

New Testament Exegesis: John (NTGK9434)
2008 Fall Semester
Dr. Charlie Ray

SEMINARY PURPOSE STATEMENT

The mission of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

COURSE PURPOSE, CORE VALUE FOCUS, AND CURRICULUM

COMPETENCIES:

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. These values shape both the context and manner in which all curricula are taught, with doctrinal integrity and characteristic excellence especially highlighted in this course.

NOBTS also has seven basic competencies that guide our doctoral degree programs: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. This course especially addresses the Biblical Exposition competency by means of helping the student learn to interpret the Bible accurately.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The seminar is designed for intensive exegetical work in the Gospel of John. Attention is given to such introductory matters as date, authorship, occasion, and purpose. Exegesis of the Greek text is made with the help of the best critical literature available.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. The student will develop a working knowledge of the history, methods, and current status of the field research in Johannine studies. Focus will be placed on issues of critical background as well as newer methodologies appropriate for study.
2. The student will develop a deeper understanding of the component parts of a dissertation and how those parts interrelate through examining dissertations from selected research institutions.
3. The student will be able to articulate through translation, analysis, and oral presentation grammatical and text-critical issues, interpretative problems and suggested solutions, and narrative function as it relates to the Gospel of John.
4. The student will produce a paper on a selected topic in Johannine studies suitable for publication in a research journal; the study will use skills that reflect historical and text-critical sensitivity to the diachronic and hermeneutical process, as well as a textual and theological sensitivity and sophistication with regard to the meaning of the passage.

COURSE TEACHING METHODS:

This course will involve students reading assigned books and journals, preparing assigned reports, participating in scholarly discussion, and writing and presenting assigned papers. The professors will guide the students in completing this process.

SEMINAR REQUIREMENTS:

1. Regular attendance at the weekly seminar meeting.
2. The ability to translate the Greek text of the Gospel of John.
3. Each student will download from ProQuest a dissertation related to the gospel of John. No dissertation may be reviewed by more than one student. Students may request approval from the professor for a dissertation by submitting via e-mail the title, school, and date of the dissertation, as well as the date the student wishes to present. Preference will be given to non-Southern Baptist dissertations. Dissertations will be approved on a first-come basis. Each student will write an 8-10 page, double-spaced abstract and critique of the dissertation and distribute copies of the review on the day the dissertation is discussed. The review will contain two parts: 1. conclusions reached and contribution to the field, and 2. the research problem, state of research, and methodology sections of the dissertation. The student will lead the seminar in a 25-30 minute discussion of the dissertation emphasizing.
4. Each student will be responsible for the material in the required texts. The books by Culpepper and Bauckham will be discussed at the appropriate time on the schedule. Except for introductory matter, the material in the three commentaries will be due as those passages of John are translated and discussed in class.
5. Each student will choose one the assigned blocks of John (see numbers in parentheses in seminar schedule; there are 10 blocks, so 3 blocks will not be chosen) and will do a narrative analysis of the material. Based on the reading in Culpepper, Semeia #53, etc., outline all the narrative features of the text in the selected block. This analysis will be presented on the day that the passage is discussed in class. Distribute an outline of your presentation to each member of the seminar on the day of the presentation.
6. Each student will prepare a research paper on a topic related to the Gospel of John. A research problem with subproblems and a brief description of methodology will be submitted to the professor via email for approval before formal work on the paper has begun. The email should include the journal for which the paper is being prepared (see below). Copies of the paper will be distributed to the seminar members one week before the paper is to be presented.

The research paper will be prepared with an eye towards publication in a major, peer-reviewed New Testament journal (Catholic Biblical Quarterly, Interpretation, Journal of Biblical Literature, Journal for the Study of the New Testament, New Testament Studies, Novum testamentum, Perspectives in Religious Studies, etc.). Obtain the publication guidelines from one of the journal's website, and prepare the paper to fit those guidelines.

7. Each student will be responsible for critiquing sections of other students' papers. A written summary of the critique will be presented to the student whose paper is being critiqued and to the professor by noon on the day the paper is to be presented. The numbers listed in parenthesis after each report are students A and B respectively. Student A will be responsible for critiquing the paper for material covered in chapters 1-5 of *The SBL Handbook of Style* and for style and grammar not covered in the *Handbook*. Student B will be responsible for chapters 6-8 of *The SBL Handbook of Style*.
8. Final Assignment. Details will be discussed in the December 4 seminar meeting.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Bauckham, Richard. *The Testimony of the Beloved Disciple: Narrative, History, and Theology in the Gospel of John*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007.
- Carson, D. A. *The Gospel According to John: An Introduction and Commentary*. Pillar New Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmanns, 1991.
- Culpepper, Alan. *Anatomy of the Fourth Gospel: A Study in Literary Design*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1987.
- Keener, Craig S. *The Gospel of John: A Commentary*, 2 vols. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2003.
- Lincoln, Andrew T. *The Gospel According to Saint John*. Black's New Testament Commentary. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2005.

Also you must read *The Fourth Gospel from a Literary Perspective*, Semeia 53. Society of Biblical Literature, 1991.

SEMINAR SCHEDULE

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| 8/21 | Introduction and Background to the Gospel of John (Intros to commentaries) |
| 8/28 | Background to the Gospel of John (Bauckham) |
| 9/4 | Dissertation Reviews (1-3) |
| 9/11 | Dissertation Reviews (4-7) |
| 9/18 | Narrative Criticism (Culpepper and Semeia 53) |
| 9/25 | John 1-4 (1-2 or 3-4) |
| 10/2 | John 5-9 (5-6 or 8-9) |
| 10/9 | John 10-13:30 (10-11 or 12-13:30) |
| 10/16 | John 13:31-17 (13:31-15 or 16-17) |
| 10/23 | Fall Break |
| 10/30 | John 18-21 (18-19 or 20-21) |
| 11/6 | Paper #1 (4, 5) |
| | Paper #2 (5, 6) |
| 11/13 | Paper #3 (6, 7) |
| | Paper #4 (7, 1) |
| 11/20 | ETS |
| 11/27 | Thanksgiving |
| 12/4 | Paper #5 (1, 2) |
| | Paper #6 (2, 3) |
| 12/11 | Paper #7 (3, 4) |
| 12/18 | Final Project Due via email |

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

General Works

- Ashton, John. *Understanding the Fourth Gospel*. Oxford University Press, 1993.
- Bauckham, Richard. *The Testimony of the Beloved Disciple: Narrative, History, and Theology in the Gospel of John*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007.
- Blomberg, Craig L. *The Historical Reliability of John's Gospel: Issues and Commentary*. InterVarsity Press, 2001.
- Brown, Raymond E. and Francis J. Moloney. *An Introduction to the Gospel of John*. The Anchor Bible Reference Library. Doubleday, 2003.
- Culpepper, Alan. *Anatomy of the Fourth Gospel: A Study in Literary Design*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1987.
- _____ and C. Clifton Black. *Exploring the Gospel of John: In Honor of D. Moody Smith*. Westminster John Knox Press, 1996.
- Koester, Craig R. *Symbolism in the Fourth Gospel: Meaning, Mystery, Community*. Fortress Press, 1995..
- Kysar, Robert. *John, the Maverick Gospel*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2007.
- Lincoln, Andrew T. *Truth on Trial: The Lawsuit Motif in the Fourth Gospel*. Hendrickson, 2000.
- Martyn, J. Louis and Christopher Louis Lloyd. *History and Theology in the Fourth Gospel: A New Testament Library Classic*. New Testament Library. Westminster John Knox Press, 2003.
- Segovia, Fernando F. *The Farewell of the Word: The Johannine Call to Abide*. Fortress, 1991.
- Smith, Dwight Moody . *The Theology of the Gospel of John*. New Testament Theology. Cambridge University Press, 1995.
- Thatcher, Tom, ed. *What We Have Heard From the Beginning: The Past, Present, and Future of Johannine Studies*. Baylor University Press, 2007.
- Thompson. Marianne Meye. *The God of the Gospel of John*. Eerdmans, 2001.

Commentaries

- Barrett, C. K. *The Gospel According to St. John: An Introduction with Commentary and Notes on the Greek Text*. Westminster John Knox Press, 1978.
- Beasley-Murray, George R. *John*, 2d ed. Word Biblical Commentary 36. Thomas Nelson, 1999.
- Brodie, Thomas L. *The Gospel According to John: A Literary and Theological Commentary*. Oxford University Press, 1997.
- Brown, Raymond E. *The Gospel According to John I-XII*. Anchor Bible 29. Anchor Bible, 1966.
- _____. *The Gospel According to John XIII-XXI*. Anchor Bible, 29 A. Anchor Bible, 1970.
- _____. *The Gospel and Epistles of John: A Concise Commentary*. 4th rev ed. Liturgical Press, 1988.
- Bruce, F. F. *The Gospel and epistles of John*. Eerdmans, 1994.
- Bultmann, Rudolf Karl. *The Gospel of John: A Commentary*. Westminster John Knox Press, 1971.
- Burge, Gary M. *John: The NIV Application Commentary*. Zondervan, 2000.
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- Kruse, Colin G. *The Gospel According to John: An Introduction and Commentary*. Tyndale New Testament Commentaries. Eerdmans, 2007.
- Lincoln, Andrew T. *The Gospel According to Saint John*. Black's New Testament Commentary. Hendrickson Publishers, 2005.
- Malina, Bruce J. and Richard L. Rohrbaugh. *Social Science Commentary on the Gospel of John*. Fortress, 1998.
- Michaels, J. Ramsey. *John*. New International Biblical Commentary. Hendrickson, 1984, 1989.
- Moloney, Francis J. and Daniel J. Harrington. *The Gospel of John*. Sacra Pagina Series. Liturgical Press, 1998.
- Morris, Leon. *The Gospel According to John*, rev ed. New International Commentary on the New Testament. Eerdmans, 1995.
- Ridderbos, Herman. *The Gospel of John: A Theological Commentary*. Eerdmans, 1997.
- Sanders, J.N. and B.A. Mastin. *he Gospel According to St. John*. Black's New Testament Commentaries. 1968.
- Smith, D. Moody Smith, Jr. *John*. Abingdon New Testament Commentaries. Abingdon Press, 1999.
- Talbert, Charles H. *Reading John: A Literary and Theological Commentary on the Fourth Gospel and the Johannine Epistles*. Crossroad, 1992.
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- Whitacre, Rodney A. *John*. The IVP New Testament Commentary Series. InterVarsity Press, 1999.
- Witherington, Ben, III. *John's Wisdom: A Commentary on the Fourth Gospel*. Westminster John Knox Press, 1995.