

Instructor: Dr. Dan Eppley
Email: eppleyd@mcmurryadm.mcm.edu
Website: <http://www.mcm.edu/~eppleyd>

Office: 319 Old Main
Telephone: 793-3899

Introduction:

In this course we will explore the writings of John Wesley in their social, political, and intellectual context. We will focus on questions of theology, grace, salvation, and ethics that are still important questions for all Christians and indeed all religious people, and discuss the manner in which Wesley addressed these questions.

Attendance and Late Submissions:

Attendance at all class meetings is expected, and role will be taken near the beginning of each class session. Students are expected to come to class having completed the readings and to take an active role in class discussions. Late assignments will be penalized at my discretion depending on the circumstances with penalties up to and including receiving a zero on the assignment in question.

Student Conduct and Academic Honesty:

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is conducive to learning; behavior that is disruptive of the class or disrespectful to me or to other students will not be tolerated. Students guilty of such behavior may be asked to leave the class, and if such behavior persists will be dropped from the course. All work submitted for this class must be the student's own work; any student who presents another person's work as his or her own will be considered guilty of cheating. Action will be taken against any student guilty of cheating ranging from receiving a zero on the assignment in question to receiving a grade of F for the course. The student's behavior may also be brought to the attention of the Dean of Students, who will take action that may result in the expulsion of the student from the University.

Assignments:

Grades will be assigned on the basis of two exams, a research paper, and attendance/class participation. Pluses and minuses will be used in grading.

Exams: Exams will be made up of short answer and/or essay questions and will include a mid-term worth 30% of the student's final grade and a final worth 30% of the student's final grade.

Research paper: For the research paper, students will be asked to choose a topic in Christian ethics or theology that interests them and explore what Wesley has to say about the topic or compare Wesley's ideas on the topic to those of an earlier thinker. I encourage you to start on your paper early and to discuss your topic with me in advance of writing. As part of this assignment, each student must turn in a 1 page summary/outline of his or her paper along with a list of at least five references not from the internet by March 7. Students who fail to turn in the outline by this time will have their scores for the final paper reduced. The research paper should be 10-15 pages in length and will be due on April 30. The paper will be worth 30% of the student's final grade.

Attendance/Class Participation: Students will be expected to come to class having read and reflected on the reading assignments and prepared to discuss them. In addition to being ready to answer questions from the material that I will raise in class, each class period I will select one student to discuss questions raised by or to offer commentary on the reading assignment for that day. This portion of the grade will also take into account attendance; a student's score will suffer if s/he has more than two unexcused absences. (Absences will be considered excused only if for a documented illness or family emergency or for a school sponsored

activity.) This portion will be worth 10% of the student's final grade.

Course Schedule:

1. Introduction

2. Luther: [Disposition . . . on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences](#) and Heidelberg Disputation

3. Luther: *Concerning Christian Liberty* (read all three parts) [Open Letter of Luther to Pope Leo X](#); [Part 2](#); [Part 3](#)

4. Arminius: *A Declaration of the Sentiments of Arminius* (skim the Introduction, read Section I)

5. Arminius: *A Declaration of the Sentiments of Arminius* (read Sections II-IX)

6. Select statutes of the English Parliament: [Henry VIII's Supremacy Act](#) (1534); [Elizabeth I's Supremacy Act Restoring Ancient Jurisdiction](#) (1559); [Elizabeth I's Act of Uniformity](#) (1559)

7. Thomas a Kempis: [The Imitation of Christ](#), Books I & II

8. Thomas a Kempis: [The Imitation of Christ](#), Book III

9. Rousseau: [Profession of Faith of a Savoyard Vicar](#), from *Emile* (read from Book 4, [943]-[1047])

10. Rousseau: [Profession of Faith of a Savoyard Vicar](#), from *Emile* (read from Book 4, [1048]-[1098])

11. Wesley Theology: [An Earnest Appeal to Men of Reason and Religion](#) (Ox., vol. 11)

12. Wesley Theology: [The Case of Reason Impartially Considered](#) (Ab., vol. 2) [On Eternity](#) [On the Trinity](#)

13. Wesley Anthropology: [The Image of God](#) (Ab., vol. 4) "[Original Sin](#)" [On the Fall of Man](#)
Selections from *The Doctrine of Original Sin according to Scripture, Reason, and Experience* (Zon., vol. 9.
Read the Preface, pp. 192-195; skim Part I, pp. 196-238; read the first six sections of Part II, pp. 238-245.)

14. Wesley Soteriology: [Thoughts upon Necessity](#) (Zon., vol. 10) [A Thought on Necessity](#) (Zon.,
vol. 10) [Thoughts upon God's Sovereignty](#) (Zon. vol. 10) [Thoughts on Salvation by Faith](#) (Zon.,
vol. 11)

15. Wesley Soteriology: [Predestination Calmly Considered](#) (Zon., vol. 10) [A Dialogue between a
Predestinarian and his Friend](#) (Zon., vol. 10)

16. Wesley Church and Sacraments: [Of the Church](#) [On Schism](#) [The Duty of Constant
Communion](#) [A Treatise on Baptism](#) (Zon., vol. 10)

17. Wesley Ethics: [Scriptural Christianity](#) [On the Wedding Garment](#) [The Character of a
Methodist](#) (Ab., vol. 9)

18. Wesley Ethics: [Christian Perfection](#) [On Sin in Believers](#) [Sermon on the Mount, 3](#)

19. Wesley Ethics: [Sermon on the Mount, 4](#) [Thoughts on the Present Scarcity of Provisions](#) (Zon.,
vol. 11) [Thoughts on Slavery](#) (Zon., vol. 11)

20. Wesley Ethics: [Sermon on the Mount, 5](#) [Sermon on the Mount, 6](#) [The Original, Nature, Property, and Use of the Law](#)
21. Wesley Ethics: [Sermon on the Mount, 8](#) [Sermon on the Mount, 9](#) [The Use of Money](#) [The Danger of Riches](#)
22. Wesley Ethics: [Sermon on the Mount, 11](#) [Sermon on the Mount, 12](#) [Sermon on the Mount, 13](#) [Thoughts on a Single Life](#) (Zon., vol. 11) [A Thought upon Marriage](#) (Zon., vol. 11) "Letter to Mrs. Wesley" (Letters, vol. 4, p. 89)
23. Wesley Political Thought: [How Far is it the Duty of a Christian Minister to Preach Politics?](#) (Zon., vol. 11) [Thoughts Concerning the Origin of Power](#) (Zon., vol. 11) [Thoughts upon Liberty](#) (Zon., vol. 11)
24. Wesley Political Thought: [A Calm Address to our American Colonies](#) (Zon., vol. 11) [National Sins and Miseries](#) (Ab., vol. 3) [The Late Work of God in North America](#) (Ab., vol. 3)
25. Methodism after Wesley
26. Methodism after Wesley
27. Hauerwas, [A Complex God](#); [A Better Hope](#), Intro., ch. 3, 7.
28. Hauerwas, [A Better Hope](#), ch. 6, 10; [Dignitatis Humanae Personae](#)
29. Hauerwas, [A Better Hope](#), ch. 9, 12-14
30. Hauerwas, [A Better Hope](#), ch. 5, Appendix