

The Ministry and Sermons of John Wesley (THE410)
Spring, 2019
Professor Mark H. Mann



Point Loma Nazarene University Mission

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. *Being of Wesleyan heritage*, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

Course Description: This course introduces students to the life, ministry, and preaching of the co-founder of Methodism as a model for contemporary Christian formation, service, and theological reflection.

Contact with the Professor:

- Office Hours: Office Smee 206
- Office Phone: 849-2359
- Email: markmann@pointloma.edu

Required Texts:

- Collins, Kenneth J. *A Real Christian: The Life of John Wesley*
- Maddox, Randy L., *Responsible Grace: John Wesley's Practical Theology*
- Outler, Albert and Heitzenrater, Richard, eds. *John Wesley's Sermons: An Anthology*
- Additional readings available through Canvas

Course Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, you will have:

- 1) demonstrated growing awareness of the historical, political and religious contexts of Anglican priest and evangelist John Wesley (1703-1791);

- 2) adequately grasped the distinctive emphases and theological themes in Wesley's preaching and writing;
- 3) demonstrated the ability to reflect critically and creatively on the possibilities of adapting Wesley's ministry to contemporary church and society; and
- 4) further developed communication skills, both oral and written, in theological vocabulary and discourse.



Course Requirements:

- 1) Consistent and conscientious reading of assigned texts for each seminar session (CLOs 1, 2).
- 2) Consistent class attendance and participation (CLOs 1, 2). For any anticipated absence(s), please notify the professor.
- 3) Weekly journal of notes, questions, reactions and random thoughts inspired by assigned reading, due at beginning of class each **Monday** for that week's reading (CLOs 2, 3).
- 4) Leadership in discussion of one Wesley sermon (CLOs 3, 4).
- 5) A 2500-3000 word paper exploring a topic agreed upon by the student and professor relating to John Wesley's theology and/or the Wesleyan tradition. Please note the following deadlines:
 - a. **Friday, Feb. 1:** Approval of topic
 - b. **Wed., Mar. 1:** Submit bibliography
 - c. **Friday, Mar. 15:** Review outline with professor
 - d. **Wed., Apr., 17:** Final draft due
- 6) A final essay examination due by NOON on Friday, May 5. This exam will be take-home and open book/notes. You may even consult with the professor in completing the exam. The only requirement is that you do NOT consult with classmates on the exam, and that you cite all of your sources. As an alternative to the exam meeting, the class will gather for a meal at a time and place agreed upon by the entire class.

Final Grade: Will be determined on the basis of seminar attendance and participation (10%), weekly journal notes (20%), sermon discussion leadership (10%), term paper (30%), and final exam (30%).

94-100, A; 90-93, A-; 87-89, B+; 83-86, B; 80-82, B-; 77-79, C+;
73-76, C; 70-72, C-; 67-69, D+; 60-66, D; 56-59, D-; below 56, F.

Course Reading Schedule

Week 1: Introductions, Syllabus, and Historical Background

- Secondary Readings: Collins, 9-70.

Week 2: Methodism and the Evangelical Revival

- Secondary Readings: Collins, 71-120.
- C. Wesley: 'Awake Thou that Sleepest' (*Sermons*, 85-95).

Week 3: Wesley's Central Theological Concerns

- Secondary Readings: Collins, 121-59, Maddox, 15-25.
- Wesley: 'The Scripture Way of Salvation' (*Sermons*, 371-80).

Week 4: Revelation, Grace and Knowledge of God

- Secondary Readings: Maddox, 26-47.
- Wesley: 'The Image of God' (*Sermons*, 13-22), 'Preface to Sermons' (Canvas), 'The Imperfection of Human Knowledge' (Canvas).

Week 5: God, Love and Salvation

- Secondary Readings: Maddox, 48-64.
- Wesley: 'The Unity of the Divine Being' (*Sermons*, 531-40), 'The Omnipresence of God' (*Sermons*, 523-30), 'God's Love to Fallen Man' (*Sermons*, 475-84).

Week 6: Evil, Sin and Prevenient Grace

- Secondary Readings: Maddox, 65-93.
- Wesley: 'Original Sin' (*Sermons*, 325-34), 'Free Grace' (*Sermons*, 49-60), 'Some Serious Thoughts Occasioned by the Late Earthquake at Lisbon' (Canvas).

Week 7: The End of Christ's Coming

- Secondary Readings: Maddox, 94-113.
- Wesley: 'The End of Christ's Coming' (441-50), 'The Great Privilege of those that Are Born of God' (*Sermons*, 183-91), 'On Zeal' (*Sermons*, 465-74).

Week 8: The New Birth and the Witness of the Spirit

- Secondary Readings: Maddox, 119-35.
- Wesley: 'The New Birth' (*Sermons*, 335-46), 'The Witness of the Spirit, II' (*Sermons*, 393-404).

Week 9: SPRING BREAK

Week 10: Justification by Faith Alone

- Secondary Readings: Maddox, 141-72
- Wesley: 'The Lord Our Righteousness' (*Sermons*, 381-92), 'Justification by Faith' (*Sermons*, 111-22).

Week 11: Sanctification and Christian Perfection

- Secondary Readings: Maddox, 172-91.
- Wesley: 'The More Excellent Way' (*Sermons*, 511-22), 'The Circumcision of the Heart' (*Sermons*, 23-32), 'Christian Perfection' (*Sermons*, 69-84).

Week 12: The Means of Grace and Works of Mercy

- Secondary Readings: Maddox, 192-229, Henderson (Canvas)
- Wesley: 'The Means of Grace' (*Sermons*, 157-72), 'General Rules of the United Societies' (Canvas), 'The Use of Money' (*Sermons*, 347-58), Selected Writings on Various Social Issues (Canvas)

Week 13: The New Creation

- Secondary Readings: Maddox, 230-56, Lodahl, excerpt from *God of Nature and of Grace* (Canvas)
- Wesley: 'The New Creation' (*Sermons*, 493-500), 'The General Deliverance' (Canvas), 'The General Spread of the Gospel' (Canvas).

Week 14: Sacraments and Ecumenism

- Secondary Readings: Mann, 'Wesley, Word and Table' (Canvas), Mann, 'Religious Pluralism' (Canvas)
- Wesley: 'The Duty of Constant Communion' (*Sermons*, 501-10), 'The Catholic Spirit' (*Sermons*, 299-310), 'A Caution Against Bigotry' (*Sermons*, 287-298).

Week 15: Reason, Revelation and Natural Philosophy

- Secondary Readings: Mann, 'Wesley and the Two Books' (Canvas),
- Wesley: 'A Survey of the Wisdom of God in Creation' (Canvas), 'The Case for Reason Impartially Considered' (Canvas),

Week 16: The Life and Work of Charles Wesley

- Secondary Readings: Tyson (Canvas)
- C. Wesley, Selected Hymns (Canvas)

Important Points Regarding Your Writing for this Class:

- *Please keep in mind that grammar, spelling and punctuation all play a critical role in your professor's evaluation of all your papers* (CLO 4). Please avail yourselves of the services of a competent proofreader or the university's tutorial center.
- The PLNU School of Theology and Christian Ministry is committed to the full equality and dignity of all people. Recognizing that human beings have often used language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, the department strongly urges students, faculty and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions and especially in their writings.

PLNU Copyright Policy:

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

PLNU Academic Honesty Policy:

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic *dishonesty* is the act of presenting information, ideas, or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's efforts. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy:

If you have a diagnosed disability, please contact PLNU's Disability Resource Center (DRC) within the first two weeks of class to demonstrate need and to register for accommodation by phone at 619-849-2486 or by e-mail at DRC@pointloma.edu. See [Disability Resource Center](#) for additional information.

PLNU Attendance and Participation Policy:

Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings (please note that in summer school, this means two days' worth of classes!), the faculty member can file a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent (our four day's worth of classes), the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation. See [Academic Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog.

Semester Academic Work Policy:

Please note that when the semester ends, so do all opportunities to work to improve your grade. No last-minute or after-the-fact appeals for extra credit will be even briefly considered.

Please Note the Following:

- While all students are expected to meet the minimum academic standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may require academic accommodations. At Point Loma Nazarene University, students requesting academic accommodations must file documentation with the Disability Resource Center (DRC), located in the Bond Academic Center. Once the student files documentation, the Disability Resource Center will contact the student's instructors and provide written recommendations for reasonable and appropriate

accommodations to meet the individual needs of the student. This policy assists the university in its commitment to full compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Act of 1990, and ADA Amendments Act of 2008, all of which prohibit discrimination against students with disabilities and guarantees all qualified students equal access to and benefits of PLNU programs and activities.

- Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Please consult the school catalog under the heading of Academic Honesty to learn the professor's intended policy regarding student dishonesty regarding academic work. It would be a bare minimum that any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a score of zero for the assignment in question; it is also within the professor's rights simply to fail the student for the course.