

**Assemblies of God Theological Seminary**  
**September, 2005**

**BNTD 641 – Stu.: Gospel of John—A Personal Dialogue with Jesus**

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Fall Semester 2005

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**Course Syllabus**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An English Bible study (with reference to the Greek text) of the Gospel of John which the orthodox Christian tradition most commonly affirms, albeit with modern higher-critical challenges, as the work of the Apostle John. Particular attention will be given to Jesus' personal dialogues with his disciples, carefully interpreted against their historical, spiritual, social, and cultural backgrounds. These dialogues will then be examined for relevant spiritual and theological themes for Christian discipleship and ministry.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES--GLOBAL**

Upon completion of this course, the student should have demonstrated in papers, classroom discussions and presentations, and examinations accomplishment of the following global domain objectives:

***Knowledge***

- 1 . A preliminary understanding of what may reasonably be inferred from extant data about the historical and social backgrounds of the letter.
2. An understanding of the critical issues that bear on the question of the authorship of the letter.
- 3 . The ability to outline from memory the basic contents and ideas of the letter.
4. A thorough grasp of the major theological and ethical issues reflected in the letter.
- 5 . A comprehension of the particular issues and themes in the letter relevant to the practice of Christian discipleship and ministry in contemporary society.

**Attitude**

1. A demonstrated appreciation of the nature of the letter as sacred Scripture.
2. A willingness to lay aside previous biases and understand the letter on its own terms.
3. A desire to be personally shaped by the message of the letter.
4. A desire to explicate the universal truths of the letter in contemporary ministry and church life.

**Skill**

1. The ability to exegete and interpret the text of the Gospel in terms of its original purpose and intent.
2. The ability to critique modern life in terms of the ancient biblical message.
3. The ability to bring the insights of the letter to bear on contemporary ethical issues.
4. The ability to bring the theology of the letter to bear on the practice of ministry in the contemporary milieu.

**TEXTBOOKS**

**Required**

[GMB] Burge, Gary M. *John* (NIVAC). Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.

[CGK] Kruse, Colin G. *The Gospel According to John*. Grand Rapids/Cambridge: Eerdmans/InterVarsity, 2003.

[For those with Greek studies substitute for one of the above a commentary on the Greek text, e.g.] Beasley-Murray, George R. *John* (WBC [Vol.36]). Waco, TX: Word, 1987.

**Recommended**

[DJG] Green, Joel B. and Scot McKnight, eds. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1992.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

Unit 1 – Introduction: Uniqueness of the Gospel of John

Unit 2 – The Beginnings (1:1—2:12)

Unit 3 – Revealing the Father in the World (2:13—12:50)

Unit 4 – Revealing the Father to His Disciples (13:1—17:26)

Unit 5 – Revealing the Father in Cross and Resurrection (18:1—21:25)

**METHODOLOGY**

This course will utilize lectures by the professor, audio-visual presentations, dialogue between the professor and students, and seminar-type presentations and critiques by the students, time permitting.

## COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Unit Outline	Assignments	Session Outlines
<b>Unit 1 –</b> Introduction: Uniqueness of the Gospel of John	<b>Read:</b> John, all chs.; GMB, 21-44; CGK, 17-52; DJG, “John, Gospel of” <b>Objectives:</b> 1. Who is it that cherishes and transmits Jesus’ words? 2. Under what circumstances and when? 3. Why is this Gospel different—and is it reliable? 4. What are some of its unique features?	1. Authorship 2. Circumstances 3. Divergence and Reliability 4. Unique Structure and Nature
<b>Unit 2 –</b> The Beginnings (1:1—2:12)	<b>Read:</b> John, 1:1-2:12; GMB, 51-93; CGK, 58-97 <b>Objectives:</b> 1. Who is the Word (Logos) and what are the implications of the term? 2. What is John’s understanding of incarnation, “Lamb of God,” and the descent of the Spirit on Jesus? 3. Who is John the Baptist and what is his role? 4. What insights are found in Jesus’ first associations? 5. What role does the first “sign” at Cana fulfill?	1. The Word 2. The Incarnation 3. John the Baptist 4. Jesus as Lamb of God 5. Jesus as Spirit-Anointed 6. Jesus the Rabbi 7. The sign in Cana
<b>Unit 3 –</b> Revealing the Father in the World (2:13— 12:50)	<b>Read:</b> John, chs 2-12; GMB, 93-360; CGK, 97-278 <b>Objectives:</b> 1. What “signs” does Jesus utilize and what is their significance? 2. Examine carefully the significance of the narratives around such persons as Nicodemus, the woman in Samaria, Lazarus. 3. Examine carefully such miracles as the feeding of 5,000, the blind man, and the raising of Lazarus. 4. What are the implications of Jesus’ anointing at Bethany and his Triumphal Entry?	1. The Book of Signs 2. Role of the Signs 3. Key Teachings for the Disciples. 4. Sickness and Death of Lazarus 5. Anointing and Triumphal Entry
<b>Unit 4 –</b> Revealing the Father to His Disciples (13:1 —17:26)	<b>Read:</b> John, chs 13-17; GMB, 361-480; CGK, 278-348 <b>Objectives:</b> 1. What is the function of the narrative of Jesus’ washing the disciples? 2. Examine the betrayers, friend and foe. 3. Examine the Paraclete passages (chs 14-16). 4. What are the personal and theological implications of the Jn 17 prayer?	1. Humility of Jesus 2. Betrayers of Jesus 3. Paraclete 4. High Priestly Prayer
<b>Unit 5 –</b> Revealing the Father in Cross and Resurrection (18:1—21:25)	<b>Read:</b> John, chs 18:21; GMB, 481-600; CGK, 349-395 <b>Objectives:</b> 1. Examine Jesus’ arrest, trial, and crucifixion. 2. Study carefully the personalities and dialogue around those events. 3. Examine the events of Jesus’ death and burial. 4. What is the significance of the resurrection narrative. 5. What is the significance of the post-resurrection narratives?	1. Arrest and Trials 2. Crucifixion and Death 3. Resurrection 4. Post-Resurrection Activity/Teaching

## REQUIREMENTS

1. **Bible Content Examination.** Each student must sustain an examination over the content of the Gospel of John that focuses largely on identifying subject matter by chapter. There will be a pre-test (non-graded) in the first session and a post-test (graded) in the last (using the same examination) to assist in assessing the student’s learning and achievement of the class objectives. The purpose of this examination is thoroughly to familiarize the student with the text of John.
2. **Reading Report.** Each student must submit a reading report at the end of the course that logs all class reading by author, book, date, time, and so forth (excluding the Bible text). A reading report form will be provided on the first day of class. No specific number of pages is required but responsible adult pedagogy should dictate minimally the readings of the texts along with additional works for the research assignments.
3. **Presentation Reports.** Each student will prepare a written paper for sessions two (2) through five (5)—a total of four (4). The papers should be two to three (2-3) double-spaced pages in length and may be a basis for discussion or a possible oral report (depending on the class size and quality of the papers) to one or more sessions of the class beginning with Unit 2. Topics from which students chose may be identified from the unit objectives and assignments, from additional topics provided by the professor, or from special interests negotiated by the student. Each report must close with a brief, well-reasoned application to contemporary Christian life and ministry where such application is possible and appropriate. Presentation papers are due at the end of each class period. Topics must be agreed upon with the professor one week in advance while in attendance at a class session so that the professor may weave them into the lesson plan for each succeeding session if appropriate. **Papers are due at the end of each class session (2-5).**
4. **Final Paper.** One of the presentation reports must be expanded into a research paper of not less than 10 pages, employing not less than 10 sources, and presented in standard Turabian form. **Due at beginning of last class session.**
5. **Quizzes.** The professor may choose to administer a quiz at the end of class periods 2-5 that covers information discussed in the class.

### ***Possible Presentation Report Topics:***

In addition to (or expanding upon) the topics that may be derived from the outline and objectives of Units 2 – 5, the student may wish to consider the following for a presentation report:

**Unit 2**—Significance of “*Logos* [Word];” The Baptist in John’s Gospel; Jesus’ Judean ministry; Jesus as “Lamb of God”; Jesus’ first disciples; Interpretation of Nathaniel’s “fig tree” experience; Examination the miracle at Cana; “I am” sayings; Jesus’ seven signs; etc.

**Unit 3**—Exposition of: “new birth” passage; Samaritan woman passage; Jesus’ equality w. God (5:18); “Bread of life passage; living waters (7:37ff.); woman caught in adultery; Light of the world; etc.

**Unit 4**—Exposition of: washing the disciples; Judas’ betrayal; Jesus as Way/Truth/Life; True Vine; Nature/Work of the Paraclete; Unity of God’s People in Jn 17, etc.

**Unit 5**—Examination of: Jesus’ trial/s; crucifixion; resurrection; post-resurrection appearances; exposition of 20:19-23; harmony w. Synoptics; etc.

## GRADING

Bible Content Examination	25%
[4 Quizzes if/as assigned	25%]
Presentation Reports	25%
Final Paper	25%
[Participation	10%]

Prompt and timely completion of assignments is essential to the degree completion program. Late work will be accepted only by pre-arrangement with the professor and only on sufficient grounds. Late work submitted beyond agreed-upon dates, if accepted, may be penalized by one letter grade per week late. The professor reserves the right to allocate 10% of the grade for participation, raising or lowering for significant lapses or contributions. Grades will be averaged using the following scale: F=1; D-=2; D=3; D+=4; C-=5; C=6; C+=7; B-=8; B=9; B+=10; A-=11; A=12. Letter grades are assigned based on the official AGTS grading scale.

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

### *Commentaries and Special Studies*

- Barrett, C. K. *The Gospel According to St. John: An Introduction with Commentary and Notes on the Greek Text*. 2d ed. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1978.
- Barker, Glenn W., William L. Lane, and J. Ramsey Michaels. *The New Testament Speaks*. New York: Harper & Row, 1969. (pp. 385-428)
- [PB] Barnett, Paul. *Is the New Testament Reliable?: A Look at the Historical Evidence*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity, 1986.
- Beasley-Murray, George R. *John* (WBC [Vol.36]). Waco, TX: Word, 1987.
- Blomberg, Craig L. *The Historical Reliability of John’s Gospel: Issues and Commentary*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2001.
- Brown, Raymond E. *The Gospel According to John* (AB). 2 Vols [29-29a]. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1966-70.
- Bruce, F. F. *The Gospel of John: Introduction, Exposition, and Notes*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983.
- Bultmann, Rudolf. *The Gospel of John: A Commentary*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1971.
- Burge, Gary M. *The Anointed community: The Holy Spirit in the Johannine Tradition*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987.
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- Carson, D. A. *The Gospel According to John*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991.
- Hoskyns, E. C. *The Fourth Gospel*. 2d ed. London: Faber & Faber, 1947.
- Kruse, Colin G. *The Gospel According to John*. Grand Rapids/Cambridge: Eerdmans/InterVarsity, 2003.
- B. Lindars. *The Gospel of John* (NCB). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans 1981.
- Michaels, J. Ramsey. *John* (GNC). San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1984.

- Morris, Leon. *The Gospel According to John* (NICNT). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1971.
- Schnackenburg, R. *The Gospel According to St. John*. 3 vols. New York: Crossroad, 1980-82.
- Tenney, Merrill C. "The Gospel of John." In *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, Vol. 9. Ed. Frank E. Gaebelein. Grand Rapids: Zondervan/Regency, 1981.
- Thomas, Robert L. and Stanley N. Gundry, eds. *NIV Harmony of the Gospels*. New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 1988.
- Twelftree, Graham H. *Jesus the Miracle Worker: A Historical and Theological Study*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1999.
- Westcott, B. F. *The Gospel According to John*. London: J. Murray, 1881.;
- Whitacre, Rodney A. *John* (IVP NTC Series). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1999.

***New Testament Introduction (cf. sections on John/Gospels)***

- Brown, Raymond E. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. New York: Doubleday, 1997. (pp. 333-382)
- Carson, D. A., Douglas J. Moo, and Leon Morris. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992. (pp. 135-179)
- de Silva, David A. *An Introduction to the New Testament: Contexts, Methods, and Ministry Formation*. Downers Grove, IL/Leicester, England: InterVarsity/Apollos, 2004. (pp. 391-448)
- Guthrie, Donald. *New Testament Introduction*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Leicester, England/Downers Grove, IL: Apollos/InterVarsity, 1997. (pp. 248-350)

***New Testament Theology (cf. sections on Gospel of John)***

- Bultmann, Rudolf. *Theology of the New Testament*. 2 Vols. New York: Scribner, 1951-55.
- Caird, G. B. *New Testament Theology*. Completed and edited by L. D. Hurst. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1994.
- Conzelmann, Hans. *An Outline of the Theology of the New Testament*. 2nd ed. New York: Harper, 1969.
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- Guthrie, Donald. *New Testament Theology*. Downers Grove, Ill.: Inter-Varsity, 1981.
- Jeremias, Joachim. *New Testament Theology*. New York: Scribner, 1971.
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- Ladd, George Eldon. *A Theology of the New Testament*. Rev. and ed. Donald A. Hagner. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993.
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**Dictionaries/Encyclopedias**

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- Green, Joel B. and Scot McKnight, eds. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1992. **Articles:** *Apostle; Authority and Power; Anti-Semitism; Baptism; Blasphemy; Bread; Burial of Jesus; Christ; Chronology; Death of Jesus; Demon, Devil, Satan; Destruction of Jerusalem; Disciples; Discipleship; Eschatology; Farewell Discourse; Galilee; Gentile; Gethsemane; Glory; Gospel (Genre); Gospels, (Historical Reliability); Herodian Dynasty; "I Am" Sayings; John, Gospel of; John the Baptist; Judaism; Judas Iscariot; Kingdom of God; Kingdom of Heaven; Lamb of God; Languages of Palestine; Last Supper; Light; Logos; Miracles and Miracle Stories; New Birth; Parables; Passion Narrative; Pharisees; Pontius Pilate; Prayer; Preaching from the Gospels; Predictions of Jesus' Passion and Resurrection; Priest, Priesthood; Prophets, Prophecy; Redaction Criticism; Resurrection; Revolutionary Movements; Rome; Sabbath; Samaritans; Sanhedrin; Scribes; Sign of Jonah; Son of David; Son of God; Son of Man; Synagogue; Temple; Temple Cleansing; Transfiguration; Trial of Jesus; Triumphal Entry.*

**SPECIFIC DATA:** Prepared by Edgar R. Lee, June, 2005.