



**BRISBANE COLLEGE OF THEOLOGY  
UNIT OUTLINE**

**BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY**

UNIT TITLE	GOSPEL OF JOHN
UNIT CODE	B52040
UNIT STATUS	Elective
HOST FIELD	A/B
PREREQUISITE/S	A/B51014 Studying the Scriptures 1 – Method & Hermeneutic
INCOMPATIBLES	Nil
CREDIT POINTS	10cp
REQUIREMENTS	3 hours per week contact and 7 hours per week study over a 13-week semester.
FREQUENCY OF OFFERING	Annually – Semester 2
PREPARED BY	Dr Mary Coloe and Rev Dr Malcolm Coombes
UNIT COORDINATOR	Dr Mary Coloe
TEACHING STAFF	Dr Mary Coloe
DATE PREPARED	1 September 2006

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**Rationale**

The study of *The Gospel of John* is integral to any understanding of the Johannine stream of Christianity in the first century. It stands as distinctive amongst the canonical gospels. The interpretation of *The Gospel of John* has extensively influenced the subsequent development of the church's credal and christological beliefs. *The Gospel of John* contributes a number of distinctive themes, apologetic motifs, character portrayals and theological interests that require concentrated study. Examples include christology, discipleship, gender portrayals, inter-relation with first-century Judaism and pneumatology.

**Relation to program**

This unit will contribute to the field of biblical studies by concentrating attention on a distinctive canonical gospel. This unit will give students a strong appreciation of the unique contribution that *The Gospel of John* brings to the wider biblical canon. Christological themes raised would lead into a study of D51011 *Early Church to 500CE*.

Students will be expected to utilize several different hermeneutical approaches to a reading of *The Gospel of John*, to study the main content of this gospel, and to become acquainted with major contributions in contemporary Johannine scholarship.

## Aims

The unit aims to enable students to deal with critical scholarly study of the theological, literary, and historical significance of *The Gospel of John* and to use scholarly tools in dealing with primary sources, especially the text of *The Gospel of John*. Students will study distinctive features in the contents, aims and contexts of *The Gospel of John* and its relevance to contemporary society in the light of its social, political and religious situation.

Learning Outcomes	
At the end of this unit the student should be able to:	
1.	Identify and explain the major thematic and structural aspects of the <i>Gospel of John</i> ;
2.	Analyse different interpretations of the primary text;
3.	Exegete selected passages, with reference also to engaging in hermeneutical issues;
4.	Appraise relevant material from academic journal articles, monographs, pertinent websites and other required reading.

## Content

Use for the content topics. Do not put in week by week.

- 1 Socio-historical and Religious background to *John*
- 2 Christology
- 3 Sacramentalism
- 4 Community relationships and discipleship
- 5 “Signs” in *John*
- 6 The Paraclete
- 7 The Depiction of “the Jews”
- 8 Dualism and eschatology
- 9 A range of reader-responses to *John* (including narrative, liberationist, feminist, political)
- 10 Exegesis of particular passages in *John*
- 11 Study of particular characters in *John*

## Organization and Teaching Strategies

The contact time comprises lectures and tutorials, the latter including both small group and whole class discussion of issues raised in lectures, the students’ own reading and selected primary texts.

## Assessment

	Type of assessment	No of words	Weighting %	Due date	Learning Outcomes covered
1	Exegetical paper presented in tutorial and submitted for assessment	2000	40%	Throughout semester	1, 2, 3, 4
2	Major research project focussing on a significant theme in <i>John</i>	3000	60%	End-semester	1, 2, 3, 4

## Notes on Assessment

- Item 1 Will develop the student’s knowledge of *John* by means of independent learning and the retrieval and use of relevant information, and the use of appropriate techniques in biblical study.

- Item 2 Will develop the student's coherent knowledge of John, use of appropriate techniques in biblical study and the ability to apply critical reasoning to issues through independent thought and informed judgement.

## **Bibliography**

### **Textbooks**

*The Holy Bible Containing the Old and New Testaments with the Apocryphal/Deutero-Canonical Books*. NRSV; Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1999.

or

Aland, K et al (eds). *The Greek New Testament with Dictionary*. 4<sup>th</sup> rev ed; Stuttgart: UBS, 1998.

### **Recommended commentaries:**

#### ***For the Greek text:***

Barrett, CK. *The Gospel According to John*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed; London: SPCK, 1968.

#### ***For the English text:***

Brown, Raymond E. *The Gospel According to John*. 2 vols; Abingdon: Doubleday, 1966.

Bultmann, R. *The Gospel of John*. London: Blackwells, 1971.

Haenchen, E. *John I & II*. Philadelphia: Hermeneia Fortress, 1984.

Lindars, B. *The Gospel of John*. London: Oliphants, 1972.

Mastin, BA & JN Sanders. *The Gospel According to St. John*. London: A&C Black, 1985.

Moloney, Francis J. *The Gospel of John*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1998.

Schnackenburg, R. *The Gospel According to John*. 2 vols; London: Burns & Oates, 1980.

### **General References – Books**

Ashton, John. *Understanding the Fourth Gospel*. Oxford: OUP, 1991.

Brown, Raymond. *The Community of the Beloved Disciple*. New York: Paulist, 1979.

Brown, Raymond & Francis Moloney (ed). *An Introduction to the Gospel of John*. New York: Doubleday, 2003.

Charlesworth, James H. *The Beloved Disciple – Whose Witness Validates the Gospel of John?* Valley Forge: Trinity, 1995.

Coloe, Mary. *God Dwells With Us: Temple Symbolism in the Fourth Gospel*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2001.

Coloe, Mary. *Dwelling in the Household of God: The Spirituality and Ecclesiology of the Fourth Gospel*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2007.

Culpepper, RA. *Anatomy of the Fourth Gospel: A Study in Literary Design*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1983.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Gospel and Letters of John*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1998

Fehribach, Adeline. *The Women in the Life of the Bridegroom – A Feminist Historical-Literary Analysis of the Female Characters in the Fourth Gospel*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1998.

Fortna RT & T Thatcher (eds). *Jesus in Johannine Tradition*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2001.

Howard-Brook, Wes. *John's Gospel and the Renewal of the Church*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1997.

Kreitzer, Larry J & Deborah W Rooke (eds). *Ciphers in the Sand – Interpretations of the Woman Taken in Adultery (John 7:53-8:11)*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 2000.

Lee, Dorothy. *Flesh and Glory*. New York: Crossroad, 2002.

Maccini, Robert Gordon. *Her Testimony is True – Women as Witnesses According to John*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1996.

- Reinhartz, A. *Befriending the Beloved Disciple: A Jewish Reading of the Gospel of John*. New York: Continuum, 2002.
- Segovia, Fernando, F (ed). *What is John? – Readers and Readings of the Fourth Gospel*. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1996.
- Segovia, Fernando, F (ed). *What is John? Vol. II – Literary and Social Readings of the Fourth Gospel*. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1998.
- Stibbe, Mark WG. *John as Storyteller – Narrative Criticism and the Fourth Gospel*. Cambridge: CUP, 1992.
- Schneiders, Sandra M. *Written That You May Believe: Encountering Jesus in the Fourth Gospel*. Revised and Expanded ed; New York: Crossroad, 2003.
- Webster, James S. *Ingesting Jesus – Eating and Drinking in the Gospel of John*. Williston: JBL, 2003.

### References - Journals

- Bowe, BE. “Drama and Storytelling in the Gospel of John”. *Bible Today* 38 (2000), 47-58.
- Coloe, M. “Households of Faith (Jn 4:46-54; 11:1-44): A Metaphor for the Johannine Community”. *Pacifica* 13 (2000), 326-335.
- Coloe, M. “Raising the Johannine Temple (John 19:19-37)”. *Australian Biblical Review* 48 (2000), 47-58.
- Freyne, Sean. “Christological Debates Among Johannine Christians”. *Concilium* (2002), 59-67.
- Giblin, CH. “What was Everything He Told Her She Did? (John 4:17-18, 29, 39)”. *NTS* 45 (1999), 148-152.
- Jenkins, AK. “The Case of Malchus’ Ear: Narrative Criticism and John 18:1-12”. *Expository Times* 112 (2000), 8-11.
- Lieu, Judith. “Temple and Synagogue in *John*”. *NTS* 45 (1999), 51-69.
- Labahn, M. “Between Tradition and Literary Art: The Miracle Tradition in the Fourth Gospel”. *Biblica* 80 (1999), 178-203.
- Martin, TW. “Assessing the Johannine Epithet ‘the Mother of Jesus’”. *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 60 (1998), 63-73.
- Neyrey, JH. “Spaces and Places, Whence and Whither, Homes and Rooms: ‘Territoriality’ in the Fourth Gospel”. *Biblical Theology Bulletin* 32 (2002), 60-74.
- Van Belle, G. “Prolepsis in the Gospel of John”. *Novum Testamentum* 43 (2001), 334-347.
- Williams, RH. “The Mother of Jesus at Cana: A Social-Science Interpretation of John 2:1-12”. *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 59 (1997), 679-692.

### References - Online and Other IT resources

- Biblica Online: <http://www.bsw.org/project/biblica/>
- The New Testament Gateway. <http://www.ntgateway.com>
- Religion-Online. <http://www.religion-online.org>
- Resource Pages for Biblical Studies. <http://www.torreys.org/bible>
- Virtual Religion Index. <http://virtualreligion.net/vri/>

### Online Databases

- ATLA Religion Index* [database on-line] Chicago, IL: American Theological Library Association; available from <http://search.epnet.com>.
- ProQuest Religion* [database on-line] Ann Arbor, MI:ProQuest Information and Learning; available from <http://proquest.umi.com>.
- Religion & Philosophy Collection* [database on-line] Ipswich, MA: EBSCO Publishing; available from <http://search.epnet.com>.