



BRISBANE COLLEGE OF THEOLOGY

UNIT OUTLINE

GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN THEOLOGY

UNIT TITLE	GOSPEL OF JOHN
UNIT CODE	B74040
UNIT STATUS	Elective
HOST FIELD	A/B
PREREQUISITE/S	A/B51014 Studying the Scriptures I: Method & Hermeneutic
INCOMPATIBLES	B52040
CREDIT POINTS	10cp
REQUIREMENTS	3 hours per week contact and 7 hours per week study over a 13-week semester, including 3 separate postgraduate seminars each of 1 hour.
FREQUENCY OF OFFERING	Annually – Semester 1
PREPARED BY	Revd Dr Ray Barraclough
UNIT COORDINATOR	Dr Mary Coloe
TEACHING STAFF	Dr Mary Coloe
DATE PREPARED	4 February 2004
DATE UPDATED	1 March 2007

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.

Students will be expected to demonstrate extensive use of both the methodological and hermeneutical options available to scholars in the study of *The Gospel of John*.

Relation to Course

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 issues raised would lead into a study of D51011/ D72011 *Early Church to 500CE*.

Students will be expected to show mastery of a range of hermeneutical approaches to *The Gospel of John*.

They will be expected to present papers indicating their capacity to utilise methodologies drawn from earlier biblical study, in addition to becoming acquainted with major contributions in contemporary Johannine scholarship.

Aims

The overall purpose of the unit is 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.

It is expected that postgraduate students will undertake more creative research in their tutorial and essay presentations. Postgraduate students will also be expected to exhibit a more self-conscious use of a range of hermeneutical approaches to *The Gospel of John*.

Learning Objectives

On successful completion of this unit, students will be expected to be able to:

1. work with primary sources
2. compare and analyse parallel primary sources, especially through redactional study
3. distil the main points from academic journal articles, monographs or other required reading
4. access relevant material from internet sources
5. lead and facilitate discussion in an academic study group
6. present an academic paper or presentation in a tutorial group context.
7. produce a major essay related to methodological and hermeneutical study
8. engage positively with different interpretations of the primary texts
9. initiate research topics and titles in regard to extended essay/s on chosen academic topic/s.

Content

Areas of study dealing with the contents and context of *The Gospel of John* and contemporary scholarly study include:

1. Possible purposes and contexts for the writing of *John*
2. The provenance, dating and authorship of *John*
3. Sources for *John*
4. A range of reader-responses to *John* (including narrative, liberationist, feminist).
5. The following themes in *John* are studied:
 - Christology and titles used of Jesus
 - Sacramentalism
 - Community relationships and discipleship
 - 'signs' in *John*
 - The Paraclete
 - The depiction of 'the Jews'
 - Political theology
 - Dualism and eschatology in *John*
6. Particular passages are studied, eg. 1:1-18 (the prologue), ch. 2-3-4, 6, 9, 10-11, 13, 14-16, 18-21 (passion narrative and resurrection appearances).
7. Particular characters are studied: Jesus, 'the beloved disciple', Jesus' mother, Mary and Martha, Peter, Mary Magdalene, Nicodemus and Pontius Pilate.

Students will select particular topics that will require more extensive and detailed study, especially in regard to the students' presentations of their research work.

Organisation and Teaching Strategies

The contact time of three hours per week over a period of thirteen weeks will include both lectures and tutorials. Media used will be lecture handouts, overhead projection material, power-point presentations and appropriate audiovisual resources.

There will be an additional three seminars, each of one hour duration, to encompass briefings on methodology and presentations by the students of research for the major written project.

Assessment

Postgraduate:

1. Two exegetical tutorial papers – 1500 words each – each worth 20% (Objectives 1-6, 8-9)
2. One major research project focusing on a significant theme in the Gospel of John – 4000 words – 60% (Objectives 1-4, 7-9)

All work submitted for assessment is expected to demonstrate scholarly treatment of both primary texts and secondary literature, including comparison and analysis of parallel primary sources, especially through redactional study (Objectives 1, 2, 8 and 9) and familiarity with key points attainable from academic journals, monographs and internet sources (Objectives 3 and 4). All students will also be required to demonstrate proficiency in leading and facilitating discussion in an academic study group (Objective 5) and the presentation of an academic paper and/or oral presentation in a tutorial group context (Objective 6).

Generic Skills

- Advanced skills in research, including the use of primary and secondary texts.
- Advanced skills in the integration of a variety of research material.
- Advanced skills in use of electronic catalogues, databases and search engines.

Textbooks

Required

The Holy Bible containing the Old and New Testaments with the Apocryphal/Deutero-Canonical Books New Revised Standard Version [NRSV], Nashville, Thomas Nelson, 1999

or

Koester, C. R, *Symbolism in the Fourth Gospel – Meaning, Mystery, Community*, Fortress, Philadelphia, 2003

or

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

Recommended

Aland, K et al (eds) *The Greek New Testament with Dictionary*, 4th ed, revised, Stuttgart, UBS, 1998.

Recommended commentaries:

For the Greek text:

Barrett, C. K. *The Gospel According to John* 2nd ed. London, SPCK. 1968.

For the English texts:

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, B.A. and Sanders, J.N. *The Gospel According to St. John*, London, A & C Black, 1985.

Moloney, Francis J. S.D.B. *The Gospel of John*, Collegeville, Liturgical Press, 1998.

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

Academic & General Resource Requirements

References - Books

Ashton, John *Understanding the Fourth Gospel*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1991.

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

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

- Fehribach, Adeline, *The Women in the Life of the Bridegroom – A Feminist Historical-Literary Analysis of the Female Characters in the Fourth Gospel*, Liturgical, Collegeville, 1998.
- Fortna R. T. and Thatcher, T. eds, *Jesus in Johannine Tradition*, Westminster/John Knox, Louisville, 2001.
- Hanson, A.T. *The Prophetic Gospel*, T & T Clark, Edinburgh, 1991.
- Howard-Brook, Wes *John's Gospel and the Renewal of the Church*, Orbis, New York, 1997.
- Kreitzer, Larry J. and Rooke, Deborah, W. eds *Ciphers in the Sand – Interpretations of the Woman Taken in Adultery (John 7:53-8:11)*, Sheffield Academic Press, Sheffield, 2000.
- Kysar, Robert, *Preaching John*, Fortress, Minneapolis, 2002.
- Maccini, Robert Gordon, *Her Testimony is True – Women as Witnesses according to John*, Sheffield Academic Press, Sheffield, 1996.
- McGrath, J. F., *John's Apologetic Christology. Legitimation and Development in Johannine Christology*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2001.
- O'Grady, John, F. *According to John: The Witness of the Beloved Disciple*, Paulist, New York, 1999.
- Reinhartz, A. *Befriending the Beloved Disciple: A Jewish Reading of the Gospel of John*, Continuum, New York, 2002
- Segovia, Fernando, F. ed., *What is John? – Readers and Readings of the Fourth Gospel*, Scholars Press, Atlanta, 1996.
- Segovia, Fernando F. ed. *What is John? Vol. II – Literary and Social Readings of the Fourth Gospel*, Scholars Press, Atlanta, 1998.
- Stibbe, Mark W.G. *John as Storyteller - Narrative Criticism and the Fourth Gospel*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1992, 77-82.
- Thompson, M. M., *The God of the Gospel of John*, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 2001.
- Tull, Patricia K. 'Isaiah 'Twas Foretold It': Helping the Church Interpret the Prophets", Linafelt, Tod, ed., *Strange Fire – Reading the Bible After the Holocaust*, Sheffield Academic Press, Sheffield, 2000, 192-207
- Webster, James, S. *Ingesting Jesus – Eating and Drinking in the Gospel of John*, JBL, Williston, 2003

References – Journal Articles

- Bowe, B. E. "Drama and Storytelling in the Gospel of John", *Bible Today*, 38, 2000, 275-281.
- 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
- Conway, C. M. "The Production of the Johannine Community: A New Historicist Perspective", *Journal of Biblical Literature*, 121, 2002, 479-495.
- Crotty, R. "The Two Magdalene Reports on the Risen Jesus in John 20", *Pacifica*, 12, 1999, 156-168.
- Dumm, D. "Jerusalem: Political Idol or Sacred Place?", *Bible Today*, 40, 2002, 19-24.
- Freyne, Sean, "Christological Debates among Johannine Christians", *Concilium*, 2002, 59-67.
- Giblin, C. H. "What was Everything He Told Her She Did? (John 4:17-18,29,39)", *New Testament Studies*, 45, 1999, 148-152
- Jenkins, A. K. "The Case of Malchus' Ear: Narrative Criticism and John 18:1-12", *Expository Times*, 112, 2000, 8-11.
- Koester, C. R., "Jesus the Way, the Cross, and the World according to the Gospel of John", *Word World*, 21, 2001, 360-369.
- Lieu, Judith, "Temple and Synagogue in John", *New Testament Studies*, 45, 1999, 51-69.
- Lieu, Judith M. "The Mother of the Son in the Fourth Gospel" *Journal of Biblical Literature* 117, 1998, 61-77
- Labahn, M. "Between Tradition and Literary Art: The Miracle Tradition in the Fourth Gospel" *Biblica*, 80, 1999, 178-203.
- Marrow, S. B. "Κοσμος in John", *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*, 64, 2002, 90-102.
- Martin, T. W. "Assessing the Johannine Epithet 'the Mother of Jesus'" *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*, 60, 1998, 63-73
- Mostert, Christian, "Implications of an Eschatological View of the Church", *Pacifica*, 13, 2000, 11-24.
- Neyrey, J. H. "Spaces and Places, Whence and Whither, Homes and Rooms: 'Territoriality' in the Fourth Gospel", *Biblical Theology Bulletin*, 32, 2002, 60-74.
- Neyrey, J. H. "'The Noble Shepherd' in John 10: Cultural and Rhetorical Background", *Journal of Biblical Literature*, 120, 2001, 267-291.
- Neyrey, J. H. and Rohrbaugh, R. L., "'He Must Increase, I Must Decrease' (John 3:30): A Cultural and Social Interpretation", *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*, 63, 2001, 464-483.

- Skamp, A. "But Mary Stood weeping Outside the Tomb (John 20:11)", *Colloquium*, 32, 2000, 23-30.
- Tovey, D. "Narrative Strategies in the Prologue and the Metaphor of ο λογος in John's Gospel", *Pacifica*, 15, 2002, 138-153
- Van Belle, G., "Prolepsis in the Gospel of John", *Novum Testamentum*, 43, 2001, 334-347.
- Waetjen, H. C., "Logos προς τον θεον and the Objectification of truth in the Prologue of the Fourth Gospel", *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*, 63, 2001, 265-286.
- Williams, R. H. "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

- 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://religion.rutgers.edu/vri/index.html>
- The Gospel of John (NT Gateway). <http://www.ntgateway.com/john/>