

New Testament Exegesis: John (NTGK9434)
2014 Spring Semester
Dr. Charlie Ray

Mission Statement

The mission of 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. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically in that the course is designed to prepare the student to grow in the understanding and interpreting of the Word of God. Characteristic Excellence is also addressed in that the student should be as prepared as possible to be ministers for Christ. Mission Focus is emphasized in that interpreting the Bible is a key element in presenting the Good News of the Gospel to the world. Proper interpretation is vital in fulfilling the Great Commission. This course addresses the competency of Biblical Exposition by preparing the student to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.

Course Description:

This course gives consideration to text-critical, grammatical, syntactical, literary, and historical issues through text analysis of the Gospel of John. The course will emphasize sound hermeneutical principles for discovering the meaning of the text and for applying that meaning in teaching and preaching.

Student Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the semester the student should

- be able to explain the critical issues related to the background of and current research in the Gospel of John
- understand the central message of John by translation the text of the letter and reading at least three commentaries on John in the process of interpreting the text for himself or herself
- value the process of intertextual studies as a tool for interpreting the text
- apply information gained through dissertation reading to the development of a research project that can be presented at a professional society

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 professor will guide the students in completing this process.

Required Texts:

Anderson, Paul. *The Riddles of the Fourth Gospel: An Introduction to John*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 2011.

Bauckham, Richard. *The Testimony of the Beloved Disciple: Narrative, History, and Theology in*

- the Gospel of John*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007.
- Thatcher, Tom, ed. *What We Have Heard From the Beginning: The Past, Present, and Future of Johannine Studies*. Waco, Tex.: Baylor University Press, 2007.
- Keener, Craig S. *The Gospel of John: A Commentary*, 2 vols. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 2003.

Evaluation

Reading Report	15%
Exegesis	20%
Research Paper	40%
Paper Responses	20%
Dissertation Review	5%

Seminar Requirements:

1. Attendance at the weekly seminar meeting. There are no unexcused absences. All absences must be cleared with the professor in advance. In the case of emergencies, the professor may be informed of the absence by email, text, or phone call. Any student who is absent more than once must schedule a meeting with the professor to determine whether he or she will be allowed to continue in the seminar.
2. Reading Report. The purpose of the reading is to introduce the seminar to the content of the book and to situate the content in the field of Johannine research. Students need to understand the background out of which statements arise. If the background of a particular section in the books is unclear, students may need to consult additional resources, including scholarly reviews of the book, to help understand the author's point. All students are expected to read all three books and to lead the class discussion of their assigned sections. A written summary (4-8 pages, single-spaced) of the section should be posted to the appropriate Dropbox folder by the day the book will be discussed in seminar.
3. Exegesis. Each student will be in charge of leading class discussion on the translation/exegesis for one passage. About 40 minutes will be allotted for each section. The written assignment will be an outline of the passage and a bullet outline for the exegetical issues. The written assignment will be distributed to all students on the day the passage is discussed. All students will also be responsible for the translation and commentary readings of the assigned portion of John each day. Students will read the assigned commentary plus one of their choosing from the bibliography.
4. Major Paper. Each student will prepare and present a major research paper on a topic approved by the professor. A written problem statement and sub-problems must be turned in before a topic can be approved. An exegesis of a section of John will not be approved. Topics should be selected and papers written with a focus toward presentation in a scholarly society meeting. As such, papers should be in the range of 15-20 pages double-

spaced. The paper will be posted to Dropbox one week before the paper is to be presented for the seminar.

5. Paper Responses. Every student will turn in a response to each paper presented, as well as a formal response to one paper, which will be assigned by the professors. The informal responses will be placed in the appropriate Drop Box folder and will be used by the student to guide discussion of the paper. This response will include a point of appreciation, a point of disagreement or concern, a content question (What did you mean?), and a discussion question (What about . . .?).

The formal response will be read to the seminar after the paper presentation. The response will not contain a summary of the content of the paper but will be divided into five sections: what worked in the paper; what didn't work in the paper; what is unclear; what else could have been included; and a comprehensive errata section. At the end of the response the respondent should list two to four questions for further discussion. The response should be between 4-8 pages, single-spaced.

Both the shorter responses and the formal response should be professional, polite, and critical. The purpose of the response is to sharpen research and writing skills, so students should expect to give and receive frank, specific critiques of the paper. We learn more from people pointing out our weaknesses than we learn from people telling us how nice we are. However, the dialogue will always be conducted in a spirit of Christian love and humility. Both types of responses must be posted to Dropbox before the beginning of the seminar at which the paper will be discussed.

6. Dissertation Review. Each student will download from ProQuest a dissertation related to John. No dissertation may be reviewed by more than one student. The student should select dissertations written within the last seven years at non-SBC institutions. Students will request approval from the professor for their dissertation by third week of the semester, including in the request the title of the dissertation, the institution, and the date of the dissertation. Dissertations will be approved on a first-come basis. Each student will write an 8-10 page, single-spaced abstract and a critique of the dissertation. The dissertation should be critiqued with a view to the elements of good research, emphasizing the research problem, state of research, methodology, conclusions reached, and contributions to the study of John. Copies of the review will be posted by to Dropbox by the last day of the semester.

Schedule

1/21	Readings 1-4
1/28	Readings 5-8
2/4	Readings 9-13
2/11	John 1-4
2/18	John 5-8
2/25	John 9-12
3/4	Mardi Gras

3/11	John 13-16
3/18	John 17-19
3/25	Spring Break
4/1	John 20-21, Paper 1
4/8	Paper 2, Paper 3
4/15	Paper 4, Paper 5
4/22	Paper 6, Paper 7
4/29	Paper 8, Paper 9
5/6	Paper 10, Paper 11
5/13	Paper 12, Paper 13

Selected Bibliography

Commentaries

Beasley-Murray, George R. *John*. 2d ed. Word Biblical Commentary 36. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1999.

Brown, Raymond E. *The Gospel According to John*, 2 vols. Yale University Press, 1970, 1995.

Burge, Gary M. *John: The NIV Application Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.

Carson, D.A. *The Gospel According to John*. Pillar New Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990.

Keener, Craig S. *The Gospel of John: A Commentary*, 2 vols. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 2003.

Köstenberger, Andreas J. *John*. Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids, Baker Academic, 2004.

Kruse, Colin G. *John*. The Tyndale New Testament Commentaries. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.

Lincoln, Andrew T. *The Gospel According to Saint John*. Black's New Testament Commentary. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 2005.

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

Michaels, J. Ramsey. *John*. New International Biblical Commentary. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1984.

_____. *The Gospel of John*. New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010.

- Moloney, Francis J. *The Gospel of John*. Sacra Pagina Series. Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical Press, 1998.
- Morris, Leon. *The Gospel of John*. New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.
- Newbigin, Lesslie. *The Light Has Come: An Exposition of the Fourth Gospel*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982.
- Sanders, J. N. and B. A. Mastin. *The Gospel According to St. John*. Black's New Testament Commentaries. London: Adam & Charles Black, 1968.
- Smith, D. Moody. *John*. Abingdon New Testament Commentaries. Nashville: Abingdon, 1999.
- Whitacre, Rodney A. *John*. The IVP New Testament Commentary Series. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 1999.
- Witherington, Ben III. *John's Wisdom: A Commentary on the Fourth Gospel*. Louisville, Ky.: Westminster John Knox, 1995.
- Westcott, B. F. *The Gospel According to St. John*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, reprint 1978.
- Talbert, Charles H. *Reading John: A Literary and Theological Commentary on the Fourth Gospel and the Johannine Epistles*. New York: Crossroad, 1992.
- Tasker. R. V. G. *The Gospel According to St. John*. Tyndale New Testament Commentaries. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1960.

Monographs

- Anderson, Paul N. *The Christology of the Fourth Gospel: Its Unity and Disunity in the Light of John 6*. Valley Forge, Penn.: Trinity Press International, 1996.
- _____. *The Riddles of the Fourth Gospel: An Introduction to John*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 2011.
- Ashton, John. *Understanding the Fourth Gospel*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1991.
- Baukhham, Richard. *The Testimony of the Beloved Disciple: Narrative, History, and Theology in the Gospel of John*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007.
- Beasley-Murray, George R. *John*. Word Biblical Themes. Dallas: Word, 1989.
- _____. *Gospel of Life: Theology in the Fourth Gospel*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1991.

- Blomberg, Craig L. *The Historical Reliability of John's Gospel: Issues and Commentary*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 2001.
- Brodie, Thomas. L. *The Quest for the Origin of John's Gospel: A Source-Oriented Approach*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993.
- Brown, Raymond E. *The Community of the Beloved Disciple: The Life, Loves, and Hates of an Individual Church in New Testament Times*. New York: Paulist Press, 1979.
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- Burge, Gary M. *Interpreting the Gospel of John*. Guides to New Testament Exegesis. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992.
- Charlesworth, James H., ed. *John and the Dead Sea Scrolls*. New York: Crossroad, 1991.
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Segovia, Fernando F. *The Farewell of the Word: The Johannine Call to Abide*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1991.

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