**The Johannine Literature**

**Spring 2013, CHR 423**

**Jen 212**

# Dr. Ray Van Neste

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I. THE PURPOSE OF THIS COURSE

The course has been designed to increase your understanding and application of the gospel and letters of John. The course will focus more on the actual texts we actually have from John rather than on hypothetical reconstructions of John’s life or community.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. The student will grow in knowledge of the historical and conceptual setting of the Johannine Literature, including matters of authorship, genre, recipients, purpose, rhetorical style, and the background of the author's thought.
2. The student will learn more about the critical nature of the task of responsible biblical interpretation which includes grammatical, historical, contextual, theological, and practical aspects. Specifically that you learn to trace the flow of argument in paragraphs of John’s letters.
3. The student will grow in knowledge of the rich theology in John’s Gospel and letters, particularly their emphasis on Christology.
4. The student will grow in your ability to present legitimate practical applications based on the biblical text for the contemporary Christian.
5. That the Apostle John's writings become more deeply embedded in your life.

III. TEXTBOOKS

In addition to an English translation of the Bible you are required to use the following books:

Carson, D. A.. *The Gospel According to John*. Eerdmans, 1991.

Stott, John R. W. *The Letters of John*. Eerdmans, 1988.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Class Attendance

Regular class attendance is mandatory for you to get as much as possible out of this course. Missing excessive class time will be penalized as follows:

Misses Deduction from Final Grade

*3-4 hours 5 points*

*5-6 hours 10 points*

*7-8 hours 20 points*

*You cannot pass this class with more than 8 absences.*

*No student can receive credit for this class if he misses 12 or more class periods, whether or not those are excused. The content of the class occurs in class with the lecture and student interaction. If 12 or more classes are missed this simple cannot be made up.*

Bring written excuses for absences due to sickness, emergencies, etc. It is your responsibility to notify Dr. Van Neste in advance or immediately upon your return of the reason for your absence. The professor reserves the right to determine the validity of all non‑college approved absences. No absence will be excused without a written note given to the professor by the first date back to class.

**If you are late to class your tardiness is recorded, and three times late to class will be counted as an absence from class.**

You are expected to take exams at the times listed in the Course Schedule. STUDENTS WITHOUT A VALID EXCUSE WILL BE AWARDED A GRADE OF 0 ON THE EXAM MISSED. Students with a valid excuse will be permitted to arrange an alternate time to take the exam.

B. Reading

The purpose of the reading report is to ensure that students have completed the required reading for the course. **You must read the required material before the date mentioned in the course schedule below.** The reading report is to be handed in no later than the final exam. Those who do not hand in a reading report will receive an “F” for the class. The form to be used for the reading report will be handed out the first day of class. Pop quizzes may be given to encourage the reading.

C. Content Quizzes

On stated days a brief quiz will be given covering the factual content of the portions of the text. Questions will focus on people, places, key events, etc. The purpose of these quizzes is to encourage a thorough knowledge of the basic data of the text (without which all other discussion is futile).

D. Spiritual Journal, Reading Assignments

Each day the student must turn in a one page typed response to the reading of the assigned passage and commentary. Included should be exegetical, theological and application oriented reflections. Lastly, each assignment should conclude with at least one question for the class discussion. Due to the nature of these assignments, **late work will not be accepted** unless it is due to an excused absence.

E. Research Paper

You are required to write a 12‑15 page research paper on a passage from the gospel or letters of John.

*The paper must be 12-15 double-spaced pages in length and typed according to Turabian style and must include 25 sources, 5 of which must be journal articles.* Additional information will be provided the first week of class. The paper should be laid out in the following design:

* Introduction
* Opening Statement
* Important Questions Raised by the Passage
* Your objective for This Paper
* Historical Background Pertinent to This Passage
* The Impact of the Broader Literary Context
* \*\*Verse by Verse analysis (this section will represent the bulk of the paper)
* Your Paraphrase of the Passage
* The Importance of the Passage for Christian Living (Application)

**The paper topic must be chosen by the end of the second week. This paper should be approximately one quarter to one half page long, should be typed and double-spaced. All I require you to do is provide 1) your name; 2) the topic or passage; and 3) a brief explanation why the passage interests you.**

**Working OUTLINES and SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY must be submitted on March 1.**

**This paper is due April 26. To be deemed "on time" each assignment related to the paper must be submitted at the beginning of class on the day due. Each assignment submitted late will negatively affect the final grade in the following manner:**

*After class on the day due: ‑3 points*

One day late: ‑10 points

Two days late: ‑15 points

Three days late: ‑20 points

Four or more days late: score of "0"

If the paper is due on a Friday, papers turned in over the weekend will be considered one day late. Papers turned in on the following Monday will be considered two days late.

F. Exams

Due to the regular content quizzes and paper, there will only be one exam, the final, which will be comprehensive. One question will ask the student to give a thorough analysis of the manner in which the gospel of John substantiates the deity of Christ. The student will be expected to devote half of the exam time (1 hour) to this question.

G. Final Grade

Your final grade for the term will be determined as follows:

*Journal* 25%

*Content Quizzes* 15%

*Reading* 10%

*Research Paper* 25%

*Final Exam* 25%

H. Grading Scale ‑ letter grades will be given in accordance with Union's grading policy:

**A = 95‑100 B = 85‑94 C = 75‑84**

**D = 65‑74 F = below 65**

V. APPOINTMENTS WITH THE PROFESSOR

I am available to meet with you for any reason and want to help you in any way I can! If you need to meet with me, please make an appointment and pay attention to my weekly schedule posted on my door. My office is Jen. 326 and my office number is 661-5532. You can also reach me through e-mail at rvanneste@uu.edu. If you have an emergency or an immediate prayer need feel free to come by my office or call me at 664-9803.

My prayer is that we will grow in our knowledge of God's Word this term with the end that we will grow in the *practice* of His Word. I am looking forward to the adventure with you. Let's work hard and have a great time!

Johannine Literature

Spring 2013

MWF 9:00-9:50

Dr. Ray Van Neste

Assignment Sheet:

Assignments and readings are due on the day they are listed. For each scripture passage listed, read the entire commentary for that passage. Other readings may be assigned.

**Week 1**

January

30 Intro to the class

February

1 C. S. Lewis, “Modern Theology and Biblical Criticism” (provided)

**Week 2**

4 **Introduction to John**; Carson, “Introduction,” Read sections I and IV-IX; Skim sections II-III.

6 2 John

**Content Quiz (2-3 John)**

8 3 John

**Paper Topic Due**

**Week 3**

111 John 1:1-2:2

**Content Quiz (1 John)**

13 1 John 2:3-27

15 1John 2:28-34

**Week 4**

181 John 4:1-12

20 1 John 4:13-5:4a

22 1John 5:4b-21

**Week 5**

25 John 1:1-18

27 John 1:19-54

March

1 John 2

**Paper Outline & Bibliography Due**

**Week 6**

4 John 3

6 John 3 (cont.)

8 John 4

**Week 7**

11 John 4 (cont.)

13 John 5

15 John 6:1-21

**Week 8**

18 John 6:22-71

20 John 7:1-52

22 John 8:12-30

**Week 9**

**Spring Break March 25-29**

**Week 10**

April

**1 Easter Monday, No Classes**

3 John 8:31-59

5 John 9

**Week 11**

8 John 10

10 John 11:1-54

12 John 11:55-12:50

**Week 12**

15 John 13:1-30

17 John 13:31-14:31

19 John 15:1-16:4a

**Week 13**

22 John 16:4b-33

24 John 17

26 John 17 (cont.)

**PAPER DUE!!**

**Week 14**

29 John 18

May

1John 18 (Cont.)

3 John 19

**Week 15**

6 John 20

8 John 21

10 Review, Summary, Wrap-up

**Week 16**

**FINAL EXAM**