

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGY SEMINARY
BNT 541 Studies in the Johannine Literature: Gospel of John

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Spring 2005

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will examine the background the Fourth Gospel to determine the nature of its readers, where they lived, what the problems were, and something of the larger world they lived in. Also, content, structure, and major themes will be studied with reference to contemporary application. John's unique contribution to the life of Jesus will be explored.

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this course the student should be able to

1. Interpret the Gospel of John more effectively for teaching and preaching purposes.
2. Provide specific information on the book's content, major themes, and structure;
3. Apply the teachings of the Gospel to every day life and ministry;
4. Appreciate more deeply and integrate more effectively John's contribution to spirituality.

TEXTBOOKS

Required

Keener, Craig S. *The Gospel of John: A Commentary*. 2 Vols. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 2003.

Recommended

Aker, Benny C. "John." In *Life in the Spirit: New Testament Commentary*. Edited by French L. Arrington & Roger Stronstad. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1999.

Malina, Bruce J. & Richard L. Rohrbaugh. *Social Science Commentary on the Gospel of John*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1998.

Smith, D. Moody. *The Theology of the Gospel of John*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995.

BASIC OUTLINE

Unit One:

Introduction:

- Syllabus.
- Read Keener 1:3-363 (extensive coverage; you may want to break it up into several sections).
- Background and Introduction to John's Gospel.
- If possible, read the Gospel at one setting; then focus on 1:1-18, studying this text and using Keener, 1:364-426.
- Interpretation, discussion and application of John 1:1-18.

Unit Two:

- Study John 1:19-51, use Keener, 1:427-491.
- Interpretation, discussion and application of John 1:19-1:51.

Unit Three:

- Study John 2:1-3:21, use Keener, 1:492-574.
- Interpretation, discussion and application of John 3.

Unit Four:

- Study John 3:22-4:54, use Keener, 1:574-633.
- Interpretation, discussion and application of John 4.

Unit Five:

- Study John 5, use Keener, 1:634-662.
- Interpretation, discussion and application of John 5.

Unit Six:

- Study John 6, use Keener, 1:663-699.
- Interpretation, discussion and application of John 6

Unit Seven:

- Study John 7-8, use Keener, 1:701-774.
- Interpretation, discussion and application of John 7-8.

Unit Eight:

- Study John 9, use Keener, 1:775-796.
- Interpretation, discussion and application of John 9.

Unit Nine:

- Study John 10-11, use Keener, 1:797-831; 2:835-858.
- Interpretation, discussion and application of John 10.

Unit Ten:

- Study John 12-13, use Keener, 2:8:59-929.
- Interpretation, discussion and application of John 12-13.

Unit Eleven:

- Study John 14-15, use Keener, 2: 930-1024.
- Interpretation, discussion and application of John.

Unit Twelve:

- Study John 16-17, use Keener, 2:1025-1064.
- Interpretation, discussion and application of John.

Unit Thirteen:

- Study John 18-19, use Keener, 1065-1166.
- Interpretation, discussion and application of John.

Unit Fourteen:

- Study John 20-21, use Keener, 2:1067-1242.
- Interpretation, discussion and application of John.

Final Exam

METHODOLOGY

Lectures and Discussion
Presentations
Interpretive Paper
Exam:

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. The student must prepare for each day's class by studying the appropriate material in the Gospel of John and in the textbook.
2. Select a section from John, analyze, organize, and present it in class. The time of presentation will be given the first week of the semester. This will become the interpretive paper. The student will take suggestions from the class presentation, do more research on the passage, and produce a final interpretive paper.
3. A formal interpretive paper, 20 pages in length, on a paragraph from John. Again, use good, formal seminary style: title page, outline page, introduction, body, conclusion, footnotes, and bibliography. Please use a number of sources but keep the quotes few and short. Use sectional headings in your paper to denote major divisions. **Due April 15.** Late papers are penalized 10 points per day.
5. A comprehensive exam.
6. Attendance: Up to 20% of class time may be permitted due to emergencies. Work must be made up if absences do occur.

GRADING PROCEDURE

Exam100 points
Interpretive Paper 100 points
Presentations..... 50 points

(For penalty of late work, see Course Requirements above.)

100%	= A+	67% - 69 %	= D+
94% - 99%	= A	64% - 66%	= D
90% - 93%	= A-	60% - 63%	= D-
87% - 89%	= B+		
84% - 86%	= B		
80% - 83%	= B-		
77% - 79%	= C+		
74% - 76%	= C		
70% - 73%	= C-		

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY (Consult the extensive bibliography in the textbook)

Anderson, Paul N. *The Christology of the Fourth Gospel: Its Unity and Disunity in the Light of John 6*. Tuebingen: Mohr, 1996.

Ashton, J., ed. *The Interpretation of John*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1986.

Barrett, C. K. *The Gospel According to John*. Second Edition. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1978.

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Beasley-Murray, G.R. *Gospel of Life*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1991

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Bernard, J. H. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Gospel According to St. John*. 2 Vols. ICC. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1928.

Bonsirven, J. *Textes rabbiniques des deux premiers siecles chretiens*. Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1955.

Brown, R. *The Gospel According to John*. 2 Vols. AB. Garden City, NY: Doubleday & Co., 1966, 1970.

Bultmann, R. *The Gospel of John: A Commentary*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1971.

Burge, G. M. *The Anointed Community: The Holy Spirit in the Johannine Tradition*. Grand Rapids: 1987.

Burkett, Delbert. "Two Accounts of Lazarus' Resurrection in John 11." *Novum Testamentum* 36 (July 1994): 209-32.

Culpepper, R. A. *Anatomy of the Fourth Gospel: A Study in Literary Design*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1987.

Dodd, C. H. *The Interpretation of the Fourth Gospel*. London: Cambridge University Press, 1953.

Finegan, J. *Light From the Ancient Past*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1969:2:247-330.

Hendriksen, W. *New Testament Commentary, St. John*. 2 Vols. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1953.

Hoskyns, E. C. *The Fourth Gospel*. Second Edition. London: Faber & Faber Limited, 1947.

Hunter, A. M. *According to John*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1968.

- de Jonge, M. *Jesus: Stranger From Heaven and Son of God*. Missoula, MT: Scholars Press, 1977.
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- Lenski, R. C. H. *The Interpretation of St. John's Gospel*. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Publishing House, 1961.
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- Lindars, B. *The New Century Bible Commentary: The Gospel of John*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1972.
- Malatesta, E. *St. John's Gospel: 1920-1965: A Cumulative and Classified Bibliography of Books and Periodical Literature on The Fourth Gospel*. Analecta Biblical 32 Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1967.
- Martyn, J. L. *History & Theology in the Fourth Gospel*. Rev & Enlarged. Nashville: Abingdon, 1968.
- Morris, L. *Studies in the Fourth Gospel*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1969.
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- O'day, G. *Revelation in the Fourth Gospel*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1986.
- Rensberger, D. *Johannine Faith and Liberating Community*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1988.
- Robinson, J. A. T. *Twelve New Testament Studies*. London: SCM Press, 1962
- Sanders, J. N., and Mastin, B. A. *A Commentary on The Gospel According to St. John*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1968
- Schnackerburg, R. *The Gospel According to St John*. HTC. 3 Vols. New York: Herder and Herder, 1968; The Seabury Press, 1980.
- Smalley, S. *John--Evangelist and Interpreter*. Greenwood, SC: The Attic Press, 1978
- Smith, T. C. *Jesus in the Gospel of John*. Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1959.
- Tenney, M. C. *John: The Gospel of Belief*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1948.
- Titus, E. L. *The Message of the Fourth Gospel*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1957.
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SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by Benny C. Aker, PhD, November, 2004.