Instructor: Joretta L. Marshall

Prerequisites: None

Description of Content:
This course seeks to introduce the major issues of the history and the doctrine of the United Methodist Church, both those that express its diversity and those that express its continuity/discontinuity. Anyone taking the class should come away with a basic grasp of the larger theological framework within which Wesleyan theology has developed. Moreover, students will learn what it means to be a Methodist, particularly in the contemporary context of the United States. This course will give its emphasis to the life, work, and theology of John Wesley and the Wesleyan roots of Methodism as well as to the experience of the United Methodist Church. The course has five major purposes:

1) To provide you with a better and deeper understanding of the importance of the Wesleyan tradition upon the United Methodist Church today;
2) To elucidate contemporary Methodists’ own self-understanding of their theology and doctrines of Methodist faith and practices;
3) To understand the process of Methodist theological strands and doctrinal formation;
4) To gain familiarity with the structure, content, and use of the Book of Discipline;
5) To understand and to develop the skills with which to engage United Methodist theological diversity and issues of race, class, gender, and sexual orientation.

- This course is required of the United Methodists for ordination.

Class Procedures:
The class will be a combination of lectures, student presentations, and class discussion

Requirements:
1) Attendance, completion of required reading, and participation in class sessions (20%)
2) One reflection paper due the first day of class
3) A mid-term (30%)
4) Final paper and/or project (50%)
5) For DMin students: There will be an additional requirement to research an issue and teach one class session in consultation with the instructor
Texts:


