



BIB 6610

The Gospel of John

(3 s.h.)

Syllabus

Fall Semester 2012

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I. Course Description:

In this study of the fourth gospel you will explore its cultural and theological context. Attention will be given to tracing the movement of the book, exegesis of selected passages, the Upper Room Discourse in chapters 13-17, and the use of John for teaching and preaching.

II. Objectives: By the end of the course the student should be able to:

1. Explain the theme and distinctive features of the Gospel of John.
2. Recall from memory the miracles (signs).
3. Recall from memory the I AM's of Jesus.
4. Locate by chapter any major event, teaching or personality.
5. Identify the geographical, religious, political and historical context of main events.
6. Exegete selected passages, explaining John's revelation in light of his choice of words, and in light of the cultural/historical/theological context of the time when Jesus lived.
7. Develop character studies of significant individuals, showing their historical identity and relationship to the purpose of the Gospel.
8. Preach/teach a series of at least 20 sermons/lessons from the Gospel.
9. Compare and contrast John's gospel to the synoptic gospels.
10. Describe the Lord Jesus.
11. Outline John by distinctive units, tracing from memory John's flow of thought in revealing the saving life and death of Jesus Christ.

III. Texts

Required:

1. Colin G. Kruse, *John* (The Tyndale N.T. Commentary). Eerdmans, 2003. ISBN 0-8028-2771-3.
2. Merrill Tenney, *John: The Gospel of Belief*. Eerdmans, 1948. ISBN 0-8028-3252-0.

Recommended:

Excellent commentaries on John include those by Don Carson, Andreas Kostenberger, Leon Morris, Merrill Tenney (*The Expositor's Bible Commentary*), as well as others.

IV. Assignments

1. Prepare 20 lesson/sermon outlines that include a brief *introductory statement* or paragraph indicating what the lesson is about, an *outline of the body* with transitional statements, and a *brief conclusion* that summarizes the message. These outlines should be usable for you to teach or preach the selected lesson to a stated audience of your choice. Due **Dec 4**. 10 hrs.
2. Prepare a chart of the Gospel, showing the major breaks in the outline, the flow of thought, repetitions of themes and ideas. Your use of this chart should be a visual help to remembering the content and flow of the book. Due **Sept. 11**. 10 hrs.
3. Read through the Gospel twice in two different versions (preferably NASB, ESV, NIV), marking your Bible for words that are frequently repeated, major themes, historical markers, etc. First reading **Sept. 11**, second reading **Dec 11**. 8 hrs.
4. Read the commentaries in advance according to the class schedule, being prepared to discuss the assigned portions for each class period. Quizzes may be given over the assigned reading. The commentary by Tenney is especially helpful in understanding the structure of John and should be read quickly at the beginning of the semester. The commentary by Kruse should be read carefully to accompany daily assignments. 39 hrs.
5. Write a paper of no more than four pages double-spaced (12 pt. type) on John's use of the word family *believe* and *belief (faith)*, paying attention to the meaning of the word, to the object of belief, and to the substance of what is to be believed. What does John's (and Jesus') use of this word teach us about how to begin a relationship with God, and how to maintain and grow that relationship? Your paper should evidence the use of helpful sources in addition to the assigned texts. Due **Oct. 9**. 6 hrs.
6. Write a paper of no more than 10 pages double-spaced (12 pt. type) on:
 - a. One or more of the "I AM's"
 - b. The historicity of the Gospel or any event.
 - c. Jesus' miracle(s)
 - d. Relationships in the Gospel.
 Proposed topic is due **Oct. 23**. Use multiple sources with appropriate footnotes. State why this topic is important, both to you and to others. How does your topic fit with the purpose and significance of John's Gospel? Summarize what you have learned and what difference it makes. A grade of excellent will indicate the paper is well-researched and supported, cogently stated, and relevant. Paper is due **Nov. 13**. 20 hrs.

V. Grading

1.	Chart of John	5%
2.	Class involvement (including quizzes)	5%
3.	Paper #1	10%
4.	Paper #2	15%
5.	Reading assignments	10%
6.	Outlines of sermons/lessons	15%
7.	Midterm	20%
8.	Final	20%

VI. Implications

How should a study of John's Gospel change us and equip us for ministry.

1. To follow Christ faithfully, we must know what and how to *believe*. Believing truth will transform us; believing error will destroy us and others.
2. To be like Christ, we must know Christ by studying his words and life. To have the mind of Christ we must know what and how he thought.
3. To serve Christ, we must accept being treated as He was treated, preparing ourselves for the kind of controversy he faced.
4. To serve Christ, we must treat people—disciples, followers, enemies—as he treated them.

VII. Academic and Disability Services

Students with physical, emotional, ADHD, or learning disabilities needing academic accommodations should make requests through the Academic Success Center. These requests will be kept confidential and will be used only to provide academic accommodations. Because many accommodations require early planning, requests should be made as early as possible. The Academic Success Center is located on the first floor of Rossi Student Center (807-5611, academicsuccess@ciu.edu). If you already receive services through ASC please contact me so that we can make your academic experience in this class as successful as possible.

VIII. Class Schedule

Aug 21	Get acquainted	Intro to John, John 1:1-18	
Aug 28	John 1:18-51	Video	Video
Sept 4	John 2	John 3:1-16	John 3:17-36
Sept 11	John 4:1-45	John 4:46-54	John 5 Chart of Book due 1st reading of Gospel due
Sept 18	John 6:1-15	John 6:16-24	John 6:25-71
Sept 25	Eschatological significance of Israel's feast	John 7:1-24	John 7:25-52
October 2	PRAYER DAY		
October 9	John 8:1-11	John 8:12-59	Paper due on "Believe. . ."
October 16	John 9	Midterm Exam	
October 23	John 10:1-21	John 10:22-42	John 11:1-44 Proposed topic for paper due
October 30	John 11:45-57	John 12:1-11	John 12:12-50
November 6	John 13	John 13	John 14:1-14
November 13	John 14:15-31	John 15:1-11	John 15:12-27 Paper Due
November 20	THANKSGIVING BREAK		
November 27	John 16	John 17	John 17
December 4	John 18	John 19	John 20 Sermon/Lesson outlines due
December 11	John 21	Final Exam Second Reading of Gospel due	