

Asbury Theological Seminary
ePLACE: preserving, learning, and creative exchange

Syllabi

eCommons

1-1-2002

NT 617 Exegesis of Johannine Literature

Ben Witherington

Follow this and additional works at: <http://place.asburyseminary.edu/syllabi>

Recommended Citation

Witherington, Ben, "NT 617 Exegesis of Johannine Literature" (2002). *Syllabi*. Book 109.
<http://place.asburyseminary.edu/syllabi/109>

This Document is brought to you for free and open access by the eCommons at ePLACE: preserving, learning, and creative exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ePLACE: preserving, learning, and creative exchange. For more information, please contact thad.horner@asburyseminary.edu.

NT 617

EXEGESIS OF JOHANNINE LITERATURE

Ben Witherington, III, Instructor
Office: AD 412 • 859-858-2329
Study (Home): 859-223-6308
Ben_Witherington@asburyseminary.edu

July 2002
3 semester units
Enrollment Limit: 60
One week Intensive

Catalog Description

A study of selected passages in Johannine Literature, this course will deal with the various textural, historical, rhetorical, exegetical, theological, and ethical concerns raised in the Gospel and Letters of John. The focus in the course will be on familiarizing the student not only with the content of this book, but also with the exegetical and hermeneutical issues that it raised and raises.

Prerequisite: NT(IFS)510 or 511; NT520; and NT500 or 501/502 or equivalent. (May be taken by students in M.A. programs not requiring Greek by special arrangement with the professor.)

Introduction

The Johannine Literature makes up approximately one third of the New Testament. It includes four different genre of literature-- a Gospel, epistles, a homily, and a book of apocalyptic prophecy. This course explores segments of these differing types of Johannine literature, seeking to consider both the differences and the similarities.

Pre-requisites: NT 500 or 501/502, and IBS-- 1

Course Objectives

Having successfully completed this course, participants should:

- (1) be able to recognize the importance of a close reading of the text of John, 1,2,3, John, and Revelation
- (2) be able to begin to master the skills necessary to exegete the Greek text of these NT documents;

- (3) grasp the importance of the structure of these works and their importance for understanding Johannine Christology;
- (4) understand the role of these works in the New Testament canon;
- (5) be able to propose fruitful ways in which Johannine literature may be read within the horizons of the contemporary church and world;

Course Requirements and Reading

On questions of style, especially with regard to paper organization and references, see Carol Slade, Form and Style: Research Papers, Reports, Theses, 11th ed. (New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2000).

Students should submit written materials on time; late papers will receive no written comments and the grade will be penalized one-third of a grade per day.

(1) Class Preparation, Attendance, and Participation: Participants should prepare for each class session by (1) carefully reading the assigned texts in the Johannine Literature (see the reading schedule, below), (2) taking notes on the text, and (3) comparing their observations with those in at least one of the following commentaries. (15%)

Peterson, Eugene, Reversed Thunder, (San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1988) pb.

Marshall, I.H., The Epistles of John, (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978).

Witherington, Ben, John's Wisdom, (Louisville: Westminster/J. Knox, 1994) pb.

Witherington, Ben, Jesus the Seer, (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1999), hb.

Attendance at all sessions of the course is expected. In order to complete the course with a passing grade. Excused absences are impossible in such an intensive course.

(2) A Critical Review: A review of Jesus the Seer, approximately 1300-1600 words (i.e., 5-6 pages, with a standard 12-point font like Times New Roman and one-inch margins) in length, typed, double-spaced. Due at the

beginning of class, July 8th. As a critical review, this essay should summarize the author's central theses; demonstrate the author's approach to the subject matter; and critique the author's analysis (e.g., with regard to the author's method, its faithfulness to the primary materials, its engagement with the wider discussion on the topic, and so on). (35%)

(3) A Research Assignment: An exegesis paper of approximately 10 pages (with a standard 12-point font like Times New Roman and one-inch margins), typed, with 1.5 or double spacing, with appropriate notes and bibliography, treating a selected pericope within one of these Johannine works. This paper should evidence *both* a close reading of the text *and* critical engagement with the range of secondary resources appropriate to the study. (See the bibliographic resources in the commentaries, as well as *New Testament Abstracts* in the Library.)
Due by 4:00 July 22. (50%).

Reading Schedule

The student should plan to work through the commentaries as we progress through the Marshall's commentary on the Epistles first, followed by John's Wisdom, followed by Peterson.

Course Schedule

We will first study the Johannine epistles, followed by the Gospel, followed by Revelation. In other words, we will study these works in the likely chronological order of their compositions. Approximately one day will be spent on introductory matters and the epistles, followed by two days on the Gospel and two on Revelation.