

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**Springfield, MO**  
**June 1–25, 2004**

**BNT 541 STUDIES IN THE JOHANNINE LITERATURE:  
THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN**

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June 2004

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An exegetical examination of the Gospel according to John, focusing on the author's goals, rhetorical strategies, portrayal of Jesus, and theological themes.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to

1. Analyze and describe the behavioral responses desired by the author of the Gospel according to John;
2. Describe the cultural assumptions and patterns of social interaction that lie behind both the situation addressed by the gospel and the argumentation of the author;
3. Analyze the social pressures being experienced by the believers originally addressed;
4. Analyze the rhetorical strategies used by the author to convince his readers to adopt the desired behaviors;
5. Trace the significant theological themes present in the Gospel;
6. Relate these themes to similar themes present in other NT authors;
7. Apply the above analytical skills to other NT books; and
8. Apply the theological objectives, behavioral goals, and rhetorical strategies within your own contemporary context.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Brown, Raymond E. *An Introduction to the Gospel of John*. Ed. Francis J. Moloney. New York: Doubleday, 2003.

Culpepper, R. Alan. *The Gospel and Letters of John*. Interpreting Biblical Texts. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1998

Beasley-Murray, George R. *John*. 2d. ed. Word Biblical Commentary, vol. 36. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1991.

**RECOMMENDED TEXTS**

Sloyan, Gerard S. *John*. Interpretation: A Commentary for Teaching and Preaching. Louisville, KY: John Knox Press, 1988.

## **BIBLE TRANSLATION**

Two recent English translations of the Bible (post-1950) *in paragraph format*, one of which should be more formally equivalent in philosophy (e.g., RSV/NRSV, ESV, NIV/TNIV) and one of which should be more functionally equivalent (e.g., Philipps, NEB/REB, GNT [aka. TEV], CEV, NLT).

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Read or review the textbook sections for the topics to be covered each day.
2. Be punctual in attending each class session. Bring your textbooks to class.
3. Contribute to class discussion.
4. For 9 June and 16 June:
  - a. In the AGTS Library, find one scholarly journal article with a publication date of 1990 or later on some aspect of the Gospel of John.
  - b. Write a two-page double-spaced review of that article. Include a summary (allocate about ½ page) and reflective evaluation of the article (allocate about 1½ pages).
  - c. Turn in one review at the beginning of class on 9 June and one on 16 June.
  - d. Use the material you found to contribute to class discussion, as appropriate.
5. Research and write a paper on significant theological theme in the Gospel of John.
  - a. The paper should be at least 10 pages *of text*, but not more than 15, and it should be formatted in conformity to Turabian's 6<sup>th</sup> edition.
  - b. Figure on a minimum of 10 cited sources.
  - c. Your writing should demonstrate that you can apply the descriptive, analytical, and evaluative skills emphasized in the course objectives.
  - d. Include a 2-page single-spaced abstract of your paper, with sufficient copies so that each class member may have one.
  - e. Turn in the paper and copies of the abstract on Monday, June 21.
  - f. In an oral presentation during one of the last 4 class sessions, highlight your major conclusions, and answer questions generated by your abstract.

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

Session	Date	Topics/Assignments due
1	1 June	Course Introduction; Introduction to the Gospel of John
2	2 June	Introduction to the Gospel of John
3	3 June	Introduction to the Gospel of John; Johannine Theology
4	4 June	Johannine Theology Overview
5	7 June	John 1
6	8 June	John 2–4
7	9 June	John 5–6 / Article 1 due
8	10 June	John 7–8
9	11 June	John 9–10

10	14 June	John 11–12
11	15 June	John 13–14
12	16 June	John 15–16 / Article 2 due
13	17 June	John 17
14	18 June	John 18–19
15	21 June	John 20-21 / Papers due
16	22 June	Johannine Theology: Papers
17	23 June	Johannine Theology: Papers, continued
18	24 June	Johannine Theology: Papers, continued
19	25 June	Johannine Theology: Papers, continued

### **COURSE PROCEDURES**

- The course will use a variety of learning methods including lecture, reading, individual research and writing, and informed discussion.
- You will need to bring the two Bible translations and textbooks to class every day.
- Please turn off cell phones and beepers during class.
- Be prepared to contribute to class:
  - Participate in the group discussions
  - At other times, speak up when you have a relevant point
  - At any time, ask a question for clarification
  - Participate actively

### **ASSIGNMENT POLICIES**

- All outside-of-class assignments are due at class time on the date specified.
- Points earned will be discounted for assignments turned in late.
- Plagiarism—Submitting written work not properly acknowledged or submitting written work that is not your own is not acceptable.
- Assignments completed outside of class should be keyboarded on a computer.
  - Follow Turabian’s 6<sup>th</sup> edition for documentation and text format.
  - Use a standard serif font.
  - Print in black ink. Note that this may require removing hyperlinks from the works cited list if you’ve used internet resources.
  - Use left justification (ragged-right margin) only.

- o Staple your paper in the upper-left corner.
- o Keep a copy of your paper for backup purposes.
- o Back-up your electronic files frequently while writing your paper.
- You will need to complete all assignments to earn a passing grade for the course.

### **GRADING PROCEDURES**

A = 93%+ A- = 90-92%	An “A” written assignment is excellent work. The analysis is insightful, the topic is precise, and the organization is clear and logical. The assignment is accurate, timely, clear, and comprehensive. The writing is excellent—having well-developed paragraphs, graceful and concise sentences, and precise word choices.
B+ = 87-89% B = 83-86% B- = 80-82%	The written assignment is good work and meets the objectives of the assignment but requires minor improvement or reveals easily correctable errors in organization, style, grammar, or mechanics. It may have ineffective paragraphing, awkward sentences, or repeated errors.
C+ = 77-79% C = 73-76% C- = 70-72%	The written assignment is adequate and in general satisfies the requirements of the assignment but omits information or requires significant improvement in organization, style, grammar, or mechanics. It may be formally correct but superficial in its discussion and analysis.
D+ = 67-69% D = 63-66% D- = 60-62%	The written assignment is unsatisfactory and disappointing. Although some aspects of the assignment have been completed, on the whole there are numerous or significant problems with its conception or execution—the discussion and analysis may be inadequately developed; the written assignment may omit important information; or it may display numerous or major errors in organization, style, grammar, and mechanics.
F = 59% or below	The written assignment omits critical information or analysis, does something other than the assignment required, or displays major or excessive errors in organization, style, grammar, or mechanics. It may be extremely difficult to read and is written poorly.

Based on explanation of grades by Sam Dragga and Mike Markel.

Assignment Weights	% of Final Grade
Article reviews: 2 at 10% each, one due 9 June and one due 16 June	20
Research paper	60
Oral presentation	10
Class participation	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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## **SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

### Older bibliographical resources

Malatesta, E. 1967. *St. John's Gospel, 1920–1965*. Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute.

### New Testament and Biblical Theology:

Childs, B. *Biblical Theology in Crisis*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1970.

Conzelmann, H. *An Outline of the Theology of the New Testament*. Trans. by J. Bowden.  
New York: Harper and Row, 1969.

Dunn, James D. G. *Unity and Diversity in the New Testament : an Inquiry into the Character of Earliest Christianity*. London: SCM Press; Philadelphia: Trinity Press International, 1990.

Dwyer, John C. *The Word Was Made Flesh : An Introduction to the Theology of the New Testament*. Kansas City, MO: Sheed & Ward, 1989.

Guthrie, D. *New Testament Theology*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1981.

Harris, M. *Jesus as God: The New Testament Use of Theos in Reference to Jesus*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1992.

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Lehman, D. *Biblical Theology*. Vol. 2. Scottdale, PA: Herald Press, 1974, 1974.

Morris, L. *New Testament Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1986.

Osborne, G. *The Hermeneutical Spiral: A Comprehensive Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1991.

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Räisänen, Heikki. *Beyond New Testament Theology : A Story and a Programme*. London : SCM Press, 2000.

Stevens, G. *The Theology of the New Testament*. Edinburgh, Scotland: T. & T. Clark, 1899.

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Via, Dan Otto. *What is New Testament Theology?* Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2002.

Vorgrimler, H., ed. *Dogmatic vs. Biblical Theology*. Trans. by K. Smyth. London: Burns and Oates, 1964.

#### Johannine Introduction and Theology

Anderson, P. N. *The Christology of the Fourth Gospel: Its Unity and Disunity in the Light of John 6*. Tübingen: J. C. B. Mohr, 1997.

Ashton, J. 1991. *Understanding the Fourth Gospel*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Barrett, C. K. *The Gospel of John and Judaism*. Trans. By D. M. Smith. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1975.

Blomberg, C. *The Historical Reliability of John's Gospel: Issues and Commentary*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2002.

Brown, R. *Community of the Beloved Disciple*. New York: Paulist Press, 1979.

Culpepper, R. *Anatomy of the Fourth Gospel: A Study in Literary Design*. Foundations and facets: New Testament Series. Philadelphia, PA: Fortress, 1983.

Johnston, G. *The Spirit-Paraclete in the Gospel of John*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1970.

Jonge, M. de. *Jesus: Stranger from heaven and Son of God: Jesus Christ and the Christians in Johannine perspective*. Ed. and trans. by J. Steely. SBL sources for biblical study, no. 11. Missoula, MT: Scholars Press, 1977.

Kennedy, G. *New Testament Interpretation Through Rhetorical Criticism*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1984,

Kysar, R. *The Fourth Evangelist and his Gospel: An Examination of Contemporary Scholarship*. Minneapolis, MI: Augsburg Press, 1975.

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#### Commentaries

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#### **SPECIFIC DATA**

Syllabus prepared by Donald A. Johns, Ph.D., March 2004