

2025 Advanced COS Course Descriptions

Session 1: January 6 – February 15 (no classes MLK Day Jan 20)

Adv UM History

Synchronous sessions: Mondays, 6-8pm *(NO class Jan. 20; class will be Jan. 21 instead)*

Instructor: Lacey Warner

This course focuses on the early Methodist movement beginning in eighteenth-century England. The course content explores characteristics and practices of the movement including its transition to North America. This course also helps to prepare students to participate in the life and leadership of The United Methodist Church.

Session 2: March 3 – April 12

Adv Worship: Christian Nationalism and Worship

Synchronous sessions: Tuesdays, 6-8pm

Instructor: Lester Ruth

From time to time in the history of Christianity, some have fused a strong national identity with their sense of what it means to be faithful as Christian disciples and as the church. Indeed, for these groups, the two spheres become inseparable. The current tumultuous times in the United States have seen the rise of another example of this fusion, often expressed in how worship is constructed and led. This course seeks to scrutinize Christian Nationalism in both prior and current forms—and both within and outside the United States—especially as these have found expression in worship. Robust theologies of worship will be brought to bear to question liturgically-expressed Christian Nationalism today.

Session 3: April 28 – June 7 (no classes Memorial Day May 26)

Adv Leadership: A Spiritual and Communal Practice

Synchronous sessions: Tuesdays, 4-6pm

Instructor: Melanie Dobson

This is a course that explores leadership as a theological and spiritual practice. Students will develop their own “soul of leadership,” pastoral identity, and ethical practices for their sustainability in ministerial life. Students will also engage in ecclesial leadership practices that can nourish healthy and vibrant congregations that faithfully witness to God’s mission in the world.

Session 4: June 23 – August 2 (no classes Independence Day July 4)

Adv TBD

Synchronous sessions: TBD

Instructor: TBD

Description: *Coming Soon*

Session 5: August 18 – September 27 (no classes Labor Day Sept 1)

Adv TBD

Synchronous sessions: TBD

Instructor: TBD

Description: *Coming Soon*

Session 6: October 20 – November 29 (no classes Thanksgiving Nov 27-28)

Adv TBD

Synchronous sessions: TBD

Instructor: TBD

Description: *Coming Soon*