Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary ~ S. Hamilton
NT 617: Gospel of John (Fall, 2013)
Mark A. Jennings

Class Time: Wed, 2:00 – 5:00
No classes on Oct 16; Nov 13; Nov 27

Mark A. Jennings Contact Information:
Email: mjennings1@gordonconwell.edu
Phone: Office #4088; 781 – 738-7114 (mobile); 781-812-0166 (home)
Office hours: Wed and Fri mornings; 9-11 AM

Course Description

This course is an exegetical study of the Greek text of the Gospel of John with special attention to its overall narrative structure, language, and theology. A typical session will include translation, discussion, and lecture. Some attention will be given to John’s relationship with the other Gospels, but the primary focus of this course will be what John was inspired to write. Each student will be expected to employ all the exegetical tools at their disposal to better interpret the original intent of the Gospel. Finally, significant portions of each class will be devoted to discussing what our exegesis means for the church, for discipleship, for obedience of faith, for ministering etc. In other words the exegesis of John (or any Biblical text) is never the end in itself, but is the essential preparatory step of listening that is necessary for proclaiming the truth revealed in God’s Word.

I am teaching under three working assumptions:

1. You desire to know the authorial intent because you hold it to be the inspired, inerrant Word of God.
2. You desire to teach and preach the Word of God in service to the church. (This “service” can take many forms.)
3. You agree to be taught by me and to do the required work necessary to benefit from the teaching.

Objectives

At the end of the course, students should be able to:
1. Articulate the contemporary issues surrounding the interpretation of John, especially the views of Carson and Kostenberger. (Art 1-2 of GCTS Mission)
3. Translate into accurate and idiomatic English any portion of John. (Art 1-2)
4. Deeply examine and consider a particular passage, utilizing all the appropriate exegetical methods. (Art 1-2 of GCTS Mission)

5. Articulate personal conclusions based on sound exegesis regarding the overarching message and purpose of the Gospel whole as well as individual sections. (Art 1-3)

6. Consider the importance of this Gospel to one’s faith and understanding of who Christ is. (Art 3-6 of GCTS Mission)

7. Consider how the Gospel of John informs our understanding of salvation, the church, our ministry, discipleship, etc. (Art 3-6 of GCTS Mission)

**Texts**

**REQUIRED**

- **Greek New Testament (NA27/28 or UBS4)**

- **Choose ONE of the commentaries below:**
  - D. Carson; The Gospel of John (Eerdmans, 1991); 0-85111-779-X
  - A. Kostenberger; John (Baker, 2004); 0-8010-2644-X

- **Choose ONE of the books below:**
  - R. Bauckham, C. Mosser (eds); The Gospel of John and Christian Theology (Eerdmans, 2008); 978-0-8028-2717-3
  - R. Bauckham; The Testimony of the Beloved Disciple: Narrative, History, and Theology in the Gospel of John (Baker. 2007); 10-0-8010-3485-X
  - Kostenberger and S. Swain; Father, Son and Spirit: The Trinity and John's Gospel (IVP, 2008); 978-1-84474-253-0

*Other readings may be assigned*
Requirements

1. Each student is required to pass a Greek Competency Quiz to take the course. This quiz will be administered on the first day of class. Failure to pass this quiz will result in the student being ineligible from taking the course.

2. You are to be prepared each day to translate and discuss the Greek “Topic” text assigned for that day. Each student will be reading the Greek, translating, and discussing every class. Each student is allowed a “one class off” from translating. Additional unpreparedness may result in the reduction of your final grade.

3. You will be expected to read the entire Gospel of John in your native language before the second week of class.

4. Attendance at every class is expected. Failure to attend class will impact your final grade. Besides, who wants to miss class? How often will you get a chance to meet weekly with your peers and drink deeply from the Gospel of John?

5. You are to read all of your chosen commentary.

6. You are to write a Book Review of your chosen book. SEE BOOK REVIEW ASSIGNMENT DETAILS.

7. You are to write ONE Exegesis Paper of 4500-6000 words (strictly enforced) in which you systematically analyze a complete passage of the Greek text in the Gospel of John. The Paper must be on a passage from John 1-13:30. Due dates vary depending on passage selected. SEE EXEGESIS PAPER ASSIGNMENT DETAILS.

8. You are to complete a Translation Notebook on John 13:31-16:33. SEE TRANSLATION NOTEBOOK ASSIGNMENT DETAILS.

9. You are to write a Devotional Study on John 18:1-21:25. SEE DEVOTIONAL STUDY ASSIGNMENT DETAILS.
Grade Components

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<th>Component</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greek Competency Quiz</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<td>(Students must pass to stay in class, if necessary)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exegesis Paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Translation Notebook</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Devotional Study</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Review</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading and Translation Report</td>
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NOTE: POOR PARTICIPATION MAY LOWER YOUR FINAL COURSE GRADE BY A FULL GRADE (ex: a “B” becomes a “C”)

Final semester letter grades will be assigned as follows:

- A+ 98-100
- A  94-97
- A- 90-93
- B+ 88-89
- B  84-87
- B- 80-83
- C+ 78-79
- C  74-77
- C- 70-73
- D+ 68-69
- D  64-67
- D- 60-63
- F below 60

A Brief Word Regarding Translations for Class

The purpose of this course is not simply to teach Greek grammar but to interpret the New Testament from the Greek text. It is assumed that each student prior to class session will have translated the assigned text. Students will be called upon each class to translate and field questions regarding the assigned text. When we are discussing translations in class – it is to be done with a “hard copy” of the Greek New Testament – not an electronic copy. NO EXCEPTIONS. Failure to translate the assigned text (or at least to make a serious attempt) before class renders you ill prepared to sufficiently contribute. On those occasions where “life happens” and you must choose between doing all the assigned reading or doing your translation work, the latter should always take precedence (with the assumption you will “catch up” on your reading at the first possibility). Each student is allowed to take a “1 class off” from translating.

In the event that you are unable to translate all of the assigned text for the day, you are to notify the instructor before class of how much you did translate. If you fail to show up for class, it will be assumed that you did zero translation for that day. (If you did do some translation in preparation but were unable to make the class – please email me how much of the text you did translate). Naturally a failure to translate will impact your participation evaluation.

The reward of continually translating occurs in the effort. Therefore do not feel the necessity for a perfectly dynamic translation. Rough patches can be cleared up. This is part of what the class discussion is to accomplish. Also resist the temptation to do your translating work with
contemporary Bible or computer software on hand. What good does it do to show that you can “copy well” or move your computer mouse? I encourage you to use a lexicon and grammar and find your own translating mind.

A Brief Note on Intellectual Property Rights

No audio or video recordings are allowed. Furthermore no publication (audio, video, written) or live transmission of classroom proceedings will be permitted. Any requests for such privileges must be made in writing and must receive written approval from the instructor.

A Brief Note Regarding Internet Usage

Please do not access the internet (email, apps, websites, etc.) for non class-activities during class. This can be extremely distracting to all parties – and quite frankly it is unbecoming to do so. Exceptions may be made on occasion.

Regarding Extension Requests:

An extension of time for an assignment will be rarely granted. But, if an unavoidable (as determined by me) circumstance occurs that delays the submission of an assignment, the student may request an extension from me.

Any student requesting a “last-minute” extension (within 1-week of deadline) will be required to demonstrate the work done on the assignment prior to the extension request. An extension request may be denied, even in the event of an “unavoidable last-minute circumstance” if an appropriate amount of progress (determined by me) on the assignment has not been made. Understand – that I consider the final week before an assignment is due to be the week of “proof-reading and last touches.” Therefore, do not expect extension requests to be granted if the assignment is not near this stage of completion.

A Final Note

It is my prayer that through this study of John the Holy Spirit will guide your mind and illumine your heart, that your love will abound more and more in knowledge and deep insight, so that you may be able discern the more excellent matter and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ (Phil 1:9-11). Let us come together in full humility, full of joy, crying out in prayer that our Sovereign Almighty might be pleased to reveal Himself to us in the study of His Holy Word.
**Course Schedule** (subject to instructor’s revision at any time)

Translate the “FOCUS text.” Read in English and Commentary for the Entire Range.

Unless otherwise indicated – you are to read the corresponding pages in your Chosen Commentary (CC) for the entire topic text (not just the “FOCUS Text”).

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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| Sept 11 | Part 1: Course Overview; *Proficiency Quiz*  
         | Part 2: Introduction to John; | Read all of John in your native language;  
         | | CC—“Introduction/Background”  
         | | NO TRANSLATION WORK |
| Sept 18 | John 1:1-18 | *FOCUS: John 1:1-18*  
<pre><code>     | | *You should begin work on Exegesis Paper and your Translation Notebook* |
</code></pre>
<p>| Oct 2   | John 3:22-6:21 | <em>FOCUS: John 4:43-54; 5:16-47</em> |
| Oct 16  | <strong>READING WEEK</strong> | <strong>WORK ON EXEGESIS PAPERS</strong> |
| Oct 23  | John 8:12-10:42 | <em>FOCUS: John 8:12-30; 101-21</em> |
| Oct 30  | John 11:1-12:50 | <em>FOCUS: John 11:1-44</em> |
| Nov 6   | John 13:1-16:33 | EXEGESIS PAPERS DUE |
| Nov 13  | <strong>READING WEEK</strong> | <strong>WORK ON ASSIGNMENTS</strong> |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Scripture References</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 20</td>
<td>John 14:32-17:26, Focus: John 15:1-16:33</td>
<td>BOOK REVIEW DUE</td>
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<td>Nov 27</td>
<td>THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY</td>
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<td>Dec 17</td>
<td>Last Day for Written Work</td>
<td>READING &amp; TRANSLATION REPORT DUE</td>
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