullrecord.aspx?p=4649681>.
- Jackson, Thomas, ed. *The Works of John Wesley*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007.
- Kimbrough, S. T., ed. *Orthodox and Wesleyan Ecclesiology*. Crestwood, N.Y.: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2007.
- Knight, Henry H. *Anticipating Heaven Below: Optimism of Grace from Wesley to the Pentecostals*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2014.
- Knight, Henry H. *The Presence of God in the Christian Life: John Wesley and the Means of Grace*. Pietist and Wesleyan Studies 3. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1992.
- Knox, Ronald A. *Enthusiasm: A Chapter in the History of Religion with Special Reference to the XVII and XVIII Centuries*. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame, 1994.
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- Lodahl, Michael E. *God of Nature and of Grace: Reading the World in a Wesleyan Way*. Nashville: Kingswood, 2003.
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- Maddox, Randy L., and Jason E. Vickers, eds. *The Cambridge Companion to John Wesley*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.
- Marsh, Clive, ed. *Methodist Theology Today*. London: Continuum, 2006.
- Meeks, M. Douglas., ed. *Our Calling to Fulfill: Wesleyan Views of the Church in Mission*. Nashville, TN: Kingswood Books, 2009.
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- . *John Wesley's Teachings, Volume 1: God, Providence and Man*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012.
- . *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.
- Pritchard, John. *Methodists and Their Missionary Societies 1900-1996*. London: Routledge, 2016.
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- Williams, Colin W. *John Wesley's Theology Today*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1960.
- Yrigoyen, Charles. *T & T Clark Companion to Methodism*. London: T & T Clark, 2010.

## ONLINE RESOURCES

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

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

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

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

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

[Victor Shepherd's Wesley Resources](#)

[Howard Snyder's Blog](#)

[James Pedlar's Wesley Resources](#)