GORDON-CONWELL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
Hispanic Ministries Program  
NT Elective: Gospel of John  
May 2013  
Gerry Wheaton, PhD  
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Course Description

A detailed study of the Fourth Gospel focusing especially on structure and theology. The course provides an in-depth introduction to the Gospel and the major issues surrounding its interpretation in the contemporary Church.

Course Objectives

1. To refine skills in interpretation of the Gospel of John.

2. To lay a broad foundation of historical and literary knowledge so that the student can continue to engage fruitfully with the Gospel in future ministry settings.

3. To sharpen understanding of the theological contributions of the Fourth Gospel to the Church’s understanding of who God is, the role Christ plays in God’s purposes, the shape of Christian discipleship to Jesus, and the person of the Holy Spirit.

Course Reading

1. The following texts are required:

2. The following texts are recommended:
Course Requirements and Grading

1. **Attendance is mandatory.** Class discussions of the material covered each day are intended to challenge patterns of thought that have not been properly examined, as well as to stimulate deeper reflection on the Gospel of John and the way it should be interpreted. Missing a class meeting without an acceptable reason will result in the reduction of the final grade by 1/3 (e.g. from A to A-).

2. **Daily reflection papers (20%).** Each day the student is required to submit (electronically) a 1-page reflection on the material covered in that day’s class. These reflections can include a summary of what the student has learned from the in-class presentation, a summary of his or her understanding of the passage treated that day, or reflection on how the content of that day may be appropriated in ministry.

3. **Final exam (40%).** A final exam will be administered during the last class meeting. The exam will be essay format and will cover the Jewish background of the Gospels (material to be presented during the first class meeting) and Craig Koester, *Word of Life: Theology of John’s Gospel*. The aim of this exercise is to refine the student’s ability to digest a theological interpretation of a Biblical book and to critically interact with it. I do not expect that you will agree with Koester at every point. Please think carefully through your own views in relation to the positions outlined by the author. Time will be set aside for discussion and questions about the book during one class meeting. *The student is strongly advised to read the book by Koester in its entirety prior to the first class meeting.*

4. **Final paper (40%).** A final paper will be submitted no later than Friday, June 21. The paper is to be a minimum of 12 pages in length (there is no upper limit) and will provide an interpretation of a passage selected from John’s Gospel. *Please get approval from the professor before deciding upon a passage.* The aim of the paper is to display the fullness of your interpretive skills as they have developed to this stage in the academic program. Details of the format will be discussed in a class meeting.

Class Meeting Schedule (May 20-25, 2013)

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday to Thursday</td>
<td>6:00p.m. - 10:00p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>8:00a.m - 5:00p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>8:00a.m - 1:00p.m.</td>
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