

ST. PETER'S SEMINARY / KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
at *The University of Western Ontario*
Winter 2017

BIBLSTUD 5202
Thursdays, 9:30-12:30
January 5, 2017 – April 6, 2017

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Office 229

Office hours: Thursdays 1-2pm or by appointment.

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

“This course encourages students to apply methods of interpretation learned in the introductory course, exploring the meaning of the text for the modern reader, and examination of the original setting, structure and content of each section of the gospel.” (from the *St. Peter's Seminary Academic Calendar*) (3 hours/week; antirequisites: the former Biblical Studies 238B and 201A.

In this course we will explore the historical context and narrative framework of the Gospel of John and the Johannine Letters.

B. GOALS

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

Knowledge:

1. Familiarity with the literary and theological distinctiveness of John's Gospel and of some of the major theories proposed to address it.
2. Familiarity with some reliable commentators and commentaries on the Gospel of John, which could be employed in future ministry.
3. Familiarity with the main themes and genres of literature found in the gospel of John and Johannine Letters.

Skills:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Articulate and employ the twin principles of Catholic biblical scholarship: exegesis and actualization, with respect to the corpus of Johannine Literature.
2. Identify and use the important tools and resources for the study of Scripture.
3. Research a passage of scripture using the abovementioned tools and resources in order to come to an understanding of the historical context of the passage.

4. To present written work in a coherent and thoughtful manner, and employing standard citation formats for referencing material.
5. To communicate exegetical material into a format accessible to the average lay parishioner in a ministry setting.

Attitudes:

1. A love for the Sacred Scripture as interpreted in the life and mission of the Church.
2. A open-minded willingness to explore new meanings within the Old and New Testaments by approaching scripture exegetically.
3. A respect for, and understanding of, the work of exegetes and other biblical scholars.
4. A desire to make appropriate use of Scripture and contemporary scholarship in the service of evangelization.

C. ASSESSMENT

Participation (15%): The following comprise your participation grade:

- a) **Attendance:** Weekly attendance is mandatory. Seminarians must provide a valid excuse for all absences (e.g., significant illness).
- b) **Participation:** Preparation for, and active and informed participation in class discussion is a major aspect of this component of your grade. This requires doing the assigned readings, and coming to class prepared and ready to discuss the topic of the day.

Since students interact with material in different ways, various kinds of participation will be noted towards your grade. For example, listening attentively, asking questions (even by email), and making comments are all good ways to demonstrate that you are thinking critically about the material. Participation marks are lost when it is clear that a student has not done the readings, and, though perhaps physically present, is not engaged with the material or class discussion. Participation marks are also lost when a student engages in disruptive or distracting behaviours (e.g. multiple interruptions, derailing the flow of discussion, 'hijacking' other students' comments, etc.)

Please note: Texting and all other forms of social networking are not appropriate during class time as they are distracting to the student, the instructor, and fellow classmates. Students who engage in these forms of socializing during class will be marked as absent.

1. **Discussion Facilitation (10%):** Beginning on Feb 2, 2017, students will be responsible for initiating the discussion for a portion of the class. Students will aim to "open up" the passage under investigation, by highlighting main themes and important concepts within it, and providing one or two discussion questions for the group to consider. A brief set written set of notes (can be point form) and bibliography will be submitted to the instructor.

2. **Exegetical Paper (25%):** 5 pages, exploring a specific passage in the Gospel of John. You will aim for a close, historical-critical reading of your chosen pericope, discussing significant words, themes, and contextual elements within the passage. Due on March 2, 2017.
3. **Actualization Paper (25%):** 7 pages. This must be on a different topic or passage than your Exegetical Paper. This paper will begin with an exegetically-grounded exploration of a passage or theme in the Gospel of John, and culminate in a theologically integrative application to a contemporary pastoral situation of your choosing. Due on April 6, 2017.
4. **Final Exam (25%):** A written, in-class final exam. Date to be determined by the Dean of Theology.

D. READINGS OR TEXTBOOKS

- A. Students are required to have the following resources:
1. A contemporary study bible with explanatory notes and essays. The New Revised Standard Version (preferred) or the New American Bible are appropriate. Two editions that are particularly useful are:

The New Oxford Annotated Bible: New Revised Standard Version with the Apocrypha. Fully Revised Fourth Edition, Michael D. Coogan, editor (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010).

The HarperCollins Study Bible Revised Edition NRSV. Society of Biblical Literature. New York: HarperCollins, 2006.

2. Francis Martin and William M. Wright IV. *The Gospel of John.* Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2015.
3. Periodically, additional reading materials may be supplied via OWL to support weekly topics.

E. SCHEDULE, TOPICS & READINGS

**Please note that the following schedule may be subject to fluctuation*

This will be distributed on the first day of class.

F. UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.”

Students are responsible for knowing the University’s academic policies and regulations and any particularities of their own course of study. Ignorance of these policies is not an excuse for any violation thereof. The following policies are particularly important to note:

Submission of Assignments: It is the responsibility of the student to organize his or her work so that the assignments are completed on time. A penalty of 10% of the value of the assignment will be deducted for each day it is overdue without permission.

Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt by quotation marks and/or footnotes. Plagiarism is a major academic offense. Students may be required to submit their work in electronic form for plagiarism checking.

Selection and Registration of Courses: Students are responsible for ensuring that their selection of courses is appropriate and accurately recorded, that all prerequisite course(s) have been successfully completed, and that they are aware of any anti-requisite course(s) that they have taken.

Support Services

Students who are in emotional/mental health distress should refer to Mental Health@Western:

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

University Students Council provides many valuable support services for students (including the health insurance plan) <http://westernusc.ca/services/>.

Information about Counselling and Student Development, including Services for Students with Disabilities at King’s is available at

<http://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/who-we-are/administrative-departments/dean-of-students/>

For emotional/mental health assistance see specifically:

<http://www.kings.uwo.ca/currentstudents/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

The web site for Academic Services at King's University College is

<http://www.kings.uwo.ca/currentstudents/academic-support/>

These services are not meant to replace those offered at the Seminary, but may be beneficial to our students after consultation with the appropriate instructors, administrators, and formators.

G. SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brown, Raymond E. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. The Anchor Bible Reference Library. New York, London, Toronto, Sydney, Auckland: Doubleday, 1997.

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

Kelly, Anthony J. and Francis J. Moloney. *Experiencing God in the Gospel of John*. Mahwah, NJ. Paulist Press, 2003.

Kysar, Robert. *John, the Maverick Gospel*. Third Edition. Louisville and London: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007.

Lewis, Scott M. *The Gospel According to John and the Johannine Letters*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2005.

Moloney, Francis J. *The Gospel of John*. Sacra Pagina 4. Collegeville, MN: A Michael Glazier Book, The Liturgical Press, 1998.

Schneiders, Sandra M. *Written That You May Believe: Encountering Jesus in the Fourth Gospel*. Revised and Expanded Edition. Crossroad Publishing Company: Herder and Herder, 2003.

Vanier, Jean. *The Gospel of John, The Gospel of Relationship*. Cincinnati, OH: Franciscan Media, 2015.