

(subject to minor amendments prior to beginning of term)

Dr. Nick Meyer | nmeyer5@uwo.ca

Tuesdays 7:00-10:00pm | Rm 144

## A. Course Description

An introduction to the Johannine Corpus in the New Testament—with particular focus on the Gospel of John. The course pays special attention to the theological content of this literature, its appropriation of the Jewish scriptural tradition, and the question of whether it indeed forms a distinct body of literature within the NT. While the methodology is primarily literary-historical, the questions are often hermeneutical, theological, and pastoral.

## B. Course Goals

This course will assist students to grow in the following knowledge, skills, and attitudes:

### Knowledge

- deep acquaintance with the varied themes, concerns, and theological contributions of the Johannine Literature
- appreciation for the importance of the Johannine tradition in the Church's theological tradition
- familiarity with the methods of study and on-going discussions taking place in critical scholarship regarding the Johannine Literature

### Skills

- ability to read the Johannine literature well as Christian Scripture, which requires:
  - attention to the plain sense of the text as recovered through close reading and historical investigation
  - attention to its appropriation of Scriptural symbols and tradition
  - attention to the theological substance of the text and its reception in the Church
  - ability to make effective use of this literature both in the promotion of the gospel and in the building up of the saints

### Attitudes

- the cultivation of a generous Catholic approach to the study and interpretation of Scripture, that is, one which is guided by the major Church documents on scriptural interpretation and the Living Tradition of the Church and one which is informed by ecumenical biblical scholarship

the cultivation of a love of Scripture which is consonant with the fundamental command articulated by Jesus in the Gospels, to love God and neighbour

## C. Required Resources

*For purchase*

Martin, Francis, and Willam M. Wright, IV. *The Gospel of John*. Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2015.

Available as a hard copy through the usual sellers; online through Western Library; and as an e-book through Verbum Bible Software and elsewhere.

### *Online*

Several article by biblical scholar Sr. Mary Coloe will be assigned as readings for the Gospel of John. These articles are all available at her website: [www.marycoloe.org.au](http://www.marycoloe.org.au)

Bauckham, Richard. "Revelation." In *The Oxford Bible Commentary* [[Electronic Resource](#)], edited by John Barton and John Muddiman, 1287–1306. Oxford; Oxford University Press, 2001

•

## **D. Course Assessment**

### 1. Participation: 10%

Active participation in class is essential for all students.

### 2. Pop Quizzes: 25%

Five pop quizzes will be written during the term. These will focus on the content of the scriptural text and secondary readings assigned for that week, but they may also test your retention of portions of the Gospel discussed during earlier weeks (e.g., in Week 5, although we cover John chs. 7-9, I could ask where the story of the Wedding at Cana is found—i.e., chapter 2).

### 3. Written Assignment: Johannine Themes & Discourses, 30%

Choose one of the major Johannine discourses or a significant Johannine theme and write a detailed commentary on it. Your commentary should demonstrate an awareness of the Jewish traditional and scriptural context and resonances of the passage, connections with the broader context of the Gospel itself, as well as something of the history of interpretation. For the latter point, you may simply consult the commentaries or homilies of Origen, Augustine, or Aquinas on the passages under discussion.

You should consult a variety of scholarly and traditional sources, including critical commentaries and technical introductions to the New Testament. Length 2500-3000 words

Due: February 19<sup>th</sup> at noon.

### 4. Written Assignment: 1 John and the Johannine Literature, 15%

Write an introduction to the letters of 1-3 John that describes their basic content and focuses on their relationship to the broader Johannine literature, especially the Gospel of John. What themes/vocabulary unite this literature and set it apart from the rest of the NT (whether for uniqueness or frequency)? Are there distinctive themes that set off the letters from the

Gospel or vice versa? Can a community be discerned behind these writings; if so, how, and does it look the same in the letters and the Gospel? How do you view the authorship of these letters? What difference does it make? What are their major theological and pastoral emphases?

In addition to your study Bible, find relevant discussion of these questions in at least two technical commentaries and/or dictionaries. Length 1500 words. Due March 5th

#### 5. Final Written Assignment: Problems of the Johannine Corpus, 20%

Discuss two of these three issues: 1) How and why is the Gospel of John so different from the Synoptic Gospels? 2) Elucidate the connections and differences between the book of Revelation and the Gospel of John which are pertinent to the question of authorship 3) How is the book of Revelation still important today?

Due: April 9th

### E. Course Schedule

1. January 9	Intro; Authorship; Audience; Corpus	Mary Coloe, "Introduction to the Johannine Literature" (available on OWL) CCSS, <i>John</i> , pp. 15-26
2. January 16	Gospel of John: Chs. 1-3	CCSS, <i>John</i> , pp. 30-79 Scan: Mary Coloe, " <a href="#">The Johannine Pentecost: John 1:19-2:12</a> ," <i>Australian Biblical Review</i> 55 (2007) 41-56.
3. January 23	GJ: Chs. 4-6	CCSS, <i>John</i> , pp. 80-134
4. January 30	GJ: Chs. 7-9	CCSS, <i>John</i> , pp. 135-185
5. February 6	GJ: Chs. 10-12	CCSS, <i>John</i> , pp. 186-231
6. February 13	GJ: Chs. 13-17	CCSS, <i>John</i> , pp. 232-288 Scan: Mary Coloe, " <a href="#">Temple Imagery in John</a> ," <i>Interpretation</i> 63 (2009): 368-81
Reading Week		
7. February 27	GJ: Chs. 18-19	CCSS, <i>John</i> , pp. 289-330 Mary Coloe, " <a href="#">The Garden as a New Creation in John</a> ," <i>The Bible Today</i> , 53 (2015): 159-164.
8. March 5	<i>Interlude: The Letters of "the Elder"</i>  1-3 John	See Written Assignment: 1 John and the Johannine Literature
9. March 12	GJ: Chs. 20-21	CCSS, <i>John</i> , pp. 331-358
10. March 19	Revelation: Background & Structure, chs. 1-5	Bauckham, "Revelation" in <i>The Oxford Bible Commentary</i> , pp. 1287-1293
11. March 26	Revelation: Scripture & Genre, chs. 6-16	Bauckham, "Revelation" in <i>The Oxford Bible Commentary</i> , pp. 1293-1300
12. April 2	Revelation: Theology, chs. 17-22	Bauckham, "Revelation" in <i>The Oxford Bible Commentary</i> , pp. 1300-1306