

EXEGESIS OF THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

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January Term 2008

Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary
Louisville, Kentucky

The main purpose of this course is to read the text of the Gospel according to John carefully and with discernment. While a direct encounter with the text of the Gospel will set the itinerary for our work, we will explore critical issues in the interpretation of John along the way. In addition to basic matters of historical-critical understanding of the text, we will reflect upon theological issues as these arise from our encounter with the Gospel.

Course Requirements

1. Regular attendance and participation.
2. A reflection paper — due January 9.

Read John at least four times in different translations from the one that you normally read. Try the New Jerusalem Bible, Today's New International Version, the Revised English Bible, the New Revised Standard Version, the New American Standard, the New King James Version — or one of the many other translations. Avoid paraphrases and by all means avoid so-called "study Bibles" with the prepackaged outlines and superimposed themes.

Having done your reading of the Gospel, write a letter to an imaginary friend and, in it, summarize and explain the major themes of the Gospel with regard to theology, Christology, pneumatology, the relationship between the Father and the Son, love, belief/faith/believing, eternal life, Jesus' glory, Jesus' hour, "the Jews" (and any other theological topic or theme that appears important to you from your study of John).

At most your letter should be 2000 words (in at least a 12-point font).

3. Read Francis J. Moloney, *The Gospel of John*. Sacra Pagina 4. Collegeville, MN: Michael Glazier/Liturgical Press, 1998. This book is to be read during the preparation days, January 3-4, 7-8, before the intensive class sessions begin on January 9.
4. Finally, each student will write a 10-15 page (3000-4500 words) paper on a passage or a topic of interest to the student. For matters of form consult K. L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 7th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007.
Due: January 22.

Grading

1. The reflection paper counts for 30% of the grade for the course.
2. Attendance and preparation for the class, as indicated by cogent participation in the sessions count for 20% of the course credit. Participation is not merely talking, but saying something germane that reveals careful preparation and engagement with the text and assignments.
3. The final paper will account for 50% of the course credit.

Books for the Course

Each student is required to have and read the appropriate materials in the following:

1. A New Testament – any contemporary translation will do.
2. Francis J. Moloney, *The Gospel of John*. Sacra Pagina 4. Collegeville, MN: Michael Glazier/Liturgical Press, 1998.

* In addition to these books there are several other, important and helpful volumes pertaining to John available in the bookstore, particularly R. E. Brown and F. J. Moloney, *An Introduction to the Gospel of John*. Anchor Bible Reference Library. New York: Doubleday, 2003.

SCHEDULE

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| January 3-4, 7-8 | Introduction to the Course — Preparation days: Read John, Moloney, and write reflection paper |
| January 9 | Introductory Matters for Reading and Interpreting John Jesus attends a wedding and cleanses the Temple (2:1-25) |
| January 10 | Jesus encounters Nicodemus (3:1-21) [the Samaritan woman (4:1-42)] Jesus feeds a multitude, walks on water, and engages in controversy with his critics (6:1-71) |

- January 11 **Jesus heals a blind-born man on the Sabbath (9:1-41)**
Jesus raises Lazarus (11:1-44)
- January 14 **Jesus washes the feet of his disciples (13:1-20)**
Jesus makes his farewell address (13:31-16:33)
- January 15 **Jesus' Passion (18:1-19:42)**
Jesus' resurrection and final appearance to his disciples (20:1-21:25)
- Final Requirements**
- January 22 **Final Paper Due (by 5:00 p.m. via Campus Mail)**