

# **Syllabus**

## **Becoming a Holy People**

**Virginia District Training Center**

**Hope Community Church of the Nazarene**

**Winter 2018**

**Becoming a Holy People**

**Class Dates: Jan 31, Feb 7, Feb 21, Feb 28**

**Class Time: 5:30-9:30**

**Instructor:**

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**Module Vision Statement:**

The Church of the Nazarene identifies itself as a “holiness” denomination. This signifies two realities. First of all, our roots grow out of a tradition known as the “Holiness Movement” that arose in 19th-century America. We relate ourselves closely to other denominations that were born out of the same tradition. Holiness is an integral part of our historical identity. Yet, this “holiness” historical context also necessarily implies a “holiness” *theology* that undergirds subsequent historical events. The denominations and other associations of the movement all claimed—and claim—a particular understanding of a “doctrine of sanctification,” which can also be articulated as a “theology of holiness.” The very word “holiness” became an abbreviation for both of these realities—the “holiness movement” and “holiness doctrine.”

The structure of this module is not without an underlying support, namely, the Wesleyan quadrilateral. This is a methodology that holds to the primacy of Scripture. Yet, Wesley believed that the Scriptures should be interpreted dynamically: *Scripture* has been interpreted by

*tradition*—a history of interpretation that requires some fidelity; it witnesses to an *experience* of Christ and the Christian gospel that is dynamic and communal in character; it should be understood, organized, and effectively communicated through the aid of *reason*. Thus, the lessons in this module will examine the theology of holiness from the perspective of: Scripture, tradition, reason, and experience. It will also examine related doctrines that are intricately involved in a strong interpretation of holiness—the doctrines of humanity, sin, and salvation. It will deal with the realm of “holiness ethics” and finally make some recommendations for articulating the theology of holiness and the doctrine of entire sanctification in the present context. It is extremely important that those preparing for ordained ministry in the Church of the Nazarene catch, hold, and employ the dynamism of the Wesleyan-Holiness theological paradigm, particularly in its expression of the doctrine of sanctification. This module is designed with our future denominational identity firmly in mind.

## **Course Requirements**

### **Class Text Book/Required Reading**

*A Century of Holiness Theology: The Doctrine of Entire Sanctification in the Church of the Nazarene, 1905-2004.*  
Quanstrom, Mark R. Nazarene Publishing House: Kansas City, MO, 2004

### **Book Reports**

There will be two book reports required for this class. Each report should cover the content of the book, demonstrating a general knowledge of the author’s main objectives in writing the book. The student should add personal insights gleaned from reading each book. The reports should be 3-4 pages of content and be submitted in MLA format.

*The Way of Holiness*, Palmer, Phoebe. Palmer and Hughes: New York, 1854.

*John Wesley’s ‘A Plain Account of Christian Perfection’ – The Annotated Edition.* Olson, Mark K, Ed. Fenwick, MI: Alethea In Heart, 2005.

## **Research Paper**

The student will be responsible for completing a research paper (not an opinion paper) on one of the following topics. These topics are chosen from the The paper should contain a minimum of 8 pages of content and cite a minimum of 5 scholarly references. The student should inform the instructor no later than the second class meeting the topic they have chosen. The research paper may be submitted electronically and must be in MLA format. Please select from one of the following topics:

1. Identify and explain the doctrine of holiness from a Wesleyan perspective.
2. Identify and clearly articulate the distinctive characteristics of Wesleyan theology in relationship to other theological traditions.
3. Identify misconceptions about holiness which have been detrimental to the articulation and understanding of the doctrine of entire sanctification.
4. Relate the doctrine of holiness and the Wesleyan theology of 'Christian Perfection' in the context of 21<sup>st</sup> century American culture.

### **ALL WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN JAN 15**

**Class attendance, attention, and participation** are especially important. Students are responsible for all assignments and in-class work. Much of the work in this course is small-group work. Cooperative, small-group work cannot be made up. That makes attendance imperative. Even if one does extra reading or writing, the values of discussion, dialogue, and learning from each other are thwarted. If one lesson is missed, the learning leader will require extra work before completion can be acknowledged. If two or more lessons are missed, the student will be required to repeat the whole module.

## Course Outline and Schedule

The class will meet for 4 hours each session according to the following schedule:

Session Date	Session Time	
Jan 31	5:30-9:30	1. Preliminary Issues
Jan 31	5:30-9:30	2. Theological Foundations
Jan 31	5:30-9:30	3. Old Testament Foundations
Feb 7	5:30-9:30	4. New Testament Foundations
Feb 7	5:30-9:30	5. Tradition: Pre-Wesley Foundations
Feb 7	5:30-9:30	6. Tradition: Wesley on Christian Perfection
Feb 21	5:30-9:30	7. Tradition: The Holiness Movement
Feb 21	5:30-9:30	8. A Reasonable Doctrine: The Substance of Entire Sanctification
Feb 21	5:30-9:30	9. The Experience: The Structure of Entire Sanctification
Feb 28	5:30-9:30	10. The Experience: The Means to the End
Feb 28	5:30-9:30	11. The Experience: Holiness Ethics
Feb 28	5:30-9:30	12. Holiness for the 21st Century

## Course Evaluation

The instructor, the course itself, and the student's progress will be evaluated. These evaluations will be made in several ways.

The progress of students will be evaluated with an eye for enhancing the learning experience by:

1. Carefully observing the small-group work, noting the competence of reports, the balance of discussion, the quality of the relationships, the cooperation level, and the achievement of assigned tasks
2. Careful reading of homework assignments
3. Journal checks

The evaluation of the course materials and the teacher will be evaluated by frequently asking and discussing the effectiveness and relevance of a certain method, experience, story, lecture, or other activity.

Some evaluation cannot be made during the class itself. Some objectives will not be measurable for years to come. If students encounter the transforming power of God at deeper levels than ever before, learn devotional skills and practice them with discipline, and incorporate the best of this course into their own ministries, the fruit of this educational endeavor could go on for a long time. In truth, that is what we expect.

### **Additional Information**

A reasonable effort to assist every student will be made. Any student who has handicaps, learning disabilities, or other conditions that make the achievement of the class requirements exceedingly difficult should make an appointment with the instructor as soon as possible to see what special arrangements can be made. Any student who is having trouble understanding the assignments, lectures, or other learning activities should talk to the instructor to see what can be done to help.

### **Instructor's Availability**

Good faith efforts to serve the students both in and beyond the classroom will be made.

### **Journaling: A Tool for Personal Reflection and Integration**

Journaling really is the linchpin in ministerial preparation. Your journal is the chronicle of your journey into spiritual maturity as well as content mastery. These volumes will hold the rich insights that will pull your education together. A journal is the tool for integration. May you treasure the journaling process!