

# 2024 Advanced COS Course Descriptions

## Session 1: January 2 – February 10 (no classes MLK Day Jan 15)

**Adv Evangelism/Mission/New Testament: Practicing the Gospel Commissions** (*choose one for credit*)

**Synchronous sessions: Wednesdays, 6-8pm**

**Instructor: Lacey Warner**

The course explores God's Mission of Evangelism for the church in the world by reflecting on the four Gospel commission texts to shape ministry practices. The church's identity and purpose often default to minimal techniques for survival and witness. Too often ministries are encouraged without a sufficient understanding of unintended outcomes of some efforts. This course encourages understanding the church's participation in God's mission of evangelism inspired by the Gospel Commission texts, in relationship to the Triune God, and practiced in empowering relationships with neighbors and creation.

This course draws on Christian Scripture, tradition, and contemporary practices to shape textured and faithful practices of missional witness with and beyond the church.

## Session 2: February 26 – April 13 (no classes Holy Week Mar 24-31)

**Adv UM Doctrine**

**Synchronous sessions: Mondays, 2-4pm**

**Instructor: Cameron Merrill**

What is the end of the Christian life?

When we talk about being saved, we often neglect that the Christian life plays out over years and decades in the everyday minutiae, and that such a life is intended to bring us into communion with the Triune God.

In this course we will explore the dynamics of sanctification as participation in the divine life. Charles Wesley and his hymns will be our guide as we consider participation in the Trinity, in Christ, in scripture and the sacraments, and in the church.

## Session 3: April 29 – June 8 (no classes Memorial Day May 27)

**Adv UM Polity**

**Synchronous sessions: Thursdays, 6-8pm** (*except for first week/day of class will be Tuesday, Apr 30, 6-8pm*)

**Instructor: Lacey Warner and Cameron Merrill**

This course focuses on United Methodist polity and governance including its doctrine, mission, ordination, and connectional structure.

### **Session 4: June 24 – August 3 (no classes Independence Day Jul 4)**

**Adv Evangelism / Adv Mission: Missio Dei and the People of God** (*choose one for credit*)

**Synchronous sessions: Tuesdays, 2-4pm**

**Instructor: Mark Conforti**

This course will prepare students to think deeply in theologically relevant categories about God, the Church, and how the Church is called in the world. This calling requires speaking a word for God's purposes (both a prophetic word and an invitational word to faith in Jesus Christ), while also humbly taking up God's work of interpersonal healing, community building, peace-making. To know God is to recognize God's mission in the world. Students will gain a clearer sense of their part in this mission, along with practical tools for leading people in these ministries.

### **Session 5: August 19 – September 28 (no classes Labor Day Sept 2)**

**Adv Old Testament and TBD** (*choose one for credit*)

**Synchronous sessions: Thursdays, 5:15-7:15pm**

**Instructor: James Howell**

**Description; *coming soon***

### **Session 6: October 15 – November 23**

**Adv Church History / Adv Black Church Studies: Missionary, Merchant, Soldier, Christ – Race, Christian Imagination, and Enfleshing Freedom** (*choose one for credit*)

**Synchronous sessions: Wednesdays, 4-6pm**

**Instructor: Cameron Merrill**

Race as it now moves through our social imagination would not be possible without Christianity. From the beginning of the colonial moment, the church presided over a 'new world' that God had created, with tools at hand—missionaries, merchants, and soldiers—who could make it known and bring its people inside the arc of salvation. This colonial moment for the church created a racialized resistance to our inherent and necessary weakness—leaving us a sickly sense of belonging and a feeble desire for joining.