Syllabus for *Studies in the Gospels: Gospel of John (NT 421)*

**Fall 2009**

A course offered at the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary

David G. Hellwig, professor

seminary email: dkhellwig4@bmats.edu

seminary phone number: 903-586-2501, ext. 2231

cell phone number: 501-626-0156

**Course Description:**

According to the current catalog on p. 66, the description of this course is stated as follows: “Topical and exegetical studies are made in the Synoptic and/or Johannine gospels with emphasis on important theological concepts and great events in the life of Christ, such as the Messianic consciousness of Jesus, His miracles, and His parabolic teachings.” The emphasis in this course will be an exposition on the Gospel of John. The introduction and background information will be examined first, and then a chapter by chapter exposition will be pursued. Some of the verses in each chapter will receive a cursory treatment only, while other passages will be examined more closely.

**Course Textbooks:**

1. Holy Bible: The NASB will be the version used in class. The student is welcome to use whatever version he or she prefers to follow along.


**Course Objectives:**

*By the end of this course, the student should...*

1. possess a firm grasp on the background, purpose, themes, and literary characteristics of the Gospel of John.

2. possess a detailed outline of the Gospel of John that can be expanded and utilized for teaching and preaching purposes.

3. be able to list the teachings and miracles of Jesus that the Apostle John includes in his Gospel.
4. know the geographical regions that John highlights in his treatment of the ministry of Jesus.

5. gain a greater appreciation for the Gospel of John as an inspired and infallible writing within the corpus of Holy Scripture.

Course Requirements:

Reading – The student is required to read in its entirety the Gospel of John, and the commentary by Leon Morris. See the reading assignments on the class schedule. The student is expected to complete the reading according to the class schedule at the end of this syllabus. The student will be asked on the final what percentage of the reading he or she has completed.

Writing

1. Each student will find one journal article that pertains to some aspect of the Gospel of John (purpose, authorship, text, etc.). The student will read that article and write a critical review of that article by interacting with the contents of the article. The student will provide a written copy of that report for each student in the class, as well as give an oral report of his or her findings. The student will be graded on both the written report and the oral presentation (Power Point may be used for the oral presentation, but is not required). The journal article chosen should be one written within the last ten years.

2. Each student will write a five to seven page research paper on any topic related to the Apostle John or the Gospel of John. For a topic, students may choose any pericope in the Gospel of John and do an expositional study of that passage (whatever the topic, the paper must be written as a formal research paper). This paper should be written using Times New Roman, 12 point font. The paper is to be double-spaced using footnotes below the text. This paper should include a title page and contents page. A bibliography should be included at the end of the paper comprised of ¾ page of resources (books, commentaries, and journal articles). The internet may be used as a source, but should not comprise more than 20% of the research. The five to seven pages refers to the main body of the paper and does not include the title page, contents page, or the bibliography.

Course Tests:

There will be two tests given during this course: a mid-semester test and a final exam. Each test will be worth 200 points, and the final is not comprehensive.
Course Grading:

There are up to 1,000 points that can be earned for this class. The student must earn each percentage point, and they will not be rounded up. For example, if a student earns 907 points in the class, the percentage will be 90.7% which is a “B.” The breakdown of the percentage and point values are as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-semester test</td>
<td>200 pts. (20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>200 pts. (20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research paper</td>
<td>200 pts. (20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal article presentation (written)</td>
<td>100 pts. (10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal article presentation (oral)</td>
<td>100 pts. (10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>100 pts. (10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class attendance &amp; participation</td>
<td>100 pts. (10%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* All written assignments are due according to the course schedule – any late work will be penalized 2 percentage points for every day it is late.

* The reading must completed each week according to the class schedule.

Class Attendance and Participation:

The students are expected to be in class for each class session. Missing class will result in a reduction in one’s overall grade. Missing more than ¼ of class sessions, except for extenuating circumstances, can place the student at risk of failing the course. Students are allowed to use their personal computers in class for taking notes only – using the internet during class is strictly prohibited unless allowed by the professor. A violation of this rule may result in the prohibited use of computers in class. The students are expected to pay attention in class and not doing any other work for other classes.

BMATS Grading Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>91-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>81-90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>71-80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>61-70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Incomplete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP</td>
<td>Withdrawal while passing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WF</td>
<td>Withdrawal while failing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offense that can result in the student being placed on academic probation or worse. Plagiarism is defined as presenting material written by someone else and passing that off as one’s own work (this can include either a whole paper, or parts of a paper). In research and writing assignments, proper citations should be used to give proper credit to an author. Direct quotations should be cited as well as another author’s ideas.
Course Schedule:

Sept. 3rd: Introduction to course / Background of the Gospel of John

Sept. 10th: Background continued / John 1 & 2 (Morris, 3-183)

Sept. 17th: John 3 & 4 (Morris, 184-262)

Sept. 24th: John 5 & 6 (Morris, 263-346)

Oct. 1st: John 7 & 8 (Morris, 347-421)

Oct. 8th: Paschal Lectures / John 9 & 10 (Morris, 422-72)

Oct. 15th: Mid-term examination

Oct. 22nd: John 11 & 12 (Morris, 473-541)

Oct. 29th: John 13 & 14 (Morris, 542-91)

Nov. 5th: John 15 & 16 (Morris, 592-633)

Nov. 12th: John 17 & 18 (Morris, 634-97)

Nov. 19th: Student Presentations of Journal articles

Nov. 26th: Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 3rd: John 19-21 / Research Paper Due (Morris, 698-786)

Dec. 10th: Final Exam (student will be asked about percentage of reading done)

* The contents in this course syllabus and the course schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the professor.

* This class meets on Thursday nights from 6-9 PM in the Mt. Olive Room.