**BIBL 323 – Encountering John**

**Course Syllabus**

**Appalachian School of Theology**

**International Students**

**I.** **Class Meeting Place, Dates, and Time**

Meeting Place: Your choice

Dates: Work at your own pace as time allows

Time: As set by yourself

**II. Course Instructor**

Steve J. Collins; Church Office Phone: 276-479-3222;Cell Phone: 276-393-2741; E-mail:

president@astva.org

**III. Course Description**

This course is an analytical and exegetical study of the Gospel of John with special emphasis on John’s Christology that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God.

**IV. Rationale**

The fourth Gospel focuses on Jesus’ Judean ministry, contains no narrative parables, and focuses primarily on events not recorded in the Synoptic Gospels. Beyond this, no other Gospel so greatly develops a biblical theology of the church and the Holy Spirit. There- fore an understanding of the fourth Gospel is essential for anyone seeking a practical understanding of the life and teachings of the historical Jesus.

**V. Learner-Center Outcomes / Course Objectives**

As a result of enrollment and participation students will:

1. Be able to explain and discuss relevant background issues of the Gospel of John, such as authorship, date, and purpose.

2. Be able to compare and contrast the fourth Gospel with the Synoptic Gospels.

3. Be able to describe the relationship between key concepts introduced within the prologue that are developed throughout the fourth Gospel.

4. Be able to analyze the role signs, “I am” sayings, and Jewish feasts and the role they play in the presentation of Jesus’ identity.

5. Be able to identify and trace key theological themes as developed and presented in the Gospel.

6. Help others mature in the areas of bible study, leadership, and ministry.

7. Integrate their learning experiences into the formation of a Christian worldview that honors Jesus Christ and aids in the advancement of His Kingdom.

**VI. Required Texts and Materials**

In addition to the Bible you will need one textbook which is:

1. Kostenberger, Andreas J., Encountering John: The Gospel in Historical, Literary, and Theological Perspective, Second Edition, Baker Academic, Grand Rapids, Michigan, ISBN: 978-0-8010-4916-3

**VII. Learning Activities and Evaluation**

1. Attendance – 20% of final grade.

* Students are expected to attend all class sessions.
* If for any reason it is not possible to attend a class, it is common courtesy to inform the instructor beforehand, or in case of an unavoidable emergency, at the earliest opportunity.
* The policy of the Appalachian School of Theology, Inc. is: *Any student taking the class for credit who misses four or more class sessions will automatically be assigned a final grade of “F” for the course.*

2. Reading & Participation – 30% of final grade.

* There will be regular reading assignments from the text, the Bible, and other sources in preparation for the class.
* Class participants are expected to do all of the assigned readings prior to each session and come to class prepared to critically discuss the main themes covered in their reading assignments.

3. I AM PAPER – 25% of final grade: see textbook pg. 87

* The student will write a paper focusing on one of the seven “I AM” statements made by Jesus. The paper must include a description of the events that surround the state-ment, how the statement relates to God as revealed in the Old Testament, how the statement reveals the deity of Christ, and how this truth can apply practically to the student’s personal life. The student should reference the Bible and other outside sources as available to the student.

3. Theology Paper – 25% of final grade:

* The student will write a paper describing 1 of 3 doctrines (Jesus as Deity, the Holy Spirit, or Eternal Life). The paper should be double-spaced and contain at least at least 5 full pages of content. The student should reference the Bible and other outside sources as available to the student.

\*A copy of *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers (6th edition)* by Kate L.

Turabian, University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Ill., 1996 is available for

use by the students.

\*Plagiarism statement – Academic integrity is an important part of the educational process. As such, honesty and accountability are vital to each student who truly wishes to learn and honor God in the process. With this in mind:

* Students are expected to write their own work. While students are encouraged to study and talk with fellow students and the instructor, each student must write their own assignments.
* If you borrow more than 3 or 4 words in a row from another source, it should be properly referenced using quotation marks and full bibliographic information, including page numbers. When you borrow ideas but not actual words, you may cite the source at your discretion to help your reader follow up on your writing.

**VIII. Teaching Methodology**

This course is designed to be an interactive learning experience. As such we will employ lecture, interactive discussion, and intense Bible study. The facilitator will provide a copy of his / her teaching outline to each participant; however, students are expected to prepare

for each session by completing their reading and written assignments in order that they may actively and positively enhance our learning environment by their intense participation.

**IX. Grading Scale**

A+ 98 – 100 (4.3) The student has demonstrated the mastery of the

A 95 – 97 (4.0) material and its application.

A- 93 – 94 (3.7)

B+ 90 – 92 (3.3) The student has demonstrated above average

B 87 – 89 (3.0) mastery of the material and its application.

B- 85 – 86 (2.7)

C+ 82 – 84 (2.3) The student has demonstrated the required mastery C 79 – 81 (1.7) of the material and its application.

C- 77 – 78 (1.7)

D+ 74 – 76 (1.3) The student has demonstrated below average D 71 – 73 (1.0) mastery of the material and its application.

D- 69 – 70 (0.7)

F 68 – below (0.0) The student has failed to master the material and its application.

P Passing WP Withdrew Passing

I Incomplete WF Withdrew Failing

**X. Library Support**

* Our students are able to use resources from our Regional Resource Library which is located on the church campus of First Baptist Church of Nickelsville but borrowing privileges must be approved by one of our facilitators.
* Virginia residents and UVA/Virginia Tech graduates can use and borrow books from the University of Virginia and Virginia Tech libraries by using a Virginia driver’s license.
* Access to free, full text journals is available at <http://www.doaj.org>

**XI. Expectations of Students**

* Regular attendance in class is required of all students. Any student who is absent in more than 25% of his/her class sessions cannot expect to pass the course. The faculty is responsible for enforcing this policy.
* Students are expected to be on time for class and ready to study.

**XII Late & Make-up Assignments**

Unless other arrangements are made with the facilitator all assignments are due as listed.

**XIII Use of Technological Devices**

Students may use laptops, tablets, & smart phones for class; however this class will be what we call an “unplugged class” which simply means that everyone should turn-off the ringers on their phones.

**XIV CLASS SCHEDULE**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Readings** | **Topics** |
| 1/23/2022  Week #1 | Main Text, Preface – pg. 12 | **Part 1: Encountering the Gospel of John: Come On In!**  **Overview of Course & History: How John’s Gospel Came to Be** |
| 1/30/2022  Week #2 | Main Text, 13 – 34 | **Literature: Mapping John’s Story & Theology: John’s Major Themes** |
| 2/6/2022  Week #3 | Main Text, 35 – 50 | **Part 2: Encountering the Word**  **The Incarnation of the Word (Jn. 1:1-18)** |
| 2/13/2022  Week #4 | Main Text, 51 – 66 | **Part 3: Encountering the Earthly Jesus: The Mission to the Jews (including 7 signs)**  **Jn. 1:19 – 12:50;**  **Jesus’ Early Ministry (Part 1) Signs 1 – 2 (1:19 – 2:25)** |
| 2/20/2022  Week #5 | Main Text, 67 – 76 | **Part 3: Jesus’ Early Ministry (Part 2)**  **Sign 3 (Jn. 3:1 – 4:54)** |
| 2/27/2022  Week #6 | Main Text, 77 – 88 | **Part 3: Escalating Conflict (Part 1)**  **Signs 4 – 5 (Jn. 5:1 – 6:71)** |
| 3/6/2022  Week #7 | **Reading Days: No Class** |  |
| 3/13/2022  Week #8 | Main Text, 89 - 100 | **Part 3: Escalating Conflict (Part 2)**  **Jn. 7:1 – 8:59** |
| 3/20/2022  Week #9 | Main Text, 101 – 112 | **Part 3: Escalating Conflict (Part 3)**  **Sign 6 (Jn. 9:1 – 10:42)** |
| 3/27/2022  Week #10 | Main Text, 113 – 128 | **Part 3: Escalating Conflict (Part 4)**  **Sign 7 (Jn. 11:1 – 12:50)** |
| 4/03/2022  Week #11 | Main Text, 129 – 138 | **Part 4: Encountering the Exalted Jesus: The Mission to the World (Jn. 13 – 20)**  **Jesus’ Farewell (Part 1) Chap. 13** |
| 4/10/2022  Week #12 | **Spring Break – No Class** |  |
| 4/17/2022  Week #13 | Main Text, 139 – 156 | **Part 4: Jesus’ Farewell (Part 2) Chaps. 14 – 16; Chaps. 14 – 16** |
| 4/24/2022  Week #14 | Main Text, 157 – 164 | **Part 4: Jesus’ Farewell (Part 3)**  **Jesus’ Parting Prayer; Chap. 17** |
| 5/1/2022  Week #15 | Main Text, 165 - 180 | **Part 4: Jesus’ Passion, Resurrection, & Commissioning of His Followers**  **Chaps. 18 – 20** |
| 5/8/2022  Week #16 | Main Text, 181 - 186 | **Part 5: Encountering the One Who Calls Us to Follow (Jn. 21)**  **What It Means to Follow Jesus** |
| 5/15/2022  Week #17 | Final Class |  |