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NT 617 Exegesis of Johannine Literature

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Catalog Description
A study of selected passages in Johannine Literature, this course will deal with the various textural, historical, rhetorical, exegetical, theological, and ethical concerns raised in the Gospel and Letters of John. The focus in the course will be on familiarizing the student not only with the content of this book, but also with the exegetical and hermeneutical issues that it raised and raises.
Prerequisite: NT(IBS)510 or 511; NT520; and NT500 or 501/502 or equivalent. (May be taken by students in M.A. programs not requiring Greek by special arrangement with the professor.)

Introduction
The Johannine Literature makes up approximately one third of the New Testament. It includes four different genre of literature--a Gospel, epistles, a homily, and a book of apocalyptic prophecy. This course explores segments of these differing types of Johannine literature, seeking to consider both the differences and the similarities.

Course Objectives
Having successfully completed this course, participants should:
(1) be able to recognize the importance of a close reading of the text of John, 1,2,3, John, and Revelation
(2) be able to begin to master the skills necessary to exegete the Greek text of these NT documents;
(3) grasp the importance of the structure of these works and their importance for understanding Johannine Christology;
(4) understand the role of the these works in the New Testament canon;
(5) be able to propose fruitful ways in which Johannine literature may be read within the horizons of the contemporary church and world;

Course Requirements and Reading

On questions of style, especially with regard to paper organization and references, see Carol Slade, *Form and Style: Research Papers, Reports, Theses, 11th ed.* (New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2000).

Students should submit written materials on time; late papers will receive no written comments and the grade will be penalized one-third of a grade per day.

(1) Class Preparation, Attendance, and Participation: Participants should prepare for each class session by (1) carefully reading the assigned texts in the Johannine Literature (see the reading schedule, below), (2) taking notes on the text, and (3) comparing their observations with those in at least one of the following commentaries. (15%)

Witherington, Ben, *Jesus the Seer*, (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1999), hb. (N.B. The proofs of my new Revelation commentary will be on reserve)

Attendance at all sessions of the course is expected. In order to complete the course with a passing grade, no more than two classes may be missed.
(2) A Critical Review: A review of *Jesus the Seer*, approximately 1300-1600 words (i.e., 5-6 pages, with a standard 12-point font like Times New Roman and one-inch margins) in length, typed, double-spaced. **Due on Thursday, February 23.** As a critical review, this essay should summarize the author’s central theses; demonstrate the author’s approach to the subject matter; and critique the author’s analysis (e.g., with regard to the author’s method, its faithfulness to the primary materials, its engagement with the wider discussion on the topic, and so on). (35%)  

(3) A Research Assignment: An exegesis paper of approximately 10 pages (with a standard 12-point font like Times New Roman and one-inch margins), typed, with 1.5 or double spacing, with appropriate notes and bibliography, treating a selected pericope within one of these Johannine works. This paper should evidence *both* a close reading of the text *and* critical engagement with the range of secondary resources appropriate to the study. (See the bibliographic resources in the commentaries, as well as *New Testament Abstracts* in the Library.) **Due on Thursday, March 30.** (50%)  

Reading Schedule  
The student should plan to work through the commentaries as we progress through the course---Marshall’s commentary on the Epistles first, followed by John's Wisdom, followed by Peterson.  

Course Schedule  
We will first study the Johannine epistles, followed by the Gospel, followed by Revelation. In other words, we will study these works in the likely chronological order of their compositions. Approximately one week will be spent on introductory matters then we will deal with the Epistles, Gospel, and Revelation in that order.