

Saint Louis Christian College
BNT 331N JOHN
Claycomb

Fall Semester, 2014

Course Prerequisites: BNT 101; BNT 102

Thursday evenings

6 pm to 10 pm

MISSION STATEMENT

Saint Louis Christian College pursues excellence in the Word and develops servant-leaders for urban, suburban, rural and global ministry.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An exegetical Study of the Gospel of John

COURSE RATIONALE

Eusebius, bishop of Caesarea, writing in the 4th century said, “But last of all, John, perceiving that the external facts had been made plain in the Gospel, being urged by his disciples, and inspired by the Spirit, composed a spiritual Gospel.”

St. Augustine, 4th century, said “John’s Gospel is shallow enough for a baby to wade in and deep enough for an elephant to swim in.”

G.R. Beasley-Murray begins his commentary, *Gospel of Life – Theology in the Fourth Gospel*, saying, ‘The last of the four Gospels appears among the rest in a manner reminiscent of Melchizedek to Abraham: ‘without father, without mother, without genealogy’ (Heb. 7:3).

Ben Witherington III, in his commentary *John’s Wisdom: a commentary on the fourth gospel*, concurs saying, “Here we have a Jesus who speaks no parables but rather offers long discourses; a Jesus who, far from silencing messianic acclamations, personally offers various ‘I am’ utterances; a Jesus who is said to have preexisted, to be the Logos in human form, and yet is also depicted as radically dependent on and subordinate to the Father and his will. This Jesus speaks rarely of kingdom and often of eternal life. He does not so much call disciples as exercise some kind of mysterious spiritual gravity, attracting them from among the world’s many truth seekers. It is no wonder that E. Kasemann once suggested that the Johannine Jesus bestrides the stage of history like some sort of colossus or deity.”

Andreas Kostenberger, concludes saying, “John’s Gospel, together with the Book of Romans, can justifiably be called ‘the Mount Everest of New Testament theology.’ From its peaks it is possible to survey much of the territory of biblical revelation, including the Old Testament, the Synoptics, and other portions of the New Testament.” (*Studies on John and Gender: a decade of scholarship.*)

Elsewhere Kostenberger says that this Gospel “has moved countless hearts to recognize their need for Christ and nurtured many to greater heights in their spiritual pilgrimage.” (*A Theology of John’s Gospel & Letters: The Word, The Christ, The Son of God*)

John Calvin (1553) – “And since they all [i.e. the four Gospels] had the same object, to show Christ, the first three exhibit His body, if I may be permitted to put it like that, but John shows His soul.”

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. “Exhibit knowledge of the (saving) message of the (Gospel of John)” by outlining John’s Gospel and reproducing the basic content of each chapter by memory. (Reflecting Biblical Education Objective #1)
2. “Demonstrate the ability to properly interpret, apply, and communicate Scripture” by writing a six lesson or sermon series from the Gospel of John. (Reflecting Biblical Education Objective #2)
3. “Presented the biblical mandates for worldwide evangelism, the student will communicate the imperative that every person needs Jesus Christ as Savior.” (Reflecting Biblical Education Objective #3)
4. Develop a deeper level of understanding and appreciation of Jesus and his ministry by memorizing key passages in the Gospel of John.
5. Articulate the true identity of Jesus by identifying the major themes of the Gospel of John.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Reading

The student will read the Gospel of John once before the first session. This must be completed in one or two sittings; either chapters 1-21 or 1-12 followed by 13-21.

Textbooks read in their entirety: (required)

Encountering John: The Fourth Gospel in Historical, Literary and Theological Perspective, Andreas Kostenberger.

The MacArthur New Testament Commentary John 1-11. John MacArthur.

Textbooks from which assigned readings will be made: (not-required)

The MacArthur New Testament Commentary John 12-21. John MacArthur.

Father, Son & Holy Spirit: The Trinity in John’s Gospel. Kostenberger, Andreas

The Forgotten Trinity. James White

2. Written Assignments

The student is assigned (5) typed papers (single spacing), in the form of a “Head, Heart & Hand reflection”; one per session based on the reading assigned that session; not one for each book assigned, but only one per session for all the readings of that session. Each *HHH reflection* shall be one page only in length & must indicate the books & assigned pages actually read. This is a short succinct response to what you’ve read. A *HHH reflection* answers three questions. Spend no more than 15-20 minutes typing it. **First**, how were you impacted on a head or

intellectual level? How has your understanding of God's Word been changed, made stronger or more firmly rooted? **Second**, how were you impacted on a heart level? Was there a new conviction of sin or of duty in your life or your church? How has your position in Christ been solidified or your feelings/affections toward God intensified? **Third**, how were you impacted on a hand level; i.e. what behavioral change do you contemplate as a result of this session's reading? Be specific. No generalities.

Rough Draft of Final Paper – A 2-3 page rough draft (sketchy but clear as to the linear flow of your thoughts is due emailed to me the Sunday before Session 5. Professorial feedback will be given per the Final Paper.

Final Paper - assigned topic: *John's Gospel & the Trinity*

The paper shall be mailed & postmarked to the professor one week after the final session. The paper shall be 8-10 pages in length, using MLA style.

All assignments shall have the following as a header:

Class name & Session #

Student name

Mailbox (if any)

3. **Memorization**

The student will memorize the seven (7) assigned verses from John's

Prologue. At the beginning of each session the student will turn in a typed copy of the assigned memory work for that session. This must include student name, assigned passage & translation used. Each session will accumulatively include the previous memorization. Either the English Standard Version (ESV) or the New American Standard Version (NASV) may be used; no other.

The student will memorize the "John's Gospel by Chapter" provided below. This is due, in typed form, at the beginning of Session Five.

4. **Final take home Exam.** Finished Exam must be mailed to professor & postmarked no later than one week after Session Five.

COURSE ASSESSMENT (1000 points possible)

50 points for Memorization of '**Gospel of John by Chapter**' (due session 5)

50 points for full **reading** of Gospel of John (all or nothing)

100 points for **HHH Reflections** (20 points each session)

100 points for **Paper Rough Draft** (due emailed the Sunday before session 5)

50 points for **Scripture Memorization** (10 points each session)

300 points for **Final Exam**

350 points for **Final Paper**

COURSE SCHEDULE (717 pages of assigned reading)

Session One

(149 pages total)

Typed copy from memory due: John 1:1-2

Encountering John, pp. 15-18 & chs 1, 2, 3, 16 & appendixes 1 & 2

MacArthur's *John 1-11*; Introduction, chapters 1-3, 6, 8 & 9
The Forgotten Trinity, chapter 4
HHH #1 due

Session Two
(138 pages total) Memorization: John 1:1-4
Encountering John, chapters 4-7
MacArthur's, *John 1-11*; chapters 11, 15-16, 20-22
HHH #2 due

Session Three
(131 pages total) Memorization: John 1:1-4, 14
Encountering John, chapters 8-10
MacArthur's, *John 1-11*; chapters 35-37, 39 & 40
Father, Son & Spirit, chapters 10 & Conclusion
HHH #3 due

Session Four
(152 pages total) Memorization: John 1:1-4, 14, 17
Encountering John, chapters 11-12
MacArthur, *John 12-21*; chapters 6-16
HHH #4 due

The Sunday before... emailed **Rough Draft of Paper** due before Session 5

Session Five
(147 pages total) Memorization: John 1:1-4, 14, 17-18
Encountering John, chapters 13-15
MacArthur, *John 12-21*; chapters 17-26
HHH #5 due
Typed copy from memory of "Gospel of John by Chapter" due

Ten days later Both the Final Exam & Final Paper are to be emailed to me by
midnight Sunday, December 28th, or arrive by mail to my house no
later than Monday, December 29th.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance: The expectation is that the student will be neither tardy nor absent. Attendance at each session is fundamental to the overall purpose of the course. Tardiness or absenteeism will be dealt with in consultation with the Academic Dean.

Late Work is not accepted. Assignments are due on stated dates at the start of the class. Should circumstances prevent attendance the assignment still must be either delivered to class or emailed to the professor.

Incompletes: See college catalog for the conditions under which an incomplete may be granted.

Special Circumstances – Students with a diagnosed learning disability will need to see The Hundred (Student Center for Success) to discuss strategies that would enhance the learning experience.

Electronic Devices AIM Classes

The professor reserves the right to ban all electronic devices immediately upon the suspicion of a misuse by even one student. No video recording is permitted.

Academic Honesty: Dishonesty will result in a grade of F (zero) for the assignment involved. See the college catalog.

Disclaimer: The professor reserves the right to modify the course plan by changing topics, due dates, or even assignments so long as the change does not add to the student's work load.

PROFESSOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Send First Class Mail ONLY

Professor Claycomb
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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Barclay, William. *The Gospel of John*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1958.

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- Publishing, 1994.
- Bryant, Beauford H. and Mark S. Krause. *John (CPC)*. Joplin: College Press Publishing, 1998.
- Carson, D.A. *The Gospel According to John*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing, 1991.
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- Caylor, John. *The Great "I Am's" of Jesus*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing, 1957.
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- Gaebelein, Frank E. ed. *John & Acts, (EBC)*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing, 1981.
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- Kostenberger, Andreas J, L. Scott Kellum, and Charles Quarles. *The Cradle, the Cross, and the Crown: An Introduction to the New Testament*. Nashville: B & H Academic, 2009.
- Kostenberger, Andreas. Swain, Scott R. *Father, Son and Spirit: The Trinity and John's Gospel*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 2008.
- Kostenberger, Andreas. *John, (ECNT)*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2004.
- Morris, Leon. *Jesus Is the Christ: Studies in the Theology of John*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing, 1989.
- . *Reflections on the Gospel of John*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2000.
- . *The Gospel According to John, (NIC)*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing, 1971.

Westermann, Claus. *The Gospel of John in Light of the Old Testament*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1998.

White, James. *The Forgotten Trinity*. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House Publishers, 1998.

Gospel of John by Chapters

(for memorization)

Ch 1 - Prologue: The incarnation of the Word who was with God & was God	
Ch 2 - Water to wine	
Ch 3 - Nicodemus & new birth	
Ch 4 - Samaritan woman	<i>EGO EIMI's</i> ("I AM's")
Ch 5 - Christology	
Ch 6 - I AM the Bread of Life	(1 st)
Ch 7 - Water of Life	
Ch 8 - I AM the Light of the world	(2 nd)
Ch 9 - Man born blind	
Ch 10 - I AM the Door... I AM the Good Shepherd	(3 rd & 4 th)
Ch 11 - I AM the resurrection & the life (Lazarus)	(5 th)
Ch 12 - Glorification of the Son of Man	
Ch 13 - Foot washing	
Ch 14 - I AM the Way, the Truth & the Life	(6 th)
Ch 15 - I AM the true Vine	(7 th)
Ch 16 - The Helper, the Spirit of Truth	
Ch 17 - High Priestly Prayer	
Ch 18 - Betrayal & arrest	
Ch 19 - Crucifixion & burial	
Ch 20 - Resurrection & the "sending of the Church"	