

# THE JOHANNINE LITERATURE (BS 170)

*John Leland Center for Biblical Studies*

Spring Semester 2012

Randolph Memorial Baptist Church

Mondays, 6:00pm to 8:50pm

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This class will provide an overview of the books of the Johannine corpus: the Gospel of John, the Letters of John, and Revelation. A focus will be on the major themes and critical issues addressed in these texts. Students will also gain tools for teaching these texts in a church setting and for engaging these texts in their own lives.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course has 7 primary objectives. It is expected that, at the end of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify and explain the major themes of the books of the Johannine corpus;
2. Be familiar with the major events, people, and symbols of the Johannine literature;
3. Identify and communicate the purpose of the Gospel of John, the Letters of John, and Revelation;
4. Explain, compare, and contrast the types of literature within the Johannine corpus (gospel, letter, apocalypse) and understand the different interpretive approaches to each;
5. Understand and communicate the significance of the historical context surrounding the Gospel and Letters of John, including an awareness of the wider Johannine community;
6. Communicate different interpretive possibilities for approaching Revelation;
7. Teach effectively and confidently the Johannine literature in the local church.

## TEXTS

The Bible will be the primary text for this course. Any translation is acceptable, though NRSV is preferred. The NRSV will be the primary translation used in class. See "Supplemental and Suggested Texts" for suggested study Bible.

**Culpepper, R. Alan**, *The Gospel and Letters of John*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998.

**Craddock, Fred, & Eugene Boring**, *A People's New Testament Commentary*, Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2010.

## SUPPLEMENTAL & SUGGESTED TEXTS

*The New Oxford Annotated Bible*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010. (Very good NRSV study Bible with sound scholarship – available in several editions, recent college edition recommended)

**Bauckham, Richard**, *The Theology of the Book of Revelation*. Cambridge: Cambridge Press, 1993. (This text will be used by the instructor as supporting material for several lectures)

From time to time, the instructor may recommend additional readings to supplement the text. These will be made available to you by the instructor.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION

Attendance requirements are those outlined in the *Leland Center Student Handbook*. Students may not miss more than three (3) days per semester unless there are mitigating circumstances. Regardless of the circumstances, *it's the student's responsibility* to obtain assignments and make up any work missed. Class attendance and participation will be graded on a pass/fail basis and will be included in determining a student's final grade.

### READING ASSIGNMENTS

Students are expected to have all assigned readings for the week completed by the time they come to class. The class schedule outlines the weekly reading assignments. There will be daily short quizzes covering the material from the assigned reading.

### EXAMS

There will be two (2) one-hour exams. The exams will cover information from class lectures & discussion. Exams will not be cumulative. Each exam accounts for 20% of the final grade. Students should plan on taking the exams on the date they are scheduled. Only in special circumstances will a make-up exam be given.

### EPISTLE QUIZ

There will be one (1) half-hour quiz on the Johannine letters. This quiz will cover information from class lecture & discussion. Quiz will not be cumulative. This quiz accounts for 10% of the final grade. Students should plan on taking the quiz on the date it is scheduled. Only in special circumstances will a make-up quiz be given.

### PAPER & PRESENTATION

Students will be required to prepare one Bible study (appropriate to a Wednesday Bible study or other small group in their church) on a topic or text of their choice related to the Johannine literature. The study should include careful attention to the content of the text(s), show critical thinking and interpretative work, and lead to some application in the life of the individual or congregation. In addition to turning the study in, each student will present an overview of their study to the class. The instructor will provide specific guidelines for presentation and grading.

## GRADE SCALE

This class uses the grading system outlined in the *Leland Center Student Handbook*.

Grade	Point Value
A	93-100
B	85-92
C	77-84
D	69-76
F	Below 69

## EVALUATION

Readings/quizzes.....	15%
Exam 1.....	20%
Exam 2 .....	20%
Epistle Quiz.....	10%
Bible Study/Presentation.....	20%
Class participation.....	15% (Pass/Fail)

## COURSE OUTLINE

<b><u>January 30:</u></b>	Course Introduction, The Gospel of John: Themes and Key Issues; Mini-Lecture: Reading the 4 Gospels Together Reading : Culpepper, Ch. 1-2 (pg. 13-41); Craddock 1-10
<b><u>February 6:</u></b>	Gospel of John 1-4 Mini-Lecture: What do we do with John the Baptist? Reading: Culpepper, Ch. 3a (pg. 42-48), 3c (pg. 54-61) & 6 (pg. 109-147)
<b><u>February 13:</u></b>	Gospel of John 5-8 Mini-Lecture: Miracles and the Supernatural Reading: Culpepper, 7a (pg. 148-174); Craddock 43-45
<b><u>February 20:</u></b>	Gospel of John 8-12 Mini-Lecture: Christian-Jewish Relations Reading: Culpepper, Ch. 4 (pg. 62-86) & 7b (pg. 174-196)
<b><u>February 27:</u></b>	Gospel of John 13-17 Mini-Lecture: The Lord's Supper & Footwashing Reading: Culpepper, Ch. 5 (pg. 87-105) & Ch. 8a (pg. 197-221); Craddock 533-534

- March 5:** Gospel of John 18-21  
Mini-Lecture: Retelling the Story of Good Friday and Easter  
Reading: Culpepper, Ch. 8b (pg. 221-250) & Ch. 10 (pg. 287-305);  
Craddock 101
- March 12:** Spring Break
- March 19:** Exam 1, Johannine Letters (1, 2, 3 John)  
Mini-Lecture: The Authority to Teach  
Reading: Culpepper, Ch. 3b (48-54) & Ch. 9 (251-283)
- March 26:** Johannine Letters Quiz  
Clearing the Board: Introduction to Apocalyptic Literature; Introduction  
to Revelation; Revelation 1  
Mini-Lecture: Teaching Conflicting Views  
Reading: Craddock 760-771
- April 2:** Revelation 2-4  
Mini-Lecture: The Spread of Christianity  
Reading: Craddock 771-781
- April 9:** Revelation 5-9  
Mini-Lecture: Visions and Prophecy  
Reading: Craddock 781-785, 788-793, 542
- April 16:** Revelation 10-13  
Mini-Lecture: Talking about Supernatural Events in the Local Church  
Reading: Craddock 793-803, 127-129
- April 23:** Revelation 14-16  
Mini-Lecture: Dealing with Violent Images in Scripture  
Reading: Craddock 785-788, 803-807
- April 30:** Revelation 17-19  
Mini-Lecture: The Church and Culture  
Reading: Craddock 807-812
- May 7:** Revelation 20-22  
Mini-Lecture: Teaching Revelation Today  
Present Bible Studies  
Reading: Craddock 812-819
- May 14:** Final Exam  
Class Party