The following syllabus is the teaching and learning guide for the last time this course was taught. It will give you a good idea of the descriptions of the course, how it was taught, the reading, the papers and other assignments, the intended outcomes, and the workload. By examining this syllabus and others, you will be able to form an impression of what graduate theological education at Phillips Theological Seminary requires of students.

Due to periodic curriculum revisions, course names and/or numbers may be different on this syllabus than what the name and/or number of the current offered course may be.

This syllabus is provided for your information only. The faculty reserves the right to revise the curriculum, and each professor reserves the right to decide how best to meet the learning goals of the curriculum. Therefore, the following syllabus is an historical artifact rather than a promise of how the course will be taught in the future, or that the course will be taught again.

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PHILLIPS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
DS 625 UNITED METHODIST POLITY
SPRING 2015

REV. GRAYSON L. LUCKY, MA, MTH, DD, ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR

Class Meetings: Thursdays, 2:30-5:15 p.m.
Cell phone: 405-570-6344 Home phone: 405-844-2299
Email: glucky@cox.net

SYLLABUS

11. Have you studied our form of Church discipline and polity?
12. Do you approve our Church government and polity?
13. Will you support and maintain them?

The above questions 11-13 are from the “Historic Examination for Admission into Full Connection” as formulated by John Wesley. Nineteen (19) questions in total, these “historic questions” have been asked of every person to be received as a full member of an annual conference. - The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2012, ¶s 330 & 336.

COURSE OVERVIEW

The purpose of this class is twofold: 1) It is preparatory in anticipation of one’s answering the above “historic questions” with assimilation, conviction, and appreciation; 2) it is preparatory with the expectation that one will faithfully serve and teach the ordering of the Church missional. [See “The General Rules of The Methodist Church” for the context and repeated usage of the word “expected.” - The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2012, pgs. 75-78.]

The course is required for orders of ordination in The United Methodist Church. “The Discipline is the book of law of The United Methodist Church . . . . The Discipline as the instrument for setting forth the laws, plan, polity, and process by which United Methodists govern themselves remains constant . . . . It is the most current statement of how United Methodists agree to live their lives together. It reflects our understanding of the Church and articulates the mission of The United Methodist Church. . . . The Discipline defines what is expected of its laity and clergy as they seek to be effective witnesses in the world as a part of the whole body of Christ. This book of covenant sets forth the theological grounding of The United Methodist Church in biblical faith, and affirms that we go forward as “loyal heirs to all that [is] best in the Christian past.” [From “Episcopal Greetings,” The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2012, pg. v.]
REQUIRED TEXTS / READINGS

*Polity, Practice, and the Mission of The United Methodist Church.*
Thomas E. Frank, 2006 edition; hereafter *Frank.*

*The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2012,* hereafter *BOD.*

*Marks of Methodism: Theology in Ecclesial Practice.*
Russell E. Richey; hereafter *Richey.*

*The Renewal of United Methodism: Mission, Ministry and Connectionalism.*
Edited by Rex D. Matthews; see “Semester Assignment – Reading Synopsis.”


Monograph & Occasional Papers


RECOMMENDED READING

*The Organization of The United Methodist Church, 2008-2012.*
Jack M. Tuell; hereafter *Tuell.*

*The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church 2012.*

ASSIGNMENTS & EXAMS (Though rare, assignments are always subject to change; obtain assignments if you miss class. *BOD* assignments are provided in both paragraph and page numbers.)

Reading assignments in “course outline” below are listed for each class period. It is the expectation that all assignments will have been read prior to each class session.
SEMESTER ASSIGNMENT – Reading & Written Synopsis [see semester assignment posted on PTS website]. Completion of all written synopses determines 30% of final grade.

EXAMS – Two (2) out-of-class exams. Each exam will be posted (2) weeks prior to its due day. Each exam will be based on both class presentations and assigned readings. NOTE: You will be responsible for both, even if a particular section of reading has not been discussed in class. Prepared exams will be due on dates assigned below. Each exam determines 35% of final grade.

COURSE OUTLINE

01/29/15  
“Let me introduce you . . . .” – Bishop McFerrin Stowe.  
“The BOD has its own internal logic.” – Dr. Phil Fenn.  
Frank, “Introduction.”

02/05/15  
A Working United Methodist Ecclesiology  
Frank, Chapter 1, “Polity as Ecclesial Practice and Practical Discipline.”  
Richey, “Introduction” & Chapter 1, “Connectional.”

02/12/15  
Denominationalism, Ecumenism, and United Methodism  
Frank, Chapter 2, “Denomination and Polity in the U. S.: The Case of United Methodism.”

02/19/15  
The Constitution of United Methodism  
Frank, Chapter 3.  
BOD, ¶’s 1-61 [NOTE: BOD references here and throughout outline do not always correspond with Frank’s chapter organization.]

02/26/15  
History, Theology, the “Methodist Way” and the “Way of All Christians,” and “Social Principles.”  
Frank, Chapters 4-5.  
BOD, ¶’s 101-166.  
Richey, Chapter 4, “Catholicity” & “Postscript.”

03/05/15  
“All polity is local . . . .”  
Frank, Chapter 6.  
BOD, ¶’s 201-271.  
Tuell, Chapter III, “The Local Church.”  
Maddox, “Social Grace.”

03/12/15  
An Ordered Ministry  
Frank, Chapter 7.  
BOD, ¶’s 301-370. [cont. next page]  
Richey, Chapter 3, “Disciplined, Disciplining.”  
Tuell, Chapter 14, “The Ministry of the Ordained.”
03/19/15  No Class: Concentrated Course Week
03/26/15  No Class: Concentrated Course Week
04/09/15  Out of Class Exam #1 Due

Superintendency via Episcopacy
*Frank*, Chapter 8.
*BOD*, ¶’s 401-442
*Tuell*, Chapter V, “The Superintendency.”

04/16/15  The Church as Conference: Charge, District, Annual, Jurisdictional, General
*Frank*, Chapters 9 -10.
*BOD*, ¶’s 501-672.
*Tuell*, Chapter VI, “The Conferences.”

04/23/15  “Conferences” (cont.)
04/30/15  “Conferences” (cont.)

Administrative Order
*BOD*, ¶’s 701-2401.

05/07/15  Out of Class Exam #2 Due

Church Property
*Frank*, Chapter 11.
*BOD*, ¶’s 2501-2552.
*Tuell*, Chapter VIII, “Church Property.”

05/14/15  Judicial Administration
*Frank*, Chapter 12.
*BOD*, ¶’s 2601-2719.
*Tuell*, Chapter IX, “Judicial Administration.”
**Grade Scale**

A  93-100  
A- 90-92  
B+ 87-89  
B  83-86  
B- 80-82  
C+ 77-79  
C  73-76  
C- 70-72  
D  67-69  

**Other Expectations**


*Style Guide for Submitted Writings: Synopsis Assignment and Exams.*

Although these writings are not formal, research papers, it will still be expected of the student to adhere to proper citing when quoting an author or a published work. See “Writing and Research Guides” under the “Library” tab at the [www.ptstulsa.edu](http://www.ptstulsa.edu) website for reference.

*And finally “It is written . . . .”*

Knowledge of and compliance with all “academic policies” as stated in the *Phillips Theological Seminary 2015 Spring Catalog* are to be honored. *Ignorantia legis neminem excusat* – “Ignorance of the law excuses no one.”