

RPS 526 Spirituality of the Johannine Literature

COURSE SYLLABUS Fall 19 (S1-20)



MOUNT ST. JOSEPH
UNIVERSITY

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PREREQUISITES: A desire to study the scriptures. A pre-assignment is required.

Class Dates: Wednesdays, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13, 11/20, 12/4, 12/11, 6:30-9:20 pm

I. REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. The Bible (any decent translation with footnotes preferred e.g. New American).
2. Schneiders, Sandra. Written That You May Believe: Encountering Jesus in the Fourth Gospel. Crossroads, 2003.
3. Kostenberger, Andreas. Encountering John. Baker, 2013.
4. Trokan, John. Instructor Packet. 2019. (available on blackboard and in class)

II. Course Description and Learning Outcomes

Together we will explore the basic theology and spirituality of the Gospel of John and the Johannine Epistles, with an analysis of the historical context and social culture out of which the Christian message arose and was transmitted.

Learning Outcome	Performance Indicator	Assessment Artifact
Historical Critical Cultural Competence	Students will explore the basic theology of the gospel and letters of John through examination of the rich socio-cultural diversity and historical context out of which the Johannine literature arose and was transmitted.	Schneider Paper Exegesis Papers
Biblical Literacy Critical Thinking	Students will analyze the literary composition of the gospel and letters differentiating the unique style of	Exegesis Papers Seminar

	the evangelist through class discussion and exegesis research.	Presentations
Historical critical methodology application	Students will synthesize and articulate the unique theological and spiritual perspectives of John, in light of Matthew, Mark, Luke, Paul, and Acts through class analysis and exegesis research.	Exegesis Papers Seminar Presentations
Integrative Learning and Practical Theology	Students will articulate, integrate, and appropriate the unique theological and spiritual message of the Johannine Literature in dialogue with their theological reflection journals.	Theological Reflection Journal
Biblical Research	Students will compile an annotated bibliography of their research resources	Annotated Bibliography

III. FORMAT

Lecture, discussion, group work, audio-visuals, seminar-style presentations, guided meditation, Lectio Divina, and theological reflection.

IV. METHOD OF EVALUATION:

Students will be evaluated on the basis of their ability to understand the New Testament, the assigned readings and class materials in relationship to their own experience. Evaluation will include:






1. Gospel observation and Schneider paper due **10/23** (5 pages) = 20%
2. Biblical exegesis paper on a Johannine sign due **TBD** (7 pages) = 20%
3. Biblical exegesis paper on passage from John 13-21 Due **TBD** (7 pages)= 20%
4. NT Theological Reflection Journal due **11/20**= 20%
5. Annotated Bibliography due **12/4** = 20%

NOTE: Students will present a brief seminar report on their research for their two biblical interpretation papers in class.

Criteria for evaluation of the papers will be:

1. content development of narrative
2. depth of analysis
3. quality of critical reflection
4. clarity of expression and grammar
5. **Grading Scale will be: A= 90-100; B= 80-89; C=70-79**

Rubric for New Testament Papers

Criteria	Levels of Achievement				
	Exemplary	Competent	Acceptable	Needs Improvement	Missing Requirement
Focus 	30 Points Engaging and full development of a clear thesis as appropriate to assignment purpose	20 Points Competent and well-developed thesis; thesis represents sound and adequate understanding of topic	15 Points Mostly acceptable ideas, but simplistic; thesis is weak, unclear, too broad, or only indirectly supported.	10 Points Simplistic or confused presentation of ideas; prompt not understood; thesis is missing or not discernable	0 Points Inability to grasp basic point of the prompt (question)
Evidence 	20 Points Consistent evidence; explores ideas in depth; ideas work together as a unified whole; main points are supported with evidence that is valid and specific	15 Points Evidence is sound, valid and logical.	10 Points Main points are only indirectly supported; specific connections are not apparent and/or loosely relevant to main points; some evidence is not-sufficient or irrelevant as supportive material	5 Points Lack of support for main points; frequent or illogical generalizations without support	0 Points Absence of support for main points
Organization 	10 Points Organization is sequential; paragraphs are well developed and facilitate readability; ideas linked with smooth and effective transitions	8 Points Organization, paragraph structure, transitions are consistent	6 Points Limited attempts to organize around a thesis; paragraphs are mostly stand-alone without building momentum from one point to another; weak or non-evident transitions	4 Points Organization, if evident at all, is confusing and disjointed; paragraph structure is weak; transitions are missing, inappropriate and/or illogical	0 Points Paragraph structure does not exist; or is a single rambling paragraph or series of isolated paragraphs
Grammar/Clarity 	30 Points Free of punctuation, spelling, capitalization errors; appropriate format and presentation	25 Points Occasional punctuation, spelling, and/or capitalization errors; few formatting errors of words.	20 Points Contains punctuation, spelling, and/or capitalization errors; formatting is inconsistent.	15 Points Many and serious errors of punctuation, spelling, and/or capitalization; errors interfere with meaning; formatting is weak.	0 Points Frequent mechanical errors that impede meaning. Poor paragraphs and sentences.
Citation of sources: APA or MLA or Chicago style 	10 Points Accurate and consistent citation of quoted and paraphrased material	8 Points Frequent citation of quoted and paraphrased material	6 Points Accurate and Inconsistent citation of quoted and paraphrased material	4 Points Limited citation of quoted and paraphrased material	0 Points No citation of quoted and paraphrased material

V. ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance at class is mandatory. Class participation will assess preparation of assigned readings, meaningful comments, constructive questions, small group discussions, as well as unexcused absences. An unexcused absence will lead to the reduction of the final semester grade by one letter grade.

First/Second Semesters and All Summer Sessions

Weeks 1-5	No record of dropped class.
Weeks 6-10	Grade of "W" for dropped class.
Weeks 11+	No drops accepted.

VI. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

When we use the information and language of others to enrich our reflection and research papers we must:

- tell the reader when we are quoting and indicate the source (person, book, article, etc.) of that quotation
- tell the reader when we are paraphrasing and indicate the source (person, book, article, etc.) of that information.

Quoting or paraphrasing the information and/or language of a source without naming the source is plagiarism. Plagiarism is unacceptable in an academic institution and is subject to penalty. Please consult the Student Handbook for this and other College policies on Academic Integrity.

VII. PRE-ASSIGNMENT

Read the Gospel of John in one sitting. As you read the Gospel, note the themes, characters, images of Jesus and literary style features which are striking, interesting or noteworthy to you. What do you observe in the Gospel which is new? Bring your notes to class for discussion. Also read the assigned chapters (1-6) in Sandra Schneider's Written that You May Believe. In light of your Gospel observations and Schneider's presentation of the gospel, how is John's gospel distinctive? How is the Gospel of John's understanding of Jesus similar or dissimilar to your own? Develop your responses to these questions in a five page paper, and be prepared to discuss these questions in class. **Due 10/23**

VIII. COURSE OUTLINE: Johannine Spirituality

Session 1 10/23	Session 2 10/30	Session 3 11/6	Session 4 11/13	Session 5 11/20	Session 6 12/4	Session 7 12/11
Introduction Overview Expectations Syllabus	Introduction Overview	Introduction Overview	Introduction Overview	Introduction Overview	Introduction Overview	Introduction Overview
Intro to Gospel Theology and Spirituality	History of the Johannine Community: Development and Messianic Expectations	Book of Signs: Context, structure, purpose, reactions	Book of Signs exegesis	Farewell Discourse: Literary, and theological, and spiritual features	Passion Narrative and the Resurrection in John: Historical, Literary, Theological features	Jnn Epistles and Revelation: Historical context, literary features, theological dimensions.
Process of Gospel Formation and literary interpretive features	Qumran, Essenes and the Dead Sea Scrolls	Seminar Research Presentations John 2-3-4-5	Seminar research Presentations John 6-9-10-11	Seminar Research Presentations John 13-17	Seminar Research Presentations John 18-21	Seminar Research Presentations Letters/Revelation
Theological Reflection Jesus	Theological Reflection	Theological Reflection	Theological Reflection	Theological Reflection	Theological Reflection	Theological Reflection Course Evaluation
Readings: Schneiders 1-6 Kostenberger ch 1-4 Gospel of John	Readings: Schneiders 7-8 Exegesis Research	Readings: Schneiders 9-10 Kostenberger ch 5-10	Readings: Exegesis Research	Readings: Schneiders 11 Kostenberger ch 11-14	Readings: Schneiders 12-14 Kostenberger ch 15-16	Readings: Jnn Letters Revelation

BIBLICAL EXEGESIS PAPERS GUIDELINES

1. Purpose: To enable students to research Gospel texts and explore their meanings using the tool of the course.
2. As you research your passage, keep the following in mind: your written report should concentrate on what the passage meant in its original context, exploring the historical, literary and theological dimensions.
3. Familiarize yourself with what current biblical scholarship has to say about your passage. Everyone should consult the Collegeville Bible Commentary, also items in the reference section of the library and commentaries on the Gospel of John will be helpful. For example:

Brown, Raymond, Fitzmyer, Joseph, Murphy, Roland, eds., The Jerome Biblical Commentary. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1968.

A New Catholic Commentary on Holy Scriptures (1969)
The Anchor Bible Series

4. For additional resources, consult the selected bibliography in the required readings. Also refer to periodical literature. The following scripture journals are available in the Mount library:

Bible Today
Catholic Biblical quarterly
Chicago Studies
Journal of Biblical Literature
New Testament Studies
Novum Testamentum

5. Sample Outline:
 1. Introduction
 2. context and Historical Analysis
 3. Literary Analysis of Passage
 4. Theological Interpretation of Passage
 5. Critique
 6. Summary

Footnotes and bibliography are required.
Students may use any format they are comfortable with.

Each exegesis paper is worth 20% of final grade.

NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION JOURNAL
INSTRUCTIONS

FORMAT: Personal notebook or journal: 7 journal entries minimum (dates); length – determined by inspiration.

Submission date: **11/20**

Purpose:

1. To immerse oneself in the meaning of the Gospel of John
2. To facilitate the ability to read the scripture critically with the mind and heart
3. To develop the habit of theological reflection within students
4. To examine the existential level of the New Testament and enable students to place their personal experience and religious questions in dialogue with the biblical texts.

Theology, as the study of God, is a disciplined reflection upon faith. These weekly journal entries are an attempt to develop the habit of theological reflection within us, and to engage our personal experience and questions with the truth and wisdom of the Christian Scriptures.

Each week students will be exposed to new ideas and insights about the Christian Scriptures from class, and from our personal readings of the assigned scripture texts. What is the existential meaning of the text? What is it saying to me today in my own life experience? What is the truth of a particular gospel story? How does this gospel truth impact my life? How does it expand my own self understandings as well as my personal beliefs and values? These questions will be the source of rich reflection for your journal.

Process. Focus on a particular gospel story/passage (an insight from class, or the assigned readings may also work well).

Read the passage. Attend to the particulars of the story: context, setting, characters, dialogue, action. To whom are you attracted to? Why? How does this story make you feel? Pause and write down a word/phrase that is striking.

Read the passage a second time. Write your reflections, reactions, feelings, questions, etc. What does the lesson, learning, or truth of this story say to you today? How does it impact you world? Your lifestyle? Your worldview? Your faith? Your fears? Your expectations? Your self-understanding?

Theology may be a word-from-God (revelations) through creation and history. Theology may be a word-about-God (faith) through creation and history. Theology may be a word-to-God (praxis) through prayer and worship, moral action, and practical activity. Your personal theological reflection upon the scriptures may express any one of these words, but will usually express them in combination with each other. Your reflection may discover theology in your experience, or bring theology to the experience. Regardless, theological reflection respects the integrity of your experience and places it in dialogue with the truth of the scriptures. Trust your experience, and befriend your imagination as it guides you to new insight and understanding.

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ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY ASSIGNMENT

Assignment:

Prepare an annotated bibliography (typed, double-spaced) on articles, books or resources related to any historical, literary, theological or spiritual aspect of the Johannine Literature. The articles must be dated 1995 or later. Use APA format (see below) for citations of the articles. You should have at least 10 entries of sources that relate in some way to the course, and this can be tailored to include appropriate web sites. Web sites should include a full web address.

Follow the format below:

I. APA Bibliography

Smith, J. (1996). Article title. Journal title, volume, number, p. 1-20.

II. Topics: list topic or main idea of article

III. Summarize article with no judgment ... just give the facts in two or three succinct paragraphs

IV. Conclusions and perspectives on the sources possibilities for assisting in understanding leadership in a pastoral care context.

Annotated Bibliography is due **12/4**