

NAME & CONTACT INFORMATION

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GOSPEL OF JOHN ISP-NTX640

SUMMER, 2024

JULY 15 – 19, 9AM – 12PM PST

PURPOSE

This course is a study of the Gospel of John on the basis of the English text. The Gospel's characteristics, themes, theology, portrayal of Jesus, and literary context will be discussed.

PREREQUISITES

N/A

COMPETENCE OBJECTIVES

- Gain confidence in reading and understanding the Gospel of John
- Understand the main themes of the gospel of John
- Engage in and present in written form a responsible exegesis and Indigenous engagement with a passage of John
- Engage in a spiritual and theological reflection on a passage of John

FORMAT AND CONTENT

The course will run from Monday to Friday, July 15–19, from 9-12 (PST), constituting 15 hours of class time. There are two required textbooks that will be read for the course, 3 reflection assignments, and one major research paper.

TEXTS

Skinner, Christopher W. *Reading John*. Cascade Companions. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2015. [Amazon](#)

Clark-Soles, Jaime. *Reading John for Dear Life: A Spiritual Walk With The Fourth Gospel*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2016. [Amazon](#)

RESERVES

TBD

COURSE POLICIES

1. **Attendance** For a weekly course, VST requires at least 80% attendance. For an intensive course, VST requires 100% attendance.
2. **Reading and assignments** Students are expected to read all required assignments before class and to complete all assignments as outlined in the syllabus within the specified dates of the course and term.
3. **Academic honesty** Students are expected to adhere to VST's requirements for academic honesty as published in the Student Handbook.
4. **Inclusive language** In speaking and writing, inclusive language is expected when making reference to humans and a variety of metaphors are anticipated when making reference to God.
5. **Assignment and Course Evaluation**
 - Course evaluations at VST combine a letter grade system (A+ to B-; course failure is "Not Approved") including narrative comments based on the competencies of the course. No number grades or weights of assignments are calculated, nor are final grades given numerical equivalents.
 - Individual assignments within a course are given narrative evaluations, that is, APP (Approved) or INC (Incomplete) with narrative comments, based on the competencies and expectations set for that assignment. One re-write is allowed on any assignment that is INC. The re-written assignment is due two weeks after the work is returned. The final evaluation for an assignment can be APP or NAPP after a re-write.
6. **Late assignments**

Submission of assignments on time is a part of academic, professional

and pastoral competence and a part of every course at VST. All assignments in courses are due on the dates specified in the syllabus. Failure to submit an assignment on time will be noted in the narrative evaluation of an assignment. Repeated failure to submit assignments on time may affect the final grade for the course.

7. Limitation on use of social media

Ordinarily, the use of electronic devices in the contexts of classrooms or meetings will be to support the learning, formation, or agenda at hand. Please do your utmost to stay engaged during our time together on Zoom.

8. VST is committed to creating safe space and an inclusive learning environment. If you have a diagnosed or suspected learning disability, chronic condition, mental health concern, or physical requirement which you anticipate may impact your participation in this class, you are encouraged to discuss your needs with the instructor and the Dean within the first week of classes.

CALENDAR

July 15

- Introduction to the course
- Introduction to the Gospel of John

July 16

- John 1–3

July 17

- John 4–12

July 18

- John 13–18

July 19

- John 19–21

EXPECTATIONS, ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATIVE CRITERIA

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|--|------------|------------|
| 1. Read through the Gospel of John
11
<i>Read through the Gospel of John in one sitting</i> | 5% | JUL |
| 2. Complete reading of Clark-Soles and Skinner textbooks
AUG 5 | 15% | |
| 3. Passage 1 Reflection
10
<i>In 750–1,000 words, write a personal reflection* on a particular passage in conversation with the textbooks and your local context and Indigenous worldview.</i> | 15% | AUG |
| 4. Passage 2 Reflection
20
<i>In 750–1,000 words, write a personal reflection on a particular passage in conversation with the textbooks and your local context and Indigenous worldview.</i> | 15% | AUG |
| 5. Passage 3 Reflection
30
<i>In 750–1,000 words, write a personal reflection a particular passage in conversation with the textbooks and your local context and Indigenous worldview.</i> | 15% | AUG |
| 6. Research Paper
30
<i>Submit a formal research paper of 8–9 pages on a passage of your choice from Acts. Be sure to use VST's recommended formatting for citations. The bibliography for your paper should consist of 2–3 academic commentaries and 4–7 journal articles, essays, or monographs, and your two textbooks.</i> | 35% | SEP |

* A personal reflection essay should connect your learning from the assigned prior readings to your life experience. The learning should be significant and relevant, and statements should be based on evidence and supported with examples. Include points on why and how your attitudes and behaviours may be changed, and consider also how your character and skills may be affected. And of course it should be well written.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PASSAGES CHOSEN SHOULD BE DIFFERENT FOR ASSIGNMENTS 3 THROUGH 6.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

JOHN

The following list is a basic bibliography of introductory sources for the study of Acts.

- Anderson, Paul N. *The Fourth Gospel and the Quest for Jesus: Modern Foundations Reconsidered*. 321. London: Bloomsbury, 2006.
- ———. *Christology of the Fourth Gospel: its Unity and Disunity in the Light of John 6*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2010.
- ———. *The Riddles of the Fourth Gospel: an Introduction to John*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2011.
- Bauckham, Richard and Carl Mosser. *The Gospel of John and Christian Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008.
- Burge, Gary M. *Interpreting the Gospel of John: A Practical Guide*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2013.
- Hoskins, Paul M. *Jesus as the Fulfillment of the Temple in the Gospel of John*. Paternoster Biblical Monographs. Milton Keynes, UK: Paternoster, 2006.
- Keener, Craig S. *The Gospel of John: a Commentary*. 2 vols. Peabody: Hendrickson, 2003.
- Koester, Craig R. *Symbolism in the Fourth Gospel: Meaning, Mystery, Community*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003.
- Köstenberger, Andreas J. *A theology of John's Gospel and Letters*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009.
- Martyn, J. Louis. *History and Theology in the Fourth Gospel*. 3rd ed. The New Testament library. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2003.
- Newbigin, Lesslie. *The Light Has Come: An Exposition Of The Fourth Gospel*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982.
- Porter, Stanley E. and Ron C. Fay, eds. *The Gospel of John in Modern Interpretation*. Milestones in New Testament Scholarship. Kregel Academic, 2018.
- Reeder, Caryn A. *The Samaritan Woman's Story: Reconsidering John 4 After #Churchtoo*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2022.
- Smalley, Stephen S. *John: Evangelist & Interpreter*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1998.

COMMENTARIES FROM THE NON-WESTERN PERSPECTIVE

Despite the fact that most of Christianity now resides in the majority world, the bulk of biblical scholarship is still created by western scholars (residing primarily in Europe and North America). While western scholarship is an incredible wealth of information, we often risk primarily listening to and dialoguing with western, largely male, scholarship. Consulting with these other voices will help you to engage with the diverse range of voices in biblical scholarship.

- The Asia Bible Commentary Series. Currently 6 volumes for the New Testament. [Amazon](#) [Logos](#)
- Segovia, Fernando F., and Rasiah S. Sugirtharajah. 2009. *A Postcolonial Commentary on the New Testament Writings*. Vol. 13. Bloomsbury. [Amazon](#)
- Adeyemo, Tokunboh. 2006. *Africa Bible Commentary*. Nairobi, Kenya: WordAlive. [Amazon](#) [Logos](#)
- Newsom, Carol A, Sharon H Ringe, and Jacqueline E. Lapsley, eds. *The Women's Bible Commentary*. Westminster John Knox Press. revised edition. 2012. [Amazon](#) [Logos](#)
- Brian K. Blount, CH Felder, CJ Martin, and EB Powery, eds. *True to Our Native Land: an African American New Testament Commentary* (Fortress Press, 2007). [Amazon](#) [Logos](#)
- Wintle, B. (2015). *South Asia Bible Commentary*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan. [Amazon](#) [Logos](#)