

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

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Spring 2002

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. Content, structure, and major themes will be studied also. 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. Provide specific information on content and structure;
2. Interpret the Gospel more effectively;
3. Make application of the teachings of the Gospel;
4. Appreciate more deeply Johannine literature;
5. Meditate more deeply on the major themes in John.

TEXTBOOKS

[Need to get your books? \(www Link to AGTS Bookstore\)](#)

Required

Beasley-Murray, George R. *John*. Word Biblical Commentary. Waco, Texas: Word Books, Publisher, 1987.

Recommended

Aker, Benny C. "John." In the *Full Life Bible Commentary to the New Testament*. 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

Introduction:

Syllabus

Background of John

Analysis of John--We will follow the divisions of the Gospel. Generally, the class will cover 1-2 chapters of John per week.

Final Exam

METHODOLOGY

Lectures and Discussion

Presentations

Interpretive Paper

Exam: Monday April 22; 6:30 p.m. - 9:10 p.m.

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, *John*.
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, 15-20 pages in length, on a section 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 16**. Late papers are penalized 10 points per day.
5. A comprehensive exam.
6. Attendance: cf. Student Handbook.

GRADING PROCEDURE

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Exam100 points

Interpretive Paper 100 points

Presentations 50 points

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

90% - 100% = A

80% - 89% = B

70% - 79% = C

60% - 69% = D

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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.

_____. The Gospel of John. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1975.

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

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.

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

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

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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.

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de Jonge, M. Jesus: Stranger From Heaven and Son of God. Missoula, MT: Scholars Press, 1977.

Kysar, R. John the Maverick Gospel. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1976.

Lenski, R. C. H. The Interpretation of St. John's Gospel. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Publishing House, 1961.

Lindars, B. The New Century Bible Commentary: The Gospel of John. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1972.

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Martyn, J. L. History & Theology in the Fourth Gospel. Rev & Enlarged. Nashville: Abingdon, 1968.

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Sanders, J. N., and Mastin, B. A. A Commentary on The Gospel According to St. John.
Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1968

Schnackenburg, 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.

Vanderlip, D. G. Christianity According to John. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1975.

Westcott, B. F. The Gospel According to St. John. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1950.

SPECIFIC DATA

Confidential Page 5 11/14/01 Syllabus prepared by Dr. Benny C. Aker, November, 2001.