

PROSPECTUS

PRTH 70212 United Methodist Polity

Spring 2019

Thursdays 1:00-3:30 p.m. (nine total sessions)

Two (2) Semester Hours

Instructor: Natalya Cherry

Prerequisites: None

Description of Content: “The organization, polity and comprehensive program of the United Methodist Church. Required of United Methodist students for ordination” (Brite Bulletin). Students will “examine the development of United Methodist polity from a historical and theological perspective,” using “*The Book of Discipline* and *The Book of Resolutions* as working handbooks for mission and ministry,” in order to be able to “relate historical understanding and theological reflection to the mission and ministry of the contemporary church through: 1. A knowledge of the rationale and ordering of United Methodist structures; 2. Understanding the nature of authority and power in the church; 3. Commitment to an ongoing process of renewal” (University Senate Standards for Courses in UM Studies). Please note that, while following these standards and their numerous sub-sections (to be listed in the syllabus and ranging from understanding structural expressions of ecclesiology to perceiving the nature of ecumenical relationships), this particular semester will give unique attention to the Special Session of General Conference, its relevant history, present proposals for a Way Forward, and future results (see Note under “Requirements” below).

Class Procedures:

Lectures by professor and guests, discussions of readings, minute-paper writing, reflective structured dialogues, and other group work (both in-class exercises and optional off-site visits)

Requirements:

1. Attendance and informed participation in class, including minute-papers
2. Critical Reflection paper on “*Wonder, Love, and Praise: Sharing a Vision of the Church*” produced by the Faith and Order Commission of The United Methodist Church for study during the 2017-2020 quadrennium. (4 pages)
3. In-class conducting of a mock committee meeting or training (varied length)
4. Final Exam

Note: An un-graded opportunity will be offered for gathering and reflection during the Special Session of General Conference February 23-26, 2019.

Texts:

1. *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016*. Nashville: United Methodist Publishing House, 2016. ISBN 13: 978-1501833212 Retail price: \$23.99 (hardcover)
2. *The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church 2016*. Nashville: United Methodist Publishing House. 2016. ISBN 13: 978-1501833243 Retail price: \$21.99 (paperback)
3. Campbell, Ted. *The Sky Is Falling, the Church Is Dying, and Other False Alarms*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2015. ISBN 13: 978-1426785948 Retail price: \$13.99. (paperback).
4. Lawrence, William. *A Methodist Requiem: Words of Hope and Resurrection for the Church*. Nashville: Foundry Books of GBHEM, 2018. ISBN 13: 978-0938162469 Retail price: \$24.99 (paperback)
5. Warner, Lacey. *The Method of Our Mission: United Methodist Polity and Organization*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2014. ISBN 13: 978-1426767173 Retail price: \$34.99 (paperback)
6. Wogaman, Philip. *Surrendering My Ordination: Standing Up for Gay and Lesbian Inclusivity in The United Methodist Church*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2018. ISBN 13:978-0664264178 Retail price: \$15.00 (paperback).

Additional articles, blogs, videos, dissertations, made available on TCU Online course site or via Burnett Library digital access (link in syllabus).

Also Recommended (optional for those wanting more than will be excerpted online):

- Abraham, William J. and James Kirby, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Methodist Studies*. Oxford: OUP. ISBN 13: 978-0199696116 Retail price: \$55.00 (paperback)
- Frank, Thomas Edward. *Polity, Practice, and the Mission of The United Methodist Church*. Nashville: Abingdon. 2006. ISBN 13: 978-0687335312 Retail price: \$29.99 (paperback)
- Lawrence, William B. *Ordained Ministry in The United Methodist Church*. Nashville: General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. 2011. ISBN 13: 978-0938162698 Retail Price: \$14.99 (paperback)

Additional resources listed in *United Methodist Studies: Basic Bibliographies, Sixth Edition* (2014), ed. Christopher J. Anderson, available at http://s3.amazonaws.com/gcah.org/UMC_History/Bibliographies/UMStudies_Anderson_2014.pdf See especially Part 1 (pp. 13-17), Part 5 for Polity (pp. 181-184).

Grading Procedures:

Class attendance & discussion participation:	20%
Critical Reflection Paper:	20%
Mock Meeting Leadership Exercise:	30%
Final Exam:	30%