



Nazarene Theological Seminary

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NTL654 — The Gospel of John Module
Fall 2011

Essential Information

Please refer to the following resources for information essential for the successful completion of courses and degree programs at Nazarene Theological Seminary. Links to these resources are available in the Essential Information section at

<http://support.nts.edu>.

- NTS Mission Statement & Purpose Degree Objectives
- Tips for online learning success
- NTS library services
- NTS textbook information
- Online technical requirements and Moodle support information
- NTS Student Handbook including statements on quality of work, plagiarism, and academic probation
- *Handbook for Inclusive Language*

Instructor Information

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Office Hours: MWF 1:30-4:00 or by
appointment

Catalog Description

A study of representative sections of the Gospel of John so as to disclose the evangelist's method and message.

Course Narrative & Rationale

The faculty of NTS views the Bible as foundational, informing all the life of the church. We believe this view accords with historic Christianity, as well as with the direction of God found in the Bible itself. This current course/module is conceptualized within that broad ecclesial framework.

The Gospel of John presents a unique portrayal of the ministry and person of Jesus in comparison to that found in the other NT Gospels. Its differences from as well as similarities to the other three have engaged the interest of interpreters throughout Christian history. Within recent decades scholarly attention to John's gospel reached an all-time high. Even a brief survey of current biblical studies bibliographies will reveal the exponential growth in research and publishing focused on the Fourth Gospel. This course / module will place the reading of the Gospel of John within this scholarly frame of reference.

Degree Objectives

The Master of Divinity degree at NTS has the overall objective of "a deepening knowledge of the Triune God of Christian faith as the God whose character is holy love, revealed to us definitively as Incarnate in Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit." This overarching goal will be realized through the accomplishing of specific objectives, one of which is: "The articulation of the knowledge of this God through prayerful, scholarly study and a deepening understanding of the Christian Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments." The current course intends to provide ways in which this deeper understanding of Christian Scripture will be brought about.

Course Outcomes (see also Course Outline)

The passing learner will have demonstrated the:

1. Ability to identify the literary structure (CN8), the genre and the basic thrust of the narrative of the Gospel of John (CN9).
2. Ability to summarize the significant events of the ministry of Jesus as presented in the Gospel of John (CN 10).
3. Ability to identify significant elements of the message of Jesus as presented in the Gospel of John (CN11).
4. Ability to identify and describe the major theological concepts of the Gospel of John (CN14).
5. Ability to identify the steps of historical, literary and theological exegesis (CN16) and the ability to do effective exegesis of passages from the Gospel of John (CN17).

Church of the Nazarene COSAC Competencies

See notations listed along with the Course Outcomes above.

Required Texts & Course Materials

Ben Witherington, III. *John's Wisdom: A Commentary on the Fourth Gospel*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1995. ISBN – 978-0-644-25621-X (paperback)

Sandra M. Schneiders. *Written That You May Believe: Encountering Jesus in the Fourth Gospel*. Revised and Expanded Edition. New York: Herder & Herder. The Crossroads Publishing Company, 2003. ISBN – 978-0-8245-1926-4 (paperback)

Warren Carter. *John: Storyteller, Interpreter, Evangelist*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2006. ISBN – 978-1-56563-523-X (paperback)

Recommended Texts & Course Materials

Raymond E. Brown. *An Introduction to the Gospel of John*. Edited by Francis J. Moloney.

New York: Doubleday, 2003. ISBN – 978-0-385-50722-4 (hardback)

Paul N. Anderson. *The Riddles of the Fourth Gospel: An Introduction to John*.

Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 2011. ISBN – 978-0-8006-0427-1 (paperback)

Jerome H. Neyrey. *The Gospel of John. The New Cambridge Bible Commentary*. New

York: Cambridge University Press, 2007. ISBN – 978-0-521-53521-2 (paperback)

Course Outline

- I. John and the World Within the Text – Literary Analysis
 - A. Genre and Plot
 - B. Characterization
 - C. Language and Style
- II. John and the World Behind the Text – Historical Analysis
 - A. Background, Setting, and Sources
 - B. Audience, Author, and Purpose
 - C.
- III. John and the World In Front of the Text – Theological Analysis
 - A. Christology
 - B. Revelation
 - C. Believing vs. Disobeying
 - D. Community of Disciples
 - E. Sacraments
 - F. Ethics
- IV. John and the World From the Text – Interpretation / Application
 - A. How One Reads: Individually or Communally
 - B. Spiritual and Social
 - C. Affirmation and Action
 - D. Exclusivist or Inclusivist
 - E. Sectarian or Transsectarian

Course Assignments & Requirements

PRE-MODULE ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Reading: (Weight of this assignment for course grade—15%.)
 - a) *Scripture*: Immediately at the start of the course in September, begin reading the *Gospel of John* in a modern translation of your choice. You are asked to read through it completely each week during Weeks 1, 2 & 3 of the pre-module part of the course. (A written activity and an online activity to accompany these readings are described below.) [Outcomes 1, 2, 3 – CN8, CN9, CN10, CN11].

- b) *Texts*: Carter's book *John: Storyteller, Interpreter, Evangelist* and the specific sections of Witherington's commentary *John's Wisdom* are to be read during Weeks 1, 2 & 3 of the pre-module part of the course. Schneider's book *Written That You May Believe* and Witherington's commentary *John's Wisdom* are to be read during Weeks 4, 5 & 6 of the pre-module part of the course. Note—Specific weekly assignments for these are described in the Course Schedule below. (A written activity and an online activity to accompany these reading are described below.) [Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 – CN8, CN9, CN10, CN11, CN14, CN16, CN17]
2. Writing: (Weight of this assignment for course grade—10%.)
- a) *Journal*: During each weekly reading of *Gospel of John* you are to take notes on different elements of the scripture text that stand out to you that week. Week 1—Note elements of the text that indicate the literary structure of the gospel. Also write your observations, comments, conclusions and questions drawn from the data identified. Total length: 2 full pages minimum. Week 2—Note elements of the text that indicate the narrative movement or development of the gospel. Also write your observations, comments, conclusions and questions drawn from the data identified, plus any important revisions to your comments from Week 1. Total length: 2 full pages minimum. Week 3—Note elements of the text that indicate significant themes of the message of Jesus in the gospel. Also write your observations, comments, conclusions and questions drawn from the data identified, plus any important revisions to your comments from Week 2. Total length: 2 full pages minimum. Note—You shall post each week's journal to the online discussion forum. A content score will be recorded for each week's written journal submission. [Outcomes 1, 2, 3 – CN8, CN9, CN10, CN11].
- b) *Textbook Discussion*: Each week you will write down key ideas, topics, and issues arising from your reading of the textbooks for the week. Give your own evaluation or critique of these items, along with insights and questions arising from your reading. You are welcome—indeed encouraged—to cite things on which you want to do more research. Total length: 4 full pages [2 for each textbook] minimum per week. All discussions will include clear citation of authors and page numbers being referenced. Note—You shall post each week's topics to the online discussion forum. A content score will be recorded for each week's textbook discussion submission. [Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 – CN8, CN9, CN10, CN11, CN14, CN16, CN17]
3. Online Forum: (Weight of this assignment for course grade—5%.)
- a) You will post your *Journal* writing assignments (above) on the appropriate online forum each week. They will be due by Saturday 12:00 midnight (USA Central Time Zone = Greenwich Mean Time -6). You will then have until the following Wednesday 12:00 midnight to read the postings of 1/3 of your

classmates each week, and to comment upon each one. [All course Outcomes covered.]

- b) You will post your textbook discussion writing assignments (above) on the appropriate online forum each week. They will be due by Saturday 12:00 midnight. These postings will serve two functions: i) to promote completing the reading prior to the Module; ii) to prompt you to write out and reflect on key issues as you engage in the reading. These postings will guide discussion of the Gospel of John during the Module week. They will be due by Saturday 12:00 midnight (USA Central Time Zone = Greenwich Mean Time -6). You will then have until the following Wednesday 12:00 midnight to read the postings of 1/3 of your classmates each week. [All course Outcomes covered.]

NOTE: The professor commits to responding to all forum postings or other Moodle communications within one week in most instances.

MODULE ASSIGNMENTS

Participation / Discussion: (Weight of this assignment for course grade – 30%)

During the Module week we will engage all of the work that you have read, thought through, and written in the preceding weeks. Alongside this there will be supplemental lectures, research, and other engagement. All learners are expected to be actively engaged and participating in this work and discussion. Each learner will be given a daily score for participation that reflects the range of knowledge and insight contributed to that day's discussion – including supplemental and engaged work in library research. [All course Outcomes covered.]

POST-MODULE ASSIGNMENTS

1. Interpretation Project: (Weight of this assignment for course grade – 30%)

You will research and write an interpretative analysis of 2 chapters in the Gospel of John which were not included in the pre-module reading, study and writing assignments. You will designate the 2 chapters in writing (via email or handwritten) by the end of the module week. The chapters may be consecutive or non-consecutive, and chosen from cc. 1-2, 6, 7-8, 10, 12, 14-16, 17, 18-19. You should seek to disclose the world within the text (literary analysis), the world behind the text (historical analysis) and the world in front of the text (theological and hermeneutical analysis). You should utilize the first two of these three in order to disclose the theology implicit within the text. That theology is the basis for the interpretative move to expressing the significance of the text for contemporary faith and life which is the goal of interpretation. You should conclude the study of each text with an exposition of its meaning and an application of that meaning for today's church. The exposition can be a sermon, a Bible study lesson, or a spiritual formation meditation. Length of each written project should be 12 pages. Note: As research and study progress, weekly postings on the forum should be made. These would include topics of interest, issues arising from research, and questions that you would like to have discussed online. Due dates: The first project will be due by 12:00 midnight on Saturday, November 19—the end of Week 10. The second project will be due by 12:00 midnight on Saturday, December 10—the end of Week 13. [All course Outcomes covered.]

2. **Final Reflection Essay:** (Weight of this assignment for course grade – 10%)
 You will write a final 4 page paper in which you summarize the portrait of Jesus you have found in John, as well as the key theological ideas you have come to understand as foundational for John. This should require no additional research. The aim for this paper is to give you opportunity to articulate what some would call the “take away” you will carry from this study of the Gospel of John. **Due date:** This final essay will be due by 12:00 midnight on Friday, December 16. [All course Outcomes covered.]

Distribution of Student Learning Hours

	pre-module hours	module hours	post-module hours
Face-to-face Class Sessions		32	
Online Participation in forums, groups, etc.	0		0
Reading	28	0	0
Writing	24	0	52
Other Assignments and Learning Activities	12	0	0
Exams & Quizzes	0	0	0
TOTAL	64	32	52

Method for Submitting Assignments

All written assignments are to be submitted electronically. For each assignment a place on Moodle will be opened through which you can upload the assignment. Any assignments not delivered through Moodle must be emailed to the professor. No hardcopies are required, and submission of a hardcopy does not take the place of an electronic submission.

Form and Style Expectations

All written material is expected to comply with one of the following three standards of style and citation: Turabian, MLA, or APA. You are free to choose which style you prefer, but that style must be used consistently throughout all of your work.

Inclusive Language

NTS is committed to the equality of women and men. Recognizing that people have often used the English language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, NTS urges students, faculty, and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions, and in their writings. All written work presented to meet course requirements must use gender inclusive language.

Policy Regarding Late Work & Missed Exams

In a compressed delivery course such as a module all work must be completed on time for the learner to fully benefit from the class experience. Pre-module work is due on the dates and at the times specified above. It may be handed in late with reduced credit recorded, but in no case will such late work be accepted beyond the beginning of the first day of class for the module week. Post-module work is also due on the dates and at the times specified above. It may be handed in up to one month after the due date, but with a full letter grade penalty assessed for that work. No post-module work will be accepted more than one month late.

Course Grading

Pre-Module Reading	15%
Pre-Module Writing	10%
Pre-Module Forum Discussion	5%
Seminar Participation	30%
Post-Module Research and Writing	30%
Final Reflection Essay	10%

In accordance with the provisions of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, NTS is committed to providing students with disabilities the opportunity to participate and benefit from its programs and activities. Accordingly, NTS will make reasonable modifications to its programs and activities to accommodate otherwise qualified students with disabilities, unless such modifications would impose an undue burden on the operation of the particular program or activity or would fundamentally alter the nature or purpose of the program or activity. Students needing accommodations should contact the Office of the Registrar. They also should contact the instructor no later than the end of the first class session to discuss learning needs and adaptive strategies that have been beneficial for the student in the past.

Class Attendance

If you must be absent because of extenuating circumstances, contact the professor as soon as possible to discuss the situation. A student who is absent for 8 hours of a one week module or is absent four or more weeks of the pre/post module, the professor may automatically fail the student.

Daily attendance records must be reported for those obtaining V.A. and Department of Education benefits. Students must make the professor aware if their attendance must be recorded.

Course Calendar

Date	Week	Assignment
9/12-18	1	<u>Read</u> : Gospel of John; Carter, pp 1-126; Witherington, pp1-27

	Pre-Module Begins	<u>Write</u> : journal on John (2 pages); textbook discussion on Carter & Witherington (2 pages) <u>Forum</u> : post the 2 written assignments to forum (deadline above)
9/19-25	2	<u>Read</u> : Gospel of John; Carter, pp 131-170; Witherington, pp 27-43 <u>Write</u> : journal on John (2 pages); textbook discussion on Carter & Witherington (2 pages) <u>Forum</u> : post the 2 written assignments to forum (deadline above)
9/26-10/2	3	<u>Read</u> : Gospel of John; Carter pp 177-225 <u>Write</u> : journal on John (2 pages); textbook discussion on Carter (2 pages) <u>Forum</u> : post the 2 written assignments to forum (deadline above)
10/3-9	4	<u>Read</u> : Schneiders, pp 1-114; Witherington, pp 92-106, 115-130,133-145 <u>Write</u> : textbook discussion on each of the readings (2 pages each) <u>Forum</u> : post the 2 written assignments to forum (deadline above)
10/10-16	5	<u>Read</u> : Schneiders, pp 171-201; Witherington, pp 196-213, 231-243 <u>Write</u> : textbook discussion on each of the readings (2 pages each) <u>Forum</u> : post the 2 written assignments to forum (deadline above)
10/17-23	6	<u>Read</u> : Schneiders, pp 202-229, 233-254; Witherington, pp 323-327, 328-338, 352-361 <u>Write</u> : textbook discussion on each of the readings (2 pages each) <u>Forum</u> : post the w written assignments to forum (deadline above)
10/24-28	7 Module Week	Participate in seminar discussion, and in other supplemental and engaged work in the library.
10/31-11/6	8 Post Module Begins	Begin work on first post-module interpretation project. Post issues, questions, etc. to Moodle forum for responses.
11/7-13	9	Continue work as described.
11/14-20	10	Complete work on first interpretation project, and post to Moodle by 12:00 midnight, Saturday, November 19.
11/21-27	11	Begin work on second pot-module interpretation project. Post issues, questions, etc. to Moodle forum for responses.
11/28-12/4	12	Continue work as described.
12/5-11	13	Complete work on second interpretation project, and post to Moodle by 12:00 midnight, Saturday, December 10.
12/12-16	14	Write Final Reflection Essay. Due by 12:00 midnight, Friday December 16.

Bibliography

A Selected Bibliography will be presented as a separate document on the Moodle course.