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## STMA-537-01 Gospel of John

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### DESCRIPTION

In this course we will study the Gospel of John both, as cultural text and as Sacred Scripture, paying attention to its context of production and its context of consumption. As cultural text, we will study John as literary, rhetorical and ideological construct—an historical document that reflects its socio-historical context. As Sacred Scripture, we will analyze the Gospel of John as a theological and faith-foundational text of the Christian church—a living text that keeps inviting the readers to “come to believe [and in so doing] have life in Jesus name.” (Jn 20:30-21).

This course will be conducted as a seminar. We will examine the gospel of John (Greek/English), following the sequence of its chapters and will emphasize some stories to advance different interpretations that show some of the contextual approaches to the Fourth Gospel. We will also highlight and explore some of the key theological themes, literary characteristics, symbols, and some peculiar elements that are unique to the gospel of John, seeking to understand the gospel both in its context and in our contemporary context.

During the quarter we will read and study the biblical text using different critical methods within a postmodern ideological framework. Under this postmodern lens, all readings of the Gospel of John, whether historical, theological, literary or of any other kind are partial and non-universal readings.

### GOALS

Equip the students with a range of critical tools that will help them to analyze the Gospel of John according to the demands of the diverse settings in which they work.

Expand the hermeneutical horizon of the students through non-traditional interpretations of the Gospel of John that advance inclusiveness in the church.

Cultivate self-awareness of our limited views, fostering honest readers who are willing to be in dialogue in order to enrich their individual interpretations.

Nurture critical readers who can read beyond the written text.

### REQUIREMENTS

- A. Active participation in class and careful reading of the weekly materials. (10%)
- B. A written meditation, based on a text from John, to be shared in class. A handout with details on the format and due dates will be given in class. (15%)

- C. A personal or personalized outline of the Gospel of John. A sample and details will be given the first day of class. (15%) Due: September 29, 2010
- D. Two presentations of academic articles to be discussed in class. Each student will lead the group in the discussion of two articles and will provide a written response for each article at least 12 hours in advance from class (300 words each). The list of articles and presentation dates will be given on a separate handout. (20%)
- E. A final paper based on a text or topic from the Gospel of John (3000 words). Details about the format, types of paper and sources will be given in class. (40%) Due: December 8, 2010.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Required Books

The Gospel of John. NRSV version and Greek-interlinear text.  
(<http://interlinearbible.org/john/1.htm>)

Schneiders, Sandra M. *Written That You May Believe. Encountering Jesus in the Fourth Gospel*. New York: Crossroad, 1999. **(SS)**

Brown, Raymond E. *The Gospel and Epistles of John. A Concise Commentary*. Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 1988. **(RB)**

25 short academic articles to be assigned on the first day of class.

## COURSE CALENDAR

S.	Date	Assignments*	Topics for discussion in class	Readings **
1	Sep. 22		Introduction to the course: -Course description; Students' goals; General overview: structures, main themes and characteristics, context, theology, language, characters, literary aspects	(SS- chapters 1-2)
2	Sep. 29	Personal outline	<b>John 1</b> Historical background, the Prologue, John & the Synoptics	Jn 1 RB – 9-27 SS – 3
3	Oct. 6		<b>John 2-4</b> Signs, the Temple, Nicodemus vs. Samaritan woman	Jn 2-4 RB – 27-39 SS – 7 & 8
4	Oct. 13		<b>John 5-6</b> Kin-dom of God The bread which gives life to the world	Jn 5-6 RB – 39-48 SS - 4
5	Oct. 20		<b>John 7-10</b> I Am sayings The Accused Woman The Blind Man	Jn 7-10 RB – 48-61 SS – 5, 6
6	Oct. 27		<b>John 11-12</b> Giving life back to Lazarus Anointing at Bethany	Jn 11-12 RB – 62-70 SS – 9
7	Nov. 3		<b>John 13-17</b> Farewell discourses Sacramental tradition	Jn 13-17 RB – 71-86 SS – 10
8	Nov. 10		<b>John 13-17</b> Farewell discourses The Paraclete	Jn 13-17 RB – 71-86 SS – 10
9	Nov. 17		<b>John 18-19</b> The Passion The Beloved Disciple the Johannine Church	Jn 18-19 RB – 87-96 SS – 14
10	Dec. 1		<b>John 20-21</b> Resurrection Mary Magdalene	Jn 20-21 RB – 96-104 SS – 11, 12, 13
	Dec. 8	Final paper due		

\* Dates for sharing written meditations and presentations of articles to be decided on the first day of class.

\*\* Plus the Academic articles to be assigned on the first day of class.