

Holiness and Identity

European Nazarene College

School Year: 2021-22
Dates: 28 August – 5 November
LC and Teaching Location: Albania, Tirana
Course Number: THE1305
ECTS: 5
Language of Course: Albanian
Delivery Method: Online with two Videoconferencing Sessions
Course Time Commitment: 15 hours/week

Lead Teacher: Howard Culbertson (hculbert@snu.edu)
Teacher Assistant(s): Steve Beiler (sbeiler@eurasiaregion.org)

Course Description

This course explores the biblical concept of holiness, the doctrine of Christian perfection as taught by John Wesley in the 18th century, and the doctrine of Entire Sanctification as expressed by the Wesleyan-Holiness tradition. Through this biblical, theological and historical survey the question will be raised how the Wesleyan-Holiness denominations need to articulate their identity in contemporary culture.

Place in the Curriculum

This course has no specific prerequisites.

Intended Educational Outcomes

This course contributes to reaching the following intended educational outcomes of EuNC's curriculum:

Content	CN2 Theology. Students will know the various topics of Christian theology, its history and specifically Wesleyan holiness theology and the doctrines of the Church of the Nazarene.
Competency	CP4 Ministry. Students will be able to minister to the various needs of individuals and groups and provide pastoral care to these various needs.
Character	CH1 Integration. Students will be able to apply the knowledge they have received to their personal lives. CH2 Transformation. Students will have grown in their pursuit of living a holy life in all its various dimensions of daily life and personhood.
Context	CT4 Integration. Students will be equipped to relate the Christian faith to all areas of life from the Wesleyan theological perspective.

Course Objectives

In order to reach partially or completely the above stated intended educational outcomes, by the end of the course students will be able to ...

1. Describe and explain the biblical concept of holiness, and relate this to their personal lives. This contributes to reaching CN2, CH1.
2. Describe Wesley's spiritual journey and understanding of Christian Perfection. This contributes to reaching CN2 and CT4.
3. Use biblical and theological knowledge in communicating holiness and entire sanctification in their ministry to people. This contributes to CP4.
4. Present ideas on how a church within the Wesleyan-Arminian tradition needs to articulate holiness that speaks to people in the 21st century. This contributes to reaching CP4 and CT4, and to CH1 at a personal level.
5. Articulate a personalised view on holiness and entire sanctification that is biblically and theologically sound and that enhances personal spiritual growth in holiness. This objective is the result of the above objectives and ultimately contributes to CH1 and CH2.]

Course Requirements

The following requirements are expected of all students:

1. *Participation.* Faithful participation is expected and essential to fully benefit from this course. Much of your learning will depend on your participation in class assignments, activities and discussions. See below for the class participation policy. (This requirement helps students accomplish course objective(s): 1-5)

All essays, papers, reports and reflections are to be submitted to Moodle forums. As part of your class participation, you are expected to read all the assignment submissions and response posts sent to Moodle by other students (as though you were sitting in a classroom and listening to their in-class presentations and discussions. This requirement will enable students to feel part of a learning community as opposed to being just individuals taking a correspondence course.

Video conference sessions: One will be in Week 1 and the second will be during Week 5. Exact date and times will be decided in consultation with students.

2. *Reading:* The textbook(s), and/or other materials assigned must be read according to the course calendar. (This requirement helps students accomplish course objectives 1-5.)
 - a. Beginning in Week 2, read each week's assigned textbook pages (see course calendar) and submit a paragraph of reflection to Moodle. Due every Thursday.
 - b. Read the Nazarene Articles of Faith 3, 5 and 10. Submit to Moodle a post describing (1) a concept you thought was well stated and then (2) one "muddy" point, i.e., something not very clear to you. Due Week 1.
 - c. Fill out the workbook *Basic Bible Studies on the Spirit-filled and sanctified life*. Submit a summary paragraph of your reflections on this experience to Moodle. Due Week 2.
3. *Scripture reading.* At the end of every odd-numbered week, submit a minimum of 150 words of reflection on the Bible passage (or passages) assigned for that week (see course calendar). The reflections should very briefly answer three questions:
 - a) What does the passage say about holiness?
 - b) What does the passage say to me?
 - c) How would you explain it to people in a discipleship group or Sunday school class?
 For the grading rubric, see "appendix 1". This requirement helps students to accomplish course objectives 2, 3 and 5. Due: Weeks 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11

4. *Biography paper on John Wesley.* Based on course readings and whatever additional research you are able to do, write a 750-word paper that:
- Highlights people and events that shaped John Wesley's spiritual journey
 - Summarizes Wesley's understanding of Christian Perfection as expressed in his *Plain Account* monograph.

For the grading rubric, see "appendix 2". This requirement helps students accomplish course objective 1 and 4. Due: Week 6.

5. *Personal reflection on the holy life (Common Assignment).* This is the common assignment for this course. Write a 1000-word personal reflection on the holy life. This articulation needs to address the following four questions:

- What is the goal of a holy life (why are Christians called to live a holy life)?
- What happens in entire sanctification?
- What are the important elements of a holy life (how do we live the holy life every day)?
- What is the importance of the relationship between a personal holy life and being part of a holy fellowship (community of believers)?

For the grading rubric, see "appendix 3". This requirement helps students accomplish course objectives 1-5. Due: Week 8

6. Your choice: Pick two projects from the following options (a.- i.) and complete them as "Option 1" and "Option 2. Due in Weeks 4 and 10.

- Spiritual journey reflection paper. Describe your spiritual journey toward Christian perfection in a 1000-word paper. The following elements need to be in the paper:
 - Significant persons and events in your own journey toward holiness
 - Changes you have experienced and truths you have learned in relation to God, other people and even the rest of creation
 - Changes you think still need to take place in relation to God, other people and even the rest of creation

This option will help accomplish course objectives 4 and 5.

- Bible study.* Pick a Scripture passage relevant to the doctrine and experience of holiness and write a Bible study of at least 750 words on it. The Bible passage needs to be approved by the teacher before the study is written. The Bible study should have the following elements:
 - Exposition of the passage including a look at the author, context and so on. Elements regarding holiness must be especially highlighted.
 - Illustrations or metaphors that would help readers understand what the Holy Spirit may be able to see through the Bible passage about the doctrine and experience of holiness.

This option will help accomplish course objectives 2, 3, 4 and 5.

- Recruit another believer who will allow you to be a mentor as they go through the *Basic Bible Studies on the Spirit-filled and sanctified life* worksheets.. This can be done at the same time you are doing it for yourself or it can be done later in the course. Submit a report of this experience to Moodle. This option will help accomplish course objectives 1, 3 and 5.

- Interview a pastor regarding the most challenging things experienced in trying to communicate the message of scriptural holiness to the people today of Albania.

Submit a resume of the interview to Moodle. Details such as the name of the pastor, the date the interview took place and the length of the interview must be included in the report. This option will help accomplish course objectives 3 and 4.

- e. Prepare and teach a lesson to a group of youth or adults on Wesley's understanding of scriptural holiness. This could, for example, focus on the two diagrams on pages 37 and 38 of Dunning. Write a report of that experience and submit it to Moodle. This option will help accomplish course objective 4.
- f. Prepare and preach a sermon on some aspect of the doctrine and life of holiness. Submit a report of that experience including a brief summary of the sermon to Moodle. This option will help accomplish course objective 4.
- g. Use your artistic abilities to create a cloud of words about holiness and sanctification to either (1) send to all the members of your church or (2) display in your church's meeting place. This will help believers see what words and phrases are connected to the biblical concepts of holiness and sanctification. Examples of word clouds will be posted in Moodle along with additional instructions. This option will help accomplish course objectives 3 and 4.
- h. Come up with something uniquely Albanian or Kosovan that can be used in sermons or teachins to illustrate entire sanctification, Christian perfect and the life of holiness. This can be from Albanian or Kosovan history, folklore, fables, literature, traditions, children's story, customs or just everyday life. Submit a description of that holiness illustration to Moodle. This option will help accomplish course objectives 3 and 4.
- i. Compose a song that clearly expresses a Wesleyan understanding of scriptural holiness, Christian perfection and/or entire sanctification. Submit the words and an explanatory paragraph to Moodle (including, if you can, a video of the song being sung). This objective will help accomplish course objectives 1, 3 and 5.

Grade Distribution and Learning Hours

Requirements	5 ECTS Course	
	<i>Percentage of Final Grade</i>	<i>Learning Hours</i>
Class participation	10%	35 hours
Reading (inc. writing reflections)	35%	60 hours
Scripture reading	15%	10 hours
Biography paper on John Wesley	15%	15 hours
Personal reflection on the holy life	15%	10 hours
Two "Your choice" assignments	10%	20 hours
Total	100%	150 hours

Textbook(s)

Dunning, H. Ray. Shenjtërimi: Një udhëzues për besimtarët mbi. Tirana, Albania: Vernon Publishing: 2003. 51 pages. [Original Title: *Holiness: A Layman's Guide to Sanctification*]

Greathouse, William. Përsosja e Dashurisë: Themelet për jetën e shenjtë. Kansas City, Beacon Hill Press: 1997. 109 pages. [Original Title: *Love Made Perfect: Foundations for the Holy Life*]

Nenet e Besimit Kisha e Nazaretasit 2015 https://nazarene.org/sites/default/files/2019-09/SQ_nenet_e_besimit_2013_2017.pdf ose <https://www.whdl.org/content/nenet-e-besimit-kisha-e-nazaretasit> [Original Title: Articles of Faith, Church of the Nazarene]

Purkiser, Westlake T. Besimet Që Kanë Më Shumë Rëndësi <https://www.whdl.org/besimet-qe-kane-me-shume-rendesi> Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City, 1959. 86 pages. [Original title: *Beliefs that Matter Most*]

Shaver, Chic. Studime Biblike Themelore për jetën Shpirt-mbushur dhe të shenjtëruar. Beacon Hill Press, 1991. 36 pages.
https://whdl.org/sites/default/files/publications/SQ_studime_biblike_themelore_per_jeten_shpirt-mbushur_dhe_te_shenjteruar.pdf [Original title: Basic Bible Studies on Spirit-filled and sanctified life] WHDL

Uesli, Xhon. Një Shtjellim i Hollësishëm Rreth Përsosmërisë së Krishterë. Tirana, Fondacioni "Kisha Shqiptare e Nazaretasit": 2019. 88 pages. <https://whdl.org/nje-shtjellim-i-hollesishem-rreth-persosmerise-se-krishtere> [Original Title: *Wesley, John. A Plain Account of Christian Perfection*]

Additional Resources

Study Map of Nazarene Articles of Faith showing how they build on each other:
https://www.whdl.org/sites/default/files/SQ-NENET_E_BESIMIT.png

Course Calendar

Week	Course calendar	Reading and other assignments
1	The "big picture" – The doctrinal statement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Video conference session (TBA) 2. Nazarene Articles of Faith 3, 5 and 10 3. Start work on Shaver's <i>Basic Bible Studies</i> 4. Deuteronomy 30:11-20: Post answers to three reflection questions
2	Biblical foundations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Basic Bible Studies</i> reflection due 2. Purkiser, pages 65-80
3	Clearing up confusion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dunning, pages 4-26 2. Ezekiel 36:22-27: Post answers to three reflection questions
4	Sanctification in life and experience?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dunning, pages 27- 51 2. "Your Choice" Option #1
5	Wesley on what Christian perfection is and what it is not:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wesley: <i>Plain Account of Christian Perfection</i> (sections numbered 1-8) 2. Malachi 3:1-3: Post answers to three reflection questions
6	A synthesis of the ethic of grace and the ethic of holiness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Video conference session (TBA) 2. Wesley: <i>Plain Account of Christian Perfection</i> (sections numbered 10, 13, 17, 25-26) 3. Matthew 5: Post answers to three reflection questions

7	The man with the "strangely warmed" heart	1. Greathouse, pages 6-36 2. Wesley biography paper due
8	The promise of perfect love	1. Greathouse, pages 37-65 2. Romans 12:1-21: Post answers to three reflection questions
9	True sanctification	1. Greathouse, pages 66-94 2. Personal reflection o the holy life due
10	The perfection of love	1. 1 Corinthians 13: Post answers to three reflection questions
11	The secret of a holy life	1. "Your Choice" Option #2 due

The teacher has the right to make changes in the course calendar and due dates (within the course duration) if necessary.

Academic Integrity

"Honesty in all academic endeavours is vital as an expression of the Christian life. It is required that students at European Nazarene College will not participate in cheating, plagiarism (using someone else's words and ideas without giving credit to the original source), fabrication, or other forms of academic dishonesty (for example, working in groups when individual work is required or handing in similar assignments to different courses).

"It is the student's responsibility to learn the appropriate methods of citing the sources they have used. Guidelines are provided in ACP1000 EuNC Orientation.

"Any student who knowingly assists another student in dishonest behaviour is equally responsible.

"Academic dishonesty is a serious ethical violation of academic integrity. The **minimum** penalty for academic dishonesty will be failure of the assignment. At the discretion of the teacher and the LC Committee, more stringent measures may be applied, including failure of the course, academic probation, or academic suspension" (EuNC Academic Catalogue).

Language Proficiency and Academic Style

"As a general rule, 10% of the grade for all written assignments is based upon language use: proficiency in grammar and spelling, as well as the ability to communicate clearly" (EuNC Academic Catalogue).

It is expected that students will follow the academic style adopted by their Learning Centre (please review ACP1000 EuNC Orientation) as they complete written assignments.

Class Participation

"Education at EuNC is more than just learning facts – it is that, but also involves the building of character, deepening one's walk with Christ, and building skills for life and ministry. In order to achieve these goals, students are expected to actively participate in their classes. For in-class courses or those utilizing video conferencing, this means both being in attendance of those sessions and actively being a part of the discussions. For online classes, this means connecting to the course regularly during the week and keeping up with the forums and assignments that have been developed.

If a student is unable to attend a class session or connect to the online component of their course, they need to communicate with the teacher, as much in advance as possible, to explain the reason (illness or other unavoidable circumstances) and make up the work accordingly.

For an online or hybrid course, how often the student needs to connect to the course content each week and what constitutes that (logging in, watching a video, responding to a forum, etc.) will be defined in the specific attendance/participation requirements of the course. This will define the students' attendance/participation expectations.

Penalties may be assigned by the teacher for not meeting attendance/participation expectations. These specific penalties will be indicated in the syllabus. Students not meeting the attendance/participation guidelines for more than 25% of the class will fail the course or should consider withdrawing from it (see policy on Withdrawal from a Course)" (EuNC Academic Catalogue).

Policy for Handing in Work Late

Each assignment must be submitted to Moodle by the specified due date. For work submitted late, 10% of the total point possible will be deducted for each day it is late.

"The teacher has the freedom to give students extensions if they approach the teacher in time with valid reasons" (EuNC Academic Catalogue).

Intellectual Property

"All teacher-created syllabi are the property of EuNC. Other institutions may use material and components of courses after permission has been asked of the Rector of EuNC, and with the acknowledgement of EuNC as the source." (EuNC Academic Catalogue).

Course Evaluations

"Part of the requirements for every course is that students complete the student course evaluation. The aggregated student evaluations, as well as course data, may be used by the faculty member, LC administration and/or general administration of EuNC for ongoing assessment of the college" (EuNC Academic Catalogue).

Appendix 1 - Grading Rubric for Scripture Reading

	Excellent to Good Work	Adequate to Poor Work	Unsatisfactory Work	Total
Understanding of holiness in Bible passage	Student is able to rightly interpret all concepts about holiness as communicated by the biblical text.	Student is able to rightly interpret some of the concepts about holiness as communicated by the biblical text.	Student is not able to interpret or misses the correct interpretation of the concepts of holiness as expressed by the biblical text	
Points	30-24	23-18	17-0	
Personal Reflection	Student is able to make a clear application of biblical text to his/her personal life/journey.	Student is able to apply the biblical text to his/her personal life/journey.	Student is very general and/or superficial in the application of the biblical text to his/her life/journey.	
Points	30-24	23-18	17-0	
Ability to Communicate	Student is able to transpose the concepts of holiness to be adequately and clearly communicated in a local church discipleship context. Avoiding theological jargon and making the concepts easy to understand.	Student is able to transpose the concepts of holiness in ways they can be understood by people in the local church.	Student shows some difficulty in communicating the concepts of holiness in ways that can be easily understood by people in the local church.	
Points	30-24	23-18	17-0	
Language Proficiency and Academic Style	1% or less of grammar and/or spelling errors, in relation to word count. Demonstrates ability to communicate clearly. Correct formatting.	2% or less of grammar and/or spelling errors, in relation to word count. Could communicate more clearly. Essentially correct formatting.	More than 2% of grammar and/or spelling errors in relation to word count. Not communicated clearly. Flawed formatting.	
Points	10-8 points	7-6 points	5-0 points	
Total Points				100%

Each reflection on the Scripture reading for the week needs to be about 200 words in length and needs to answer the questions mentioned in the course requirements.

Appendix 2: Grading Rubric for the Biography Paper on John Wesley

	Excellent to Good Work	Adequate to Poor Work	Unsatisfactory Work	Total
Highlighting most important events shaping Wesley's spiritual journey	Student highlights all most important events in Wesley's life that shaped his understanding of holiness and Christian perfection, giving an appropriate justification for his/her selection.	Student highlights some events in Wesley's life that marked his understanding of Holiness and Christian perfections, justifications for the selection are vague, or general.	Student misses some key events in Wesley's life for the development of his understanding of holiness and Christian perfection. Students does not provide any justification for his/her selection.	
Points	45-36	35-27	26-0	
Summary of Wesley's understanding of Christian Perfection	Student is able to articulate a synthesis of Wesley's understanding of Christian Perfection.	Student is able to articulate the main tenets of Wesley's understanding of Christian Perfection.	Student reveals a deficient or limited understanding of Wesley's view of Christian Perfection.	
Points	45-36	35-27	26-0	
Language Proficiency and Academic Style	1% or less of grammar and/or spelling errors, in relation to word count. Demonstrates ability to communicate clearly. Correct formatting.	2% or less of grammar and/or spelling errors, in relation to word count. Could communicate more clearly. Essentially correct formatting.	More than 2% of grammar and/or spelling errors in relation to word count. Not communicated clearly. Flawed formatting.	
Points	10-8 points	7-6 points	5-0 points	
Total Points				100%

The Biography paper on John Wesley should be 750 words in length and needs to answer the questions mentioned in the course requirements.

Appendix 3: Grading Rubric for the Personal Reflection on the Holy Life (Common Assignment)

	Excellent to Good Work	Adequate to Poor Work	Unsatisfactory Work	Total
Goal of a holy life	Student is able to articulate a clear and thorough understanding of the goal of a holy life.	Student is able to articulate a limited understanding about the goal of a holy life.	Student is not able to express or as a superficial understanding about the goal of a holy life.	
Points	20-16	15-12	11-0	
Entire sanctification	Student is able to articulate a clear statement about his/her belief about entire sanctification and provide solid justification.	Student is able to articulate a statement about his/her belief about entire sanctification with limited justification provided.	Student is not able to articulate an adequate statement about his/her belief about entire sanctification.	
Points	25-20	19-15	14-0	
Elements of holy life	Student identifies the major elements for the development of a holy life.	Student identifies some of the important elements for the development of a holy life.	Student a limited and deficient understanding of the significant elements for the development of a holy life.	
Points	25-20	19-15	14-0	
Holy life and community	Student has a clear and thorough understanding of the role of community in the development of a holy life.	Student has an appropriate understanding of the role of community in the development of a holy life.	Student has a limited or no understanding about the role of community in the development of a holy life.	
Points	20-16	15-12	11-0	
Language Proficiency and Academic Style	1% or less of grammar and/or spelling errors, in relation to word count. Demonstrates ability to communicate clearly. Correct formatting.	2% or less of grammar and/or spelling errors, in relation to word count. Could communicate more clearly. Essentially correct formatting.	More than 2% of grammar and/or spelling errors in relation to word count. Not communicated clearly. Flawed formatting.	
Points	10-8 points	7-6 points	5-0 points	
Total Points				100%

The paper should be 1000 words in length and needs to answer the questions mentioned in the course requirements.