2021 Spring COS Advanced Course Descriptions
(updated: December 2020)

Session III: Advanced UM Doctrine

This course is designed to cultivate a scriptural imagination articulated through the practice of preaching by focusing on the theological and doctrinal convictions of John and Charles Wesley and identifying the United Methodist “standards of doctrine,” clarifying how they both elucidate abiding doctrinal commitments and inform creative theological inquiry. Through their hymnody, preaching and writing, the Wesley brothers shaped the early Methodist movement and their writings and sermons continue to form Christ-shaped leaders in the Wesleyan tradition. Overall, this course will help prepare students to think and preach from a Wesleyan perspective and become stronger leaders in shaping and leading the United Methodist Church in the 21st century.

Session IV: Advanced UM Polity

This course will illuminate the practical and theological rationale for and implications of the ordering of United Methodist structures, practices, mission and evangelism, while deepening appreciation for the distinctive United Methodist commitments to connectionalism and an “appointive” ministry. The course will also highlight resources for continuing study of United Methodist polity and its connections to evangelism and mission within the church. Overall, this course will focus on how United Methodist polity helps shape its mission and how the mission of the United Methodist Church helps shape its polity.