

PROSPECTUS

PRTH 70212 United Methodist Polity

Spring 2022

Tuesdays 8:15-10:45 a.m. (nine total sessions, plus in-class final exam)

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 also prepares students to understand proceedings of General Conference 2022 that was rescheduled from May 2020 and then fall 2021 to take place in August-September 2022.

Class Procedures:

Class discussions of readings (possible guest reflections), instant feedback using tools like minute papers (ungraded), reflective structured dialogues, and other group work

Requirements:

1. Attendance and informed participation in class
2. In-class conducting of a mock committee meeting or training (varied length)
3. Critical Reflection paper on “*Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation and Restructuring*” protocol legislation (approx. 1000 words)
4. In-class Final Exam

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. Dreff, Ashley Boggan, *Entangled: A History of American Methodism, Politics, and Sexuality*. Nashville: New Room Books, 2019. ISBN 13: 978-1945935329 Retail price: \$39.99 (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):

1. Abraham, William J. and James Kirby, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Methodist Studies*. Oxford: OUP. ISBN 13: 978-0199696116 Retail price: \$55.00 (paperback)
2. 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)
3. Lawrence, William. *A Methodist Requiem: Words of Hope and Resurrection for the Church*. Nashville: Foundery Books of GBHEM, 2018. ISBN 13: 978-0938162469 Retail price: \$24.99 (paperback)
4. 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 5 for Polity (pp. 181-184).

Grading Procedures:

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