

Point Loma Nazarene University
School of Theology and Christian Ministry
Spring 2014

Course: Bible 403. Johannine Literature. Smee Hall Wesleyan Center, MWF 11-11:55.

Professors: Dr. Michael Lodahl (Smee Hall 205, office phone 2331) and
Dr. Samuel Powell (Smee Hall 206, office phone 2334)

Catalogue

Description: A study of the Johannine literature (Gospel, Letters, and Apocalypse) in relation to its social setting and content, and its theological significance in the development of early Christianity.

Texts: Brown, Raymond E. *The Gospel and Epistles of John*
Collins, Adela Yarbro. *Crisis and Catharsis: The Power of the Apocalypse*
Lieu, Judith M. *I, II & III John: A Commentary* (New Testament Library series)
Martyn, J. Louis. *History and Theology in the Fourth Gospel*
Powell, Samuel. *A Teacher's Guide to Understanding the End Times*

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able:

- 1) to describe the theological and conceptual differences between the gospel of John and the synoptic gospels, thereby being able to enumerate distinctive contributions of John;
- 2) to apply scholarly exegetical techniques to the interpretation of particular passages of the biblical documents to be studied;
- 3) to describe the historical, social and theological factors that contribute to a responsible interpretation of the book of Revelation for contemporary church and academy; and
- 4) to argue a presentation of Jesus that accounts for the portraits of Jesus by John, the Johannine epistles, Revelation, contemporary historiography and Christian confession.

Attendance and Participation:

Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. In this course, a significant portion of the grade is based on participation. Additionally, as per PLNU policy, if the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings, the faculty member has the option of filing a written report that may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, even if the absences are school-approved individually, the student will be de-enrolled without notice. If the date of de-enrollment is past the last date to withdraw from a class, the student will be assigned a grade of W or WF consistent with university policy in the grading section of the catalog. See Academic Policies in the undergrad student catalog.

Incompletes and Late Assignments:

All assignments are to be submitted by the beginning of the class session scheduled as the due date. Any late work is subject to a 7% grade deduction if handed in later on due date day, and 10% per day thereafter.

Academic Dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism):

The University catalog spells out at great length the actions that constitute a breach of academic honesty. These include cheating, plagiarism, falsification, aiding academic dishonesty, and malicious intent. The catalog includes lengthy descriptions of each, which each student should read for greater understanding. The stated response policy of the university to infractions will be observed by the professors: an incident of academic dishonesty will result in failure of the assignment (at minimum) and possibly failure of the course.

Requirements:

- 1) Consistent class attendance and participation. Bring a Bible to class, of course – New Revised Standard Version is encouraged, but other translations are welcome. Attendance will play a significant role in the grading process.
- 2) Careful and disciplined reading of assigned texts for each class session. This will be determined primarily both by participation in class discussions, and by occasional unannounced quizzes.
- 3) Four exegetical-expositional papers, 4-6 pages in length double-spaced. In each instance, the student will choose a relevant biblical passage (the first two of which must come from the gospel of John) of roughly 6-8 verses, study appropriate commentaries or similar Johannine studies texts or journal articles, and incorporate research into a paper that could be the basis for a sermon or a Bible study session.

This paper must include proper bibliographical documentation and notes. For each paper, outside research must include at least three sources and a minimum of 40 pages read. All sources and pages read must be included in the paper's documentation. Biblical Studies majors must utilize original language resources.

The papers will be due as scheduled in the syllabus course calendar. Dr. Powell will determine due dates for the two exegetical – expositional papers for the second half of the semester.

- 4) Two exams as scheduled, the first on the gospel of John and the second (final) on I, II and III John and Revelation.

- **Please keep in mind that grammar, spelling and punctuation all play a *highly* critical role in your professors' evaluation of all your papers -- and that you are encouraged strongly to solicit the benefits of at least one competent proofreader for your papers.**
- **Additionally, the PLNU School of Theology and Christian Ministry is committed to the equality of women and men as created together in God's image. Recognizing that people have often used language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, the department urges students, faculty and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions and especially in their writings.**

Final Grade:

Will be determined on the basis of attendance and participation, including quizzes (15%), the four exegetical-expositional papers (12.5% each) and the two exams (17.5% each).

Grading scale: 94-100, A; 90-93, A-; 87-89, B+; 83-86, B; 80-82, B-; 77-79, C+; 73-76, C; 69-72, C-; 66-68, D+; 62-66, D; 58-61, D-; below 57.5, F.

- **All students are expected to meet the standards for this course as set by the instructor. However, students with learning disabilities who may need accommodations should discuss options with the Academic Support Center during the first two weeks of class. The ASC will contact professors with suggested classroom needs and accommodations. Approved documentation must be on file in the ASC prior to the start of the semester.**

Course Calendar:

January

- 14 – Introduction of ourselves and of the course. Reading the prologue to John’s gospel.
15 – Introduction to Martyn’s book by D. Moody Smith, 1-23.
17 – Martyn’s Introduction, 27-32; continued discussion of D. Moody Smith’s Introduction.

20 – No class; Martin Luther King, Jr., Day.
22 – Brown, 9-24; reading John’s prologue in anticipation of Friday class session --
24 – Class will meet for the “Exploring Origins” Conference panel discussion, 10:30-11:30: "Interpreting the Bible: Creation Narratives and Contemporary Science" - Bob Branson, Brad Kelle, and Jeff Stackert. (Class attendance will be taken and will be worth ‘double’.)

27 – Martyn, Chapter 1 (35-45); John 1:19-3:36
29 – Martyn, Chapter 2 (46-66); John 4-6
31 – Martyn, Chapter 2 cont’d; John 7-10

February

- 3 – Martyn, Chapter 3 (69-83); John 11-13. *First exegetical paper due at beginning of classtime.*
5 – Martyn, Chapters 4-5 (84-98); John 14-17
7 – Martyn, Chapter 6 (101-123); John 18-19

10 – Martyn, Chapter 6 cont’d; John 20-21
12 – John 1:19-3:36; Brown 24-35
14 – John 4-6; Brown 35-48

Course Calendar, cont'd

17 – John 7-10; Brown 48-61
19 – John 11-13; Brown 61-75

Extra-credit opportunities: 5 points (equivalent to attendance of a class session) for each lecture attended in the Wiley Lecture Series: *Dr. Stanley Porter will present four lectures over this three-day period on the general theme, "Did Paul Meet Jesus Before the Damascus Road?: The Evidence and the Implications."*

All lectures will be presented on PLNU's main campus in the Crill Performance Hall of Cooper Music Center.

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| Lecture 1 | "What Scholars Have Said in the Past" | Wednesday, February 19, 1:30-2:20 |
| Lecture 2 | "What Scholars Now Say" | Thursday, February 20, 9:30 - 10:20 am |
| Lecture 3 | "What the Bible Does and Does Not Say" | Thursday, February 20, 1:30 - 2:20 pm |
| Lecture 4 | "The Implications of Paul Having Met Jesus" | Friday, February 21, 11:00 - 11:50 am |

21 – Class will meet for Friday's Wiley lecture (immediately above); attendance will be taken and will be worth 'double'. No reading due.

24 – John 14-17; Brown 75-87
26 – John 18-19; Brown 87-96
28 – John 20-21; Brown 96-104

March

3 – Review discussion of the gospel of John.

Second exegetical paper due at beginning of classtime.

5 – Mid-term examination.

7 – No class; early start on Spring Break. (Professors out of town for conference.)

Spring Break

Course Calendar, cont'd

17 – Lieu 1-35
19 – 2 & 3 John; Lieu 239-285
21 – 1 John 1-3; Lieu 35-160

24 – 1 John 4-5; Lieu 161-239
26 – Teacher's Guide
28 – Collins, Chapter 1

31 – Collins, Chapter 2

April

2 – Collins, Chapter 3
4 – Collins, Chapter 4

7 – Collins, Chapter 5 & Conclusion
9 – Revelation 1-3
11 – Revelation 1-3

14 – Revelation 4-5
16 – Revelation 6-11

Easter Break

23 – Revelation 6-11
25 – Revelation 12-13

28 – Revelation 12-13
30 – Revelation 14-20

May

2 – Revelation 21-22

**7 – 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Examination on 1-3 John and Revelation.
This is the date and time set for this examination by the University.
Please make travel plans accordingly.**