

“The mission of Tyndale Seminary is to provide Christ-centred graduate theological education for leaders in the church and society whose lives are marked by intellectual maturity, spiritual vigour and moral integrity, and whose witness will faithfully engage culture with the Gospel.”

Course	JOHN WESLEY’S THEOLOGY: RENEWING THE HEART, RENEWING THE CHURCH THEO 0629 1B / 1S
Date, Time, and Delivery Format	JANUARY 13 – APRIL 11, 2025 NOTE: This class will have a mixture of ASYNCHRONOUS and SYNCRHONOUS online delivery with an IN-PERSON OPTION. Please review class information below carefully.
Instructor	JAMES E. PEDLAR, PhD Telephone/voice mail: (416) 226-6620 Ext. 2215 Email: jpedlar@tyndale.ca
Class Information	*Irregular schedule; see Section IV below for details* All Lectures Prerecorded 8 Weeks of asynchronous instruction Two Fridays with two 90-minute synchronous sessions each (livestream or in-person option): 1. Friday, January 31, 2025 – 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM 2. Friday, March 21, 2025 – 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM Students who wish to attend the two Fridays in-person should register for section 1B Office hours appointments can be booked online at various times throughout the week via an online form on the course page.
Course Material	Access course material at classes.tyndale.ca or other services at Tyndale One . Course emails will be sent to your @MyTyndale.ca e-mail account only.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An examination of the life and thought of John Wesley, and of early Methodism as a movement of evangelism, renewal and mission within the larger Christian Church. Students will explore major aspects of Wesley’s theology and the dynamics of early Methodism as a movement, with

attention to how Wesley's theology can help inform a holistic understanding of Christian life and mission in the contemporary context.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Discuss the major themes of John Wesley's theology and relate these themes to events in his life and ministry.
2. Analyze early Methodism as a movement of renewal and evangelism.
3. Engage in close, critical, and charitable reading of primary source material relevant to Wesley's life and theology.
4. Critically evaluate and discuss a particular area of Wesley studies in detail.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED READING

Thorsen, Don. [*Calvin vs. Wesley: Bringing Belief in Line with Practice*](#). Nashville: Abingdon, 2013. ISBN: 9781426743351

Other required readings will be posted on the course page, as per the course schedule below.

B. SUPPLEMENTARY / RECOMMENDED READING AND TOOLS

Much of the course reading will be focused on Wesley's sermons, which are available in multiple places online. We will use the definitive critical edition of the sermons, available from the [Wesley Works Digitization Project](#).

If students wish to purchase a hard-copy collection of Wesley's sermons, the following collection contains most (but not all) of the sermons discussed in this course. It is also available as an eBook from Tyndale library.

Collins, Kenneth J., and Jason E. Vickers, eds. [*The Sermons of John Wesley: A Collection for the Christian Journey*](#). Nashville: Abingdon, 2013.

Serious students of Wesley's theology may want to purchase the first four volumes of the Bicentennial Edition of *The Works of John Wesley* (full details in bibliography below).

Tyndale recommends www.stepbible.org – a free and reputable online resource developed by Tyndale House (Cambridge, England) – for word searches of original-language texts, as well as

for topical searches, interlinear texts, dictionaries, etc. Refer to the library for other [online resources for Biblical Studies](#).

C. INTERACTIVE LIVESTREAM AND/OR BLENDED COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Livestream attendance for the entire duration of the class at announced times
 - Headphones (preferred), built-in microphone, and web-camera
 - Well-lit and quiet room
 - Stable high-speed internet connection, preferably using an Ethernet cable over Wi-Fi
 - Full name displayed on Zoom and Microsoft Teams for attendance purposes*
 - A commitment to having the camera on to foster community building*
- *exceptions with permission from professor

D. GUIDELINES FOR INTERACTIONS

Tyndale University prides itself in being a trans-denominational community. We anticipate our students to have varied viewpoints which will enrich the discussions in our learning community. Therefore, we ask our students to be charitable and respectful in their interactions with each other, and to remain focused on the topic of discussion, out of respect to others who have committed to being a part of this learning community. Please refer to “Guidelines for Interactions” on your course resource page at classes.tyndale.ca.

E. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Please note: Attendance during the online discussion weeks in this course is demonstrated by regular log-ins and up-to-date participation in forums.

1. Online Group Discussions (30%).

All students will participate in four online group discussions during the following weeks: February 24-28, March 3-7, March 10-14, and March 31-April 4 (see the course schedule below). Following our livestream discussions on January 31, the class will be divided into groups of four or five. These groups will remain fixed for the duration of the course. The purpose of the discussions is to engage the content of the course and explore the implications of the material covered for discipleship and ministry. The instructor will post a question each week for group reflection. Students are expected to post their own response by 11:55 PM (Eastern Time) on Tuesday evening of the week in question, and then reply to the reflections of each of the other students in their group by 11:55 PM (Eastern Time) on Thursday of that same week. Your individual contributions to these discussions will be assessed on a weekly basis.

2. Students can choose one of the following options:

a) Critical book review (30%; 5-6 pages, double-spaced; due 11:55 PM on Feb. 15).

Students will write a critical book review of the Thorsen text. The review should

demonstrate a clear understanding of the author’s argument and a critical evaluation of its strengths and weaknesses.

b) Research Paper Proposal (30%, 3-4 pages plus bibliography, due 11:55 PM on Feb. 15).

This proposal should include a statement of the topic, a tentative thesis, an outline of the major sections of your paper with a brief description of each section, and a preliminary bibliography. The outline will help you to get a good start on the paper, and will provide the instructor with an opportunity to give you feedback before you have finished your work.

3. Research Paper (40%; 10-12 pages, double-spaced; due 11:55 PM on April 12).

Students will write a research paper on an aspect of John Wesley’s theology and/or practice as discussed in class. Papers should demonstrate rigorous engagement with primary and secondary sources, an awareness of Wesley’s context, and sensitivity to his overall theological perspective. A list of potential topics will be provided in class.

Turnitin Text-Matching Software

Tyndale has a subscription to text-matching software called Turnitin. This software is used to ensure the originality of academic writing and to check that all of the sources used have been cited correctly. The instructor for this course will be using this software for the assignments that are submitted through your course resource page at classes.tyndale.ca. When you submit your assignment, you will see a summary of your submission, which includes the file(s) that you submitted as well as a similarity report generated by Turnitin.

F. EQUITY OF ACCESS

Students with permanent or temporary disabilities who need academic accommodations must [contact](#) the [Accessibility Services](#) at the [Centre for Academic Excellence](#) to [register](#) and discuss their specific needs. *New students* must self-identify and register with the Accessibility Office at the beginning of the semester or as early as possible to access appropriate services. *Current students* must renew their plans as early as possible to have active accommodations in place.

G. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

Four Asynchronous Forums	30 %
Critical Book Review or Research Paper Proposal	30 %
Research Paper	40 %
Total Grade	100 %

H. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

Assignments are to be uploaded to the assignment submission section of the course page in pdf or Microsoft Word format by 11:59 PM (Eastern Time) on the assigned due date. **Papers submitted after 11:59 PM on the due date will receive a 1/3 grade deduction (i.e., B+ to B) for each day (or part thereof) following the due date.** This late policy will apply to all assignments for which no extension has been granted. Extensions will be granted only for serious personal, family, or health situations.

Assignments should be double-spaced, in 12 pt Times New Roman font, with 1" margins. The standard citation method for theological papers is **full footnotes with a complete bibliography** in the **Chicago style**. For proper citation style, consult the [tip sheet, "Documenting Chicago Style"](#) (Tyndale e-resource) or the full edition of the [Chicago Manual of Style Online](#), especially ch. 14. For citing scripture texts, refer to sections 10.44 to 10.48 and 14.238 to 14.241 from the *Chicago Manual of Style* or reference the [tip sheet, "How to Cite Sources in Theology"](#).

Academic Integrity

Integrity in academic work is required of all our students. Academic dishonesty is any breach of this integrity, and includes such practices as cheating (the use of unauthorized material on tests and examinations), submitting the same work for different classes without permission of the instructors; using false information (including false references to secondary sources) in an assignment; improper or unacknowledged collaboration with other students, and plagiarism (including improper use of artificial intelligence programs). Tyndale University takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty. Please refer to the [Academic Integrity website](#) for further details.

Students are not permitted to use generative AI tools to write or edit their papers in this course. Research, evaluation of sources, critical thinking, and communication are essential skills that are gained through the practice of academic writing, and as such, these tasks cannot be out-sourced to generative AI tools without compromising the integrity of the learning outcomes in this course. Students may use AI tools such as Grammarly to *correct* their own writing, or to make suggestions to improve their writing. However, students must make such changes or revisions themselves; it is not acceptable to have an AI tool re-write the assignment.

Students are encouraged to consult [Writing Services](#). Citation and other [tip sheets](#).

Students should also consult the current [Academic Calendar](#) for academic policies on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System.

Research Ethics

All course-based assignments involving human participants requires ethical review and may require approval by the [Tyndale Research Ethics Board \(REB\)](#). Check with the Seminary Dean's Office (aa@tyndale.ca) before proceeding.

H. COURSE EVALUATION

Tyndale Seminary values quality in the courses it offers its students. End-of-course evaluations provide valuable student feedback and are one of the ways that Tyndale Seminary works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student's learning experience. Student involvement in this process is critical to enhance the general quality of teaching and learning.

Before the end of the course, students will receive a MyTyndale email with a link to the online course evaluation. The link can also be found in the left column on the course page. The evaluation period is 2 weeks; after the evaluation period has ended, it cannot be reopened.

Course Evaluation results will not be disclosed to the instructor before final grades in the course have been submitted and processed. Student names will be kept confidential and the instructor will only see the aggregated results of the class.

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS

DATE AND TOPIC	READINGS (all readings other than course text are accessible on our course page as pdf files or via links to Tyndale library e-books)
Jan. 13-17 Wesley's Life	Collins, "Wesley's Life and Ministry." In <i>The Cambridge Companion to John Wesley</i> , ed. Maddox and Vickers, 43-59. Sermon 43, "The Scripture Way of Salvation."
Jan. 20-24 Theological Method	Wesley, "Preface" to <i>Sermons on Several Occasions</i> . In <i>The Works of John Wesley</i> , vol. 1, 103-107. Nashville: Abingdon, 1984. Thorsen, chapter 2. Wall, "Wesley as Biblical Interpreter," in <i>The Cambridge Companion</i> , 113-128. Supplementary (not required): Langford, "John Wesley and Theological Method." In <i>Rethinking Wesley's Theology for Contemporary Methodism</i> , ed Maddox, 35-48.
JANUARY 31 INTENSIVE DAY (in-person or livestream; complete readings and lecture before class sessions)	
10:00-11:30 am	Sermon 44, "Original Sin."

Humanity: Image of God, Original Sin, Prevenient Grace	Sermon #141 (Outler's numbering), "The Image of God." Sermon 85, "On Working Our Our Own Salvation." Thorsen, chapters 3 and 4.
1:00-2:30 pm Predestination and the Character of God	Sermon 128, "Free Grace." Sermon 58, "On Predestination." Wesley's <i>Journal</i> , March to May 1739, February to April 1741. Thorsen, chapters 1 and 5.
No Class February 3-7	
Feb. 10-14 Justification and Regeneration <u>*Assignment #2 Due Feb 15*</u>	Sermon 5, "Justification by Faith." Sermon 20, "The Lord Our Righteousness." Sermon 45, "The New Birth." Supplementary (not required): Sermon 1, "Salvation by Faith." Sermon 6, "The Righteousness of Faith."
Reading Week February 17-21	
Feb. 24-28 Assurance Ongoing repentance <u>Online Discussion #1</u>	Sermon 10, "The Witness of the Spirit, Discourse One." Sermon 11, "The Witness of the Spirit, Discourse Two." Sermon 14, "The Repentance of Believers." Supplementary (not required): Sermon 12, "The Witness of Our Own Spirit." Sermon 13, "On Sin in Believers." Wesley's <i>Journal</i> , May 24 to June 7, 1738.
March 3-7 The Means of Grace <u>Online Discussion #2</u>	Sermon 16, "The Means of Grace." Sermon 101, "The Duty of Constant Communion." Sermon 98, "On Visiting the Sick."
March 10-14 Law & Gospel Spiritual Darkness <u>Online Discussion #3</u>	Sermon 25, "Sermon on the Mount: Discourse Five." Sermon 46, "The Wilderness State." Sermon 47, "Heaviness Through Manifold Temptations."
March 21 – INTENSIVE DAY (in-person or livestream; complete readings and lecture before class sessions)	
10:00-11:30 am The Church	Sermon 74, "Of the Church." Sermon 75, "On Schism." Sermon 39, "Catholic Spirit." Thorsen, chapter 7. Supplementary (not required): Outler, Albert C. "Do Methodists Have a Doctrine of the Church?" In <i>The Wesleyan Theological Heritage</i> , ed. Oden and Longden, 211–226.

1:00-2:30 pm Renewal & Mission Social Christianity	Wesley, "General Rules and Rules of the Band Societies." Sermon 24, "Sermon on the Mount: Discourse Four." Thorsen, Chapter 8. Supplementary (not required): Wesley, "A Plain Account of the People Called Methodists." Snyder, Howard, A. "Toward a Wesleyan Theology of Mission." in <i>Yes in Christ</i> , 69-90.
No Class March 24-28	
Mar. 31-Apr. 4 Christian Perfection <u>Online Discussion #4</u>	Sermon 40, "Christian Perfection." Sermon 41, "Thoughts on Christian Perfection." "Thoughts on Christian Perfection." Thorsen, chapter 6. Supplementary (not required): Sermon 17, "The Circumcision of the Heart." Sermon 41, "Wandering Thoughts." Noble, T.A. "Wesley's Doctrine of Christian Perfecting." In <i>Holy Trinity, Holy People</i> , 73-96.
April 7-11 The New Creation Stewardship <u>*Research Paper</u> <u>Due April 12*</u>	Sermon 60, "The General Deliverance." Sermon 64, "The New Creation." Sermon 50, "The Use of Money." Supplementary (not required): Sermon 87, "The Danger of Riches." Pedlar, James E. "'His Mercy Is Over All His Works': John Wesley's Mature Doctrine of New Creation." <i>Canadian Theological Review</i> 2, no. 2 (2013): 45-56.

V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

([Tyndale Library](#) supports this course with [e-journals](#), [e-books](#), and the [mail delivery of books](#) and circulating materials. See the [Library FAQ page](#).)

Primary sources (Wesley's Writings)

The following are the two main editions of Wesley's writings. The Bicentennial Edition (ed. Baker et. al.) is the critical edition and should be consulted when possible by students who can access the Tyndale library in person. Some of the material (including the sermons) has been made freely available via the [Wesley Works Digitization Project](#). The Jackson edition is the older standard edition, but lack scholarly apparatus.

Baker, Frank, Richard P. Heitzenrater, and Randy L. Maddox, eds. *The Works of John Wesley*. Bicentennial Edition. 27 volumes. Oxford: Clarendon Press 1975-83 and Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1984—.

Jackson, Thomas, ed. *The Works of John Wesley*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007 [1872].

Other, smaller collections of Wesley's writings:

Collins, Kenneth J., and Jason E. Vickers, eds. *The Sermons of John Wesley: A Collection for the Christian Journey*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2013.

The Journal of the Rev. John Wesley, A.M., in Four Volumes. London: J.M. Dent, 1906.

Heitzenrater, Richard P., and Albert C. Outler, eds. *John Wesley's Sermons: An Anthology*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1991.

John Wesley's Sunday Service of the Methodists in North America. Nashville: United Methodist Publishing House, 1984.

Outler, Albert C., ed. *John Wesley*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1980.

Wesley, John. *A Plain Account of Christian Perfection*. Ed. Randy L. Maddox and Paul Wesley Chilcote. Kansas City, MO: Beacon Hill, 2015.

Whaling, Frank, ed. *John and Charles Wesley: Selected Prayers, Hymns, Journal Notes, Sermons, Letters and Treatises*. New York: Paulist Press, 1981.

Students should also consider the following editions of Charles and Susanna Wesley's writings:

Tyson, John R., ed. *Charles Wesley: A Reader*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.

Jackson, Thomas, ed. *The Journal of the Rev. Charles Wesley, M.A.* 2 vols. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 1980.

Newport, Kenneth G. C., and Gareth Lloyd, eds. *The Letters of Charles Wesley: A Critical Edition, with Introduction and Notes*. 2 vols. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021.

Newport, Kenneth G. C., ed. *The Sermons of Charles Wesley: A Critical Edition with Introduction and Notes*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001.

Wallace, Charles, ed. *Susanna Wesley: The Complete Writings*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997.

Secondary Sources:

Abraham, William J. *Aldersgate and Athens: John Wesley and the Foundations of Christian Belief*. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2010.

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Abraham, William J., and James E. Kirby, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Methodist Studies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Baker, Frank. *John Wesley and the Church of England*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1970.

Barbeau, Jeffrey W. *The Spirit of Methodism: From the Wesleys to a Global Communion*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2019.

Bratton, Amy Caswell. *Witnesses of Perfect Love: Narratives of Christian Perfection in Early Methodism*. Tyndale Studies in Wesleyan History and Theology 4. Toronto: Clements Academic, 2014.

- Butler, David. *Methodists and Papists: John Wesley and the Catholic Church in the Eighteenth Century*. London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 1995.
- Campbell, Ted. *John Wesley and Christian Antiquity: Religious Vision and Cultural Change*. Nashville: Kingswood Books, 1991.
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- Chilcote, Paul W. *A Faith That Sings: Biblical Themes in the Lyrical Theology of Charles Wesley*. Wesleyan Doctrine Series 12. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2016.
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- . *John Wesley: A Theological Journey*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2003.
- . *The Theology of John Wesley: Holy Love and the Shape of Grace*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2007.
- Collins, Kenneth J., and Jason E. Vickers, eds. *The Sermons of John Wesley: A Collection for the Christian Journey*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2013.
- Colyer, Elmer M. *The Trinitarian Dimension of John Wesley's Theology*. Nashville: New Room Books, 2019.
- Crofford, Gregory. *Streams of Mercy: Prevenient Grace in the Theology of John and Charles Wesley*. Lexington, KY: Emeth Press, 2010.
- Crutcher, Timothy J. *John Wesley: His Life and Thought*. Kansas City, Missouri: Beacon Hill Press, 2015.
- . *The Crucible of Life: The Role of Experience in John Wesley's Theological Method*. Lexington, KY: Emeth Press, 2010.
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- Cunningham, Joseph W., and Clive Murray Norris. *The Routledge Companion to John Wesley*. London: Routledge, 2023.
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- Field, David N. *Bid Our Jarring Conflicts Cease: A Wesleyan Theology and Praxis of Church Unity*. Nashville, TN: Foundry Books, 2017.
- Forsyth, Peter, William Gibson, Peter S Forsyth, and Martin Wellings, eds. *The Ashgate Research Companion on World Methodism*. Farnham, UK: Ashgate, 2013.
- Gunter, W. Stephen, ed. *Wesley and the Quadrilateral: Renewing the Conversation*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1997.

- Hammond, Geordan. *John Wesley in America: Restoring Primitive Christianity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014.
- Heitzenrater, Richard P. *Mirror and Memory: Reflections on Early Methodism*. Nashville, TN: Kingswood Books, 1989.
- . *The Elusive Mr. Wesley*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2003.
- , ed. *The Poor and the People Called Methodists, 1729-1999*. Nashville: Kingswood Books, 2002.
- . *Wesley and the People Called Methodists*. 2nd ed. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2013.
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- Knight, Henry H. *Anticipating Heaven Below: Optimism of Grace from Wesley to the Pentecostals*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2014.
- . *John Wesley: Optimist of Grace*. Cascade Companions 32. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2018.
- . *The Presence of God in the Christian Life: John Wesley and the Means of Grace*. Pietist and Wesleyan Studies 3. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1992.
- Leclerc, Diane, and Mark A Maddix. *Spiritual Formation: A Wesleyan Paradigm*. Kansas City, Mo.: Beacon Hill Press, 2011.
- Lloyd, Gareth. *Charles Wesley and the Struggle for Methodist Identity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007.
- Lodahl, Michael E. *God of Nature and of Grace: Reading the World in a Wesleyan Way*. Nashville: Kingswood, 2003.
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- McGeever, Sean. *Born Again: The Evangelical Theology of Conversion in John Wesley and George Whitefield*. Bellingham, WA: Lexam Press, 2020.
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- . *John Wesley's Teachings, Volume 1: God, Providence and Man*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012.
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- . *John Wesley's Teachings, Volume 3: Pastoral Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.
- . *John Wesley's Teachings, Volume 4: Ethics and Society*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014.
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- Powers, Jonathan A., ed. *New Life in the Risen Christ: A Wesleyan Theology of Baptism*. Wesleyan and Methodist Explorations. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2023.
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- . *Yes in Christ: Wesleyan Reflections on Gospel, Mission, and Culture*. Tyndale Studies in Wesleyan History and Theology 2. Toronto: Clements Academic, 2011.
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