Syllabus

GB 5323 01 Johannine Literature
Spring 2013
WEB Offering
John O. York, Instructor

Course Description:

“The Scripture courses offer in-depth study of biblical texts. Based on the English text (unless otherwise designated as a Hebrew text or Greek text course), attention is given to backgrounds, critical issues, and original language insights. Critical issues of the individual book are reviewed in relation to the wider issues of the surrounding biblical material. Characteristic of each course is a careful reading, exegesis and contemporary application of the theological content. Substantial outside reading, a research project, and 2 examinations are common requirements.” Graduate Catalog, 230.

Note: The student's capacity to read Greek and work with the Greek Texts of John and the Johannine epistles is not required for success in this class. However, the student who does have those skills is encouraged to use them, especially in the research paper. The English text assumed for the class will be the NRSV, unless otherwise noted.

Course Objectives:

1. To orient the student to the current discussions in critical scholarship regarding Johannine Theology.
2. To develop in each student critical awareness of the relationships – theological and situational – that exist between the Gospel of John and the three letters attributed to John letters.
3. To enhance the student’s ability to work exegetically and theologically with these the Johannine Literature.
4. To develop the student’s ability to apply the messages of John’s letters and the Gospel of John to contemporary Christian living.

Course Outcomes:

1. At the conclusion of this course the student will be able to describe the history of scholarship regarding the original setting and social circumstances to which 1, 2, 3 John and the Gospel of John are directed.
2. At the conclusion of this course, the student will be able to describe the changes in scholarly opinion that reflect the currents of Johannine scholarship.
3. Through writing a critically informed paper, the student will be able to articulate key themes and ideas found in either the Gospel of John or the letters of John.
4. At the conclusion of course readings, class discussion, and written assignments, the student will be able to discern appropriate processes for applying the Johannine literature to contemporary settings.

Course Requirements:

1. Reading: For each class session you will be expected to have examined the appropriate section in the epistles or the Gospel being studied for that weekend, as well as the appropriate sections of the commentaries and other assigned secondary readings. The texts for the class are:


   NOTE: Check Blackboard each week for additional readings.

2. Tests: A Midterm exam will be given via Blackboard consisting of a short answer content exam of the Gospel of John and essay questions over the readings and discussion to that point.
3. Each student will prepare a chapter by chapter outline of the Gospel of John (created by the student, not borrowed from a commentary), reflecting the students understanding of the chapters. These outlines do not need to be overdone with details (2-5 summary lines per chapter). The outline is due via blackboard on Week 7.
4. Each Student will submit one weekly submission of reflections on the reading assignment and lecture notes (if any for that week). These should summarize the content of the readings. Minimum length of 500 words, maximum 1000 words. Submissions for the calendar week are due no later than Friday at 8:00pm. Late submissions will automatically be down-graded by one letter grade. The first assignment will be due January 10.
5. Each student will submit a journal post each week that is a personal reflection on the impact of the material being studied. Minimum length of
500 words, maximum 750 word. Submissions for the calendar week are due no later than Friday at 8:00pm. Late submissions will automatically be downgraded by one letter grade. The first journal entry will be due January 10.

6. Research Paper: Each student will prepare a research paper. Length should be 12-15 pages (5200-6000 words), including notes. Texts and/or topics to be assigned on Tuesday of class week. (note: exegesis of a specific passage is preferred, but approved topics may also be used). Paper will be due April 15.

7. The final grade for the class will be based on the student’s full participation in the writing requirements, research paper, and test. Each will be weighted as follows:

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<tr>
<td>Journal Entries</td>
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<td>Weekly Content Reflection</td>
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<td>Content Exam</td>
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<td>Research Paper</td>
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Course Outline:

I. Introductory Matters – Reading Scripture Theologically
II. New Testament Backgrounds
III. The History of Johannine Scholarship
IV. John 1-7
V. John 8-18
VI. John 19-21
VII.1, 2, 3 John

Week One: (Jan. 6-10) It’s Not What We Read, But HOW we Read Scripture
Listen/Watch York Lecture
Readings found on Blackboard

Week Two: (Jan. 12-17) The World of John
Reading: Carter: The Roman Empire and the New Testament

Week Three: (Jan. 19-24)
Reading: Horsley, pp. 1-98
Lecture by York

Week Four: (Jan. 26-31)
Readings: Horsley, 99-conclusion; Kysar, 1-35

Week Five: (Feb. 2-7)
Readings: Kysar, Chapters 1-3, Fleer/Bland, pp. 5-12, 83-91
Video presentation of Mark Lanier (see Blackboard for web location)
Week Six: (Feb. 9-14)
Readings:  Kysar, chapters 4-5, appendices; Fleer/Bland, pp.
Watch and video presentation of Dale Martin

Week Seven: (Feb. 16-21) The Text of John
Readings:  John 1-3; Introductory materials and commentary on chapters 1-3 in Culpepper, and O'Day/Hylen,
Lecture

Week Eight: (Feb. 23-28)
Readings:  John 4-7; Commentaries on chapters 4-7
Lecture

Week Nine: (Mar. 2-7)
Mid-Term Exam

Week Ten: (Mar. 9-14)
Readings:  John 8-12; Commentaries on chapters 8-12; Fleer/Bland, pp. 33-42, 61-72.
Lecture

Week Eleven: (Mar. 24-28)
Readings:  John 13-17; Commentaries on chapters 13-17
Lecture

Week Twelve: (April 2-7)
Readings:  John 18-22; Commentaries on chapters 18-22
Lecture

Week Thirteen (April 9-14)
Readings:  1 John; Culpepper commentary on 1 John
Lecture

Week Fourteen (April 16-21)
Readings:  2-3 John; Culpepper commentary on 2-3 John
Lecture

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**Academic Integrity Policy:**
This is a course designed to integrate one’s experience of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in such a way that, by word and deed, the gospel is proclaimed to others. For that reason, academic integrity and excellence in effort is expected of every student. As your instructor, I will deal with each student fairly and honestly. As students, you are expected to do your own work on tests and oral presentations unless I indicate that collaboration is allowed on a specific assignment. Penalties for integrity violations will range from failure on the assignment involved to failure in the course. As your instructor, I reserve the right to report violations to members of the administration. For clarification, refer to the university’s Code of Conduct ([http://campuslife.lipscomb.edu/content.asp?SID=41&CID=306](http://campuslife.lipscomb.edu/content.asp?SID=41&CID=306)) and the Academic Integrity Policy ([http://academics.lipscomb.edu/content.asp?CID=5329&SID=12](http://academics.lipscomb.edu/content.asp?CID=5329&SID=12)).

**Students Requiring Accommodations:**
If you require accommodations for a documented disability, please discuss your circumstances with me immediately. If you are entitled to accommodations but have not yet registered with the Counseling Center, please contact that office immediately (phone # 279-1781).

**Dropping the Course:**
A student’s decision to stop attending class does NOT constitute dropping the course. A drop/add form (available in the Registrar’s office) must be signed by the teacher and processed in the Registrar’s office before the drop is official. NOTE: If your name appears on the roster at grading time and you have not officially dropped the course, you will be assigned a grade based on the policies outlined in this syllabus.