



# Course Syllabus Wycliffe College Toronto School of Theology

This description is intended to assist in the course approval process and to assist students in determining whether this course will help them achieve their educational objectives and the learning goals of their program. It is not a learning contract. The details of the description are subject to change before the course begins. The course syllabus will be available to the class at the beginning of the course.

## ***Course Identification***

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Course Number : WYT3531/6531HF  
Course Name: John Wesley: Catholic Evangelical  
Class Location: Wycliffe College  
Class Day & Time: Tuesdays, 11–1

## ***Instructor Information***

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Instructor:	Victor Shepherd	Teaching Assistant:
E-mail:	vshep@tyndale.ca	E-mail:
Office Hours:		

## ***Course Prerequisites or Requisites***

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Previous course in Sytematic Theology.

## ***Course Description***

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### Course Description

Examining chiefly Wesley's "Sermons on Several Occasions" (i.e. tracts), the course delineates Wesley's theological identity. It locates Wesley in his immediate environment: theological, religious, intellectual and social. It honours Wesley's insistence on a 'practical divinity' that subserves evangelism and Christian formation rather than speculation – without thereby sacrificing theological substance, academic integrity or ecumenical significance. It probes important aspects of his theological formation; e.g., his grasp of the Magisterial and English Reformation, his expertise in Patristics, his debt to the Puritans, his affinity with aspects of Eastern orthodoxy, and his appreciation of Counter-reformation spirituality

## ***Course Methodology***

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Lectures, readings, paper, final exam

## ***Course Outcomes***

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Students successfully completing this course will:

- grasp Wesley’s approach to core doctrines in the catholic tradition;
- relate Wesley’s theology (and theirs) to the multiform context (social, intellectual, religious and theological) in which both Wesley and they understand and articulate theology;
- inform their ministry by means of Wesley’s preoccupation with “practical divinity”; i.e., how it subserves the proclamation and exemplification of the Kingdom of God rather than subserving speculative concerns – without thereby sacrificing theological substance, intellectual integrity, or ecumenical significance;
- probe the multidimensionality of theology, modelled on Wesley’s detailed knowledge of Patristics, his debt to the Puritans, and his appreciation of Counter-Reformation spirituality;
- borrow, following Wesley, elements from traditions apparently alien to them;
- enhance their spiritual formation through appropriating Wesley’s ransacking of spiritualities other than those native to him.

Students will demonstrate the aforesaid through weekly readings in primary sources (Wesley), lectures amplifying Wesley’s diachronic and synchronic ecclesiastical context, submitting written assignments, and participating in classroom discussions that are informed by students from assorted theological backgrounds and diverse ministerial intentions.

## ***Course Resources***

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### **Required Course Texts**

- Albert C. Outler and Richard P. Heitzenrater (eds.), *John Wesley's Sermons: An Anthology* (Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 2016) [Numbers opposite readings refer to pages in the text]

### **Course Website(s)**

- Blackboard <https://weblogin.utoronto.ca/>. This course uses Blackboard for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT portal login page at <http://portal.utoronto.ca> and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to the portal using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you’ll find the link to the website for all your Blackboard-based courses. (Your course registration with ROSI gives you access to the course website at Blackboard.) Note also the information at <http://www.portalinfo.utoronto.ca/content/information-students>. Students who have trouble accessing Blackboard should ask Thomas Power for further help.
- Personal Website <http://individual.utoronto.ca/jsmith>

## ***Class Schedule***

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*(Numbers opposite readings refer to pages in the text.)*

**Week 1 (September 13)** Discussion of Bibliography  
 Overview of Wesley's Life and Work  
 Wesleyan “Quadrilateral”.

**Week 2 (September 20)**(Quadrilateral, continued)  
 “Catholic Spirit” 299.

**Week 3 (September 27)**“The Image of God” 13  
 “The Circumcision of the Heart” 23  
 “The One Thing Needful” 33 (Before 1738).

**Week 4 (October 4)** “Salvation By Faith” 39  
 “Free Grace” 49

- Week 5 (October 11)** “The Almost Christian” 61 (After 1738).  
 “Awake, Thou That Sleepest” 85  
 “Scriptural Christianity” 97  
 “Justification by Faith” 111.
- Week 6 (October 18)** “The Spirit of Bondage and of Adoption” 133  
 “The Witness of the Spirit (I)” 145  
 “The Witness of the Spirit (II)” 393.
- Week 7 (October 25)** Reading Week – No Class.
- Week 8 (November 1)** “The New Birth” 335  
 “The Marks of the New Birth” 173  
 “The Great Privilege of Those That Are Born of God” 183
- Week 9 (November 8)** “The Original, Nature, Properties, and Use of the Law” 255  
 “The Law Established Through Faith, I” 267  
 “The Law Established Through Faith, II” 277
- Week 10 (November 15)** “The Means of Grace” 157  
 “The Duty of Constant Communion” 501.
- Week 11 (November 22)** “The Use of Money” 347  
 “The Good Steward” 419  
 “The Danger of Riches” 45
- Week 12 (November 29)** “On Sin in Believers” 359  
 “The Repentance of Believers” 405.
- Week 13 (December 6)** “Christian Perfection” 69  
 “Can You Conceive Anything More Amiable Than This? Anything More Desirable?  
 A Note on Wesley's Challenge Concerning Christian Perfection” (Paper by V.  
 Shepherd)

**December 13 – Final Exam**

## ***Evaluation***

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### **Requirements**

- 1) Final Examination
- 2) Essay (3000 words approximately, due December 13) The essay is to be written in conformity with any accepted style manual.

Essay and Examination are weighted equally. The deadline is not negotiable. An extension will not be granted (apart from medically documented illness or family emergencies such as death.)

Essay Topics:

1. The Social Background of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Revival
2. The Political Background of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Revival
3. The Religious or Theological or Ecclesiastical Background of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Revival
4. The Puritans and Wesley: Convergence and Divergence
5. Wesley's Theological Debt to the Church of England
6. Wesley and Whitefield on Predestination
7. Wesley and Whitefield on the New Birth

8. Wesley's Understanding of Sanctification (Perfection)
9. Theological Differences between John and Charles Wesley
10. Wesley and the Church Fathers (Patristics)
11. Wesley's Understanding of Prevenient Grace
12. Wesley on Faith or Justification or Repentance or Assurance
13. An Aspect of Charles Wesley's Hymnody
14. Wesley's Disputes with the Calvinists
15. Wesley's Spiritual Pilgrimage: From Mysticism and Moralism to Saving Faith (Aldersgate)
16. Wesley's Horror at Material Prosperity
17. An Overview of and Comment on "And Earnest Appeal to Men of Reason and Religion" (1743)
18. Wesley's Understanding of Holy Communion
19. Wesley's Soteriology
20. Wesley and Calvin on the Law of God
21. Wesley's Ecclesiology
22. The Wesley Brothers' Understanding of the Lord's Supper from an examination of Hymns on the Lord's Supper
23. Wesley's articulation of any major doctrine
24. Any topic approved by Professor Shepherd

## Grading System

Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalents	Grade Point	Grasp of Subject Matter
A+	90–100%	4.0	Profound & Creative
A	85–89%	4.0	Outstanding
A-	80–84%	3.7	Excellent
B+	77–79%	3.3	Very Good
B	73–76%	3.0	Good
B-	70–72%	2.7	Satisfactory
FZ	0–69%	0	Failure

Grades without numerical equivalent:

CR	Designates credit; has no numerical equivalent or grade point value
NCR	Designates failure; has no numerical equivalent, but has a grade point value of 0 and is included in the GPA calculation
SDF	Standing deferred (a temporary extension)
INC	Permanent incomplete; has no numerical equivalent or grade point value
WDR	Withdrawal without academic penalty
AEG	May be given to a final year student who, because of illness, has completed at least 60% of the course, but not the whole course, and who would not otherwise be able to convocate; has no numerical equivalent and no grade point value

### *Policy on Assignment Extensions*

Basic Degree students are expected to complete all course work by the end of the term in which they are registered. Under **exceptional circumstances**, with the written permission of the instructor, students may request an extension (SDF = “standing deferred”) beyond the term. An extension, when offered, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. An SDF must be requested no later than the last day of classes of the term in which the course is taken. The request form is available on the college website or from the Registrar’s office.

**One percentage point per day will be deducted on the course grade if an extension has not been requested by the stated deadline.**

**Course grades.** Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor’s college before being posted. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University grading policy (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/grading.pdf>) or college grading policy.

## ***Policies***

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**Accessibility.** Students with a disability or health consideration are entitled to accommodation. Students must register at the University of Toronto’s Accessibility Services offices; information is available at <http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/>. The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

**Plagiarism.** Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* (linked from <http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks> and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>), a student who plagiarizes in this course. Students will be assumed to have read the document “Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing” published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges ([http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library\\_Archives/Theological\\_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm](http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library_Archives/Theological_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm)).

**Other academic offences.** TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>).

**Writing Style.** The writing standard for the Toronto School of Theology is Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, 8<sup>th</sup> edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013), which is available at Crux Books.

**Course Evaluations.** At the end of the course students are expected to complete a course evaluation. The evaluation is done online and instructions will be contained in an e-mail message that will be sent out by the Wycliffe College registrar.

## ***Bibliography***

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