

Syllabus for
GBIB 625-48—Gospel and Letters of John
3 Credit hours
May 6-10, 2013

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An exegetical study of the Gospel and Epistles of John. The study explicates the literary and theological themes related to these books. Key historical issues, such as authorship, date, and community, are also investigated.

II. COURSE GOALS

This course is designed to help the student do the following:

- A. Understand the proposed religious and cultural influences on the author in the composition of the Gospel and Epistles in their contexts.
- B. Understand various interpretations of the texts and formulate a sound, coherent personal interpretation.
- C. Study the major theological issues and themes in the texts, particularly in relationship to the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit.
- D. Appreciate the depth of spiritual insight and literary skill contained in the texts.
- E. Describe the Christian community with which the beloved disciple was related.
- F. Apply the spiritual truths of John's Gospel and Epistles to the life of the individual and church in the context of ministry to the world.

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- A. List and explain the background factors pertinent to the study of the Gospel and Epistles of John.
- B. Recite the central events, movements, and topics contained in the books.
- C. Discuss the pericopae in the texts in light of various interpretations, with the awareness of the Spirit's role in sound interpretation.
- D. Explain the major theological themes of the texts.
- E. Compare and contrast theological themes in the Gospel and Epistles.
- F. Explain the correlation between the themes and issues in Johannine literature and similar themes and issues in the greater context of church and society today.

IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

A. Required Materials

1. Textbooks

Burge, Gary M. *John*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000. ISBN: 0310497507

Smith, D. Moody. *First, Second, and Third John*. Louisville: John Knox Press, 1991. ISBN: 0804231478

2. Other

None

B. Optional Materials

1. Textbooks

None

2.

2. Other

None

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. **University Policies and Procedures**

1. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating involve both lying and stealing and are violations of ORU's Honor Code: "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments." Plagiarism is usually defined as copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structure and submitting them as one's own. Other forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following:

- a. Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;
- b. Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while claiming to have done so;
- c. Failing to cite sources used in a paper;
- d. Creating results for experiments, observations, interviews, or projects that were not done;
- e. Receiving or giving unauthorized help on assignments.

By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means. Penalties for any of the above infractions may result in disciplinary action including failing the assignment or failing the course or expulsion from the University, as determined by department and University guidelines.

2. Students are to be in compliance with University, school, and departmental policies regarding Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should

consult the WPA handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.

- a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an ePortfolio artifact is a zero for that assignment.
- b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.

B. Graduate School of Theology Policies and Procedures—Modular Programs

1. Each module, usually held in the CityPlex Towers on the 21st floor, has sessions Monday-Thursday from 8:30 a.m.- 5:30 p.m., and Friday from 8:30am to 1:30pm. Students are to make travel arrangements that do not interfere with their involvement in all of these sessions and confirm course location prior to arrival.
2. To remain enrolled, **students must upload all pre-course assignments to D2L dropbox 15 days prior (April 22, 2013) to the first day of the course.** Each overdue assignment will be penalized 10 % for **EACH WEEK** it is late. After the third week no credit will be given for the assignment.
3. Following a modular course, the student is to do the following:
 - a. Upload all post-course assignments within one month (**June 10, 2013**) of the final day of class. Each overdue assignment will be penalized 10 % for **EACH WEEK** it is late. After the third week no credit will be given for the assignment.
 - b. Both pre-course and post-course assignments are to be put in the designated D2L drop box for the course.
4. Attendance
 - a. Students are to attend all sessions during the modular course week.
 - b. All absences, late arrivals, and early departures receive a grade reduction equal to 2.5% for each classroom hour missed and **must be approved by the Modular Director.**
5. The Disability Service Center, in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, assures that no qualified individual with a disability will be denied reasonable accommodations based upon the individual's needs. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the Disability Service Center and properly register for these services. For more information, call 918.495.7018 or go to www.studentresources.oru.edu.
6. Faculty
Dr. Edward Watson
ewatson@oru.edu
(918) 495-7098

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures
 - a. Grading Procedure

Pre-course paper	20%
In-course presentations	30%
Post-course Research Paper	40%
Participation	10%
 - b. Grading scale:
A = 90-100%
B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%
D =60-69%
F = Below 59%

2. Whole Person Assessment Requirements
 - a. All students entering the seminary are required to enroll in PRF 059 – ePortfolio: Whole Person Assessment, which provides specific training to develop the skills needed to create an ePortfolio.
 - b. WPA requirements for this course
None.

3. Course Requirements
 - a. **Pre-course Assignment:** Complete a short Research Paper (4-5 pages) that describes the life situation (*sitz im leben*) of the Johannine Community as found in the epistles of John. Use examples from the epistles to describe the differences between the opponents' Christology and ethics and that of the true believers in the author's eyes. Be Specific.

 - b. **In-course Assignment:** Each student will choose two particular pericopae in John's Gospel from the list below. Each student is to research each of their two pericopae prior to coming to class and will be responsible for presenting his or her findings in the class orally (5-7 minutes) as an introduction when the class arrives at their chosen pericope. The student will need to be ready when his or her day arrives. Note that the professor hopes to average six chapters of Gospel study a day in the class beginning on Tuesday.
Each student will also provide a 1-2 page handout for the class at the time of their presentation. Each presentation should inform the class as to the pericope's historical context, literary context, relationship with the synoptic parallels (if any), major points in the pericope, and its modern application (Each of these aspects will be easily covered in the assigned commentary). Obviously, some of these designations will apply to some pericopae better than others (e.g., some pericopae will have no synoptic parallels). The student will need to make such adjustments where necessary. **Your choices must be approved by the professor and will be given on a first come first serve basis. Please email your professor with your two choices for approval by April 1, 2013.**

 - c. **Post-course Assignment:** As a take home final, complete a Research Paper (12 pages **in length using at least 6 sources other than your textbook**) examining a particular pericope in the Gospel of John. The paper can be expanded from one of the student's precourse/incourse assignments and should inform as to the pericope's historical context, literary context, relationship with the synoptic parallels, major points in the pericope, and its modern application. Obviously, some of these designations will apply to some pericopae better than others. The student will need to make such adjustments where necessary.

- d. Pericope/Paper Topics for Johannine Literature
1. The Witness of John (1:19-51)
 2. The Sign at Cana (2:1-12)
 3. The Cleansing of the Temple (2:13-25)
 4. Nicodemus (3:1-21)
 5. The Witness of John (part 2) (3:22-36)
 6. The Samaritan Woman (4:1-42)
 7. The Officer's Son (4:43-54)
 8. Sign and Controversy on the Sabbath Day (5:1-18)
 9. Jesus and the Father (5:19-47)
 10. The Feeding of the Five Thousand (6:1-21)
 11. Bread from Heaven (6:22-71)
 12. Controversy in Jerusalem (7:1-52)
 13. An additional excursus on The Woman taken in Adultery (7:53-8-11)
 14. Who is Jesus? (part 1) (8:12-59)
 15. The Man Born Blind: Judgment at Work (9:1-41)
 16. The Good Shepherd (10:1-21)
 17. Who is Jesus? (part 2) (10:22-42)
 18. Lazarus: A Paradigm of Death and Life (11:1-54)
 19. The Anointing (11:55-12:11)
 20. Jesus Enters Jerusalem, conclusion of his public ministry (12:12-50)
 21. The Foot washing (13:1-20)
 22. The Betrayal of Judas (13:21-30)
 23. Jesus' Departure and Provision (13:31-14:31)
 24. The True Vine (15:1-17)
 25. The Hatred of the World (15:18-27)
 26. The Judgment of the World (16:1-15)
 27. The Future, Distant and Immediate (16:16-33)
 28. The Prayer of Jesus (17:1-26)

29. The Arrest of Jesus (18:1-11)
30. The Jewish Trial: Peter's Denial (18:12-27)
31. Jesus, Pilate, and the Jews (18:28-19:16)
32. The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus (19:17-30)
33. The Burial of Jesus (19:31-42)
34. The Empty Tomb and the First Resurrection Appearance (20:1-18)
35. Jesus appears to the Eleven: Conclusion (20:19-31)
36. The Appendix. I. The Appearance of Jesus by the Lake (21:1-14)
37. The Appendix. II. Jesus, Peter, and the Beloved Disciple (21:15-25)

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

Day #	Classroom	Assignment
1	Class and course introduction Introduction to epistles of John; Prologue: 1 John 1:1-4 Warning against sin: 1 John 1:5-2:17; Warning against false spirits: 1 John 2:18-4:6 Exhortation towards love and faith: 1 John 4:7-5:21; 2 John; 3 John Introduction to John Prologue	Syllabus Parallel reading in Smith, <i>1-3 John</i> Parallel reading in Burge, <i>John</i>
2	The witness of John the Baptist: John 1:1-34 Call of disciples and first sign: John 1:35-2:12 First Passover: John 2:13-3:35 The Samaritans and second sign: John 4:1-54 Second Passover and third sign: John 5:1-47 Ministry in Galilee and fourth sign: John 6:1-71	
3	Feast of Tabernacles: John 7:1-52 Confrontation with the Pharisees: John 7:53-8:59 Healing of blind man/fifth sign: John 9:1-41 Shepherd and the flock: John 10:1-42; Raising of Lazarus/sixth sign: John 11:1-54 Third Passover: John 11:55-12:50;	
4	Last supper: John 13:1-38 Upper room discourse, Pt. 1: John 14; Upper room discourse, Pt. 2: John 15; Upper room discourse, Pt. 3: John 16 Prayer of consecration: John 17; Arrest and Peter's denials: John 18;	
5	Crucifixion and burial: John 19 Resurrection: John 20; Epilogue: John 21	

**Inventory for Student Learning Outcomes
Graduate School of Theology and Ministry**

Master of Divinity

GBIB 625-48 Gospel & Letters of John

Dr. Edward Watson, Instructor

Summer 2013

This course contributes to student learning outcomes for the Master of Divinity degree as indicated below:

Significant Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

Moderate Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

Minimal Contribution – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

No Contribution – Does not address the outcome.

Degree Program Outcomes	Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
Scripture in Cultural/Historical Context				
Articulate a foundational knowledge of the content of Scripture within its cultural and historical context with application to selected contemporary situations.	X			
Exegetical Tools to Translate/Analyze Biblical Text				
Interpret the biblical writings in the Greek and/or Hebrew languages using critical exegetical tools, and write a hermeneutical and exegetical paper.		X		
Knowledge of Christianity				
Present a basic knowledge of the key movements and figures together with their significance in the history of Christianity.			X	
Knowledge of Christian Theology/Doctrine				
Exhibit a basic knowledge of contents and methods of Christian theology.		X		
Biblical/Theological Basis for Ministry Strategies				
Present practical ministry skills and strategies.			X	
Christian Ethics for Social Issues				
Analyze and discuss contemporary social issues affecting the Church and society based upon biblical, theological, and ethical principles.			X	
Theology and Theory of Ministry				
Develop and articulate a theology and theory of ministry that is relevant to the student's background and calling.		X		
Skills for Contemporary Ministry				
Demonstrate skills for contemporary ministry within a variety of traditions, churches, and cross-cultural contexts.			X	