

ASSOCIATED CANADIAN THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS OF TRINITY WESTERN UNIVERSITY

Graduate Course Syllabus

Course Number: BNT 640 OL

Course Name: Exposition of John

Semester and Year: FA2023

Instructor: Jonathan Numada, PhD

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Course Instruction: August 28 – October 21, 2023

Course Description

Students will study John's Gospel in detail and in full context, including its content and unique emphases. Students will also apply sound hermeneutical procedures to discern the essential theological contribution that it makes to the Bible's total message. Application of the results of exegesis to contemporary issues will be considered. Interaction with commentary and theological literature is included.

Student Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and its Application

- Demonstrate an ability to research the cultural background of John's Gospel.
- Interpret John considering Jewish and Greco-Roman culture and common literary conventions.
- Formulate strategies for using John as a resource for theology.

Cognitive Complexity

- Differentiate the unique theological emphases of John.
- Evaluate how theories of provenance and origin influence interpretation.
- Show an increased interpretive sensitivity to historical and cultural factors contributed to the composition of John, how it has been read in Christian history, and the contemporary communication of John's teachings.

Inter-and intra-personal Wellness

- Demonstrate increased professional capacity and autonomy in the collaborative task of biblical interpretation.
- Display superior organizational and time management skills.
- Demonstrate academic and personal integrity.

Aesthetic Expression and Interpretation

- Display an increased sensitivity to how historical and cultural factors contribute to how modern interpreters prioritize data in their interpretations of John.
- Illustrate how John's literary and theological artistry expounds the Gospel's theology.
- Apply an increasing interpretive confidence in interpreting John and its theological themes for meeting contemporary spiritual needs.

Social Responsibility and Global Engagement

- Critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches to interpreting Johannine narrative and theology to better facilitate the pursuit of theological construction.
- Demonstrate the ability to analyze, appraise and evaluate the text to contextualize and adapt its theology for diverse ministry contexts, be they local or global.

Spiritual Formation

- Demonstrate a holistic awareness of how the message of John forms our personal spiritual life and centers Christian identity on the person of Jesus.
- Engage in New Testament Theology to promote the spiritual well-being of others.
- Show an ability to debate theological issues while exemplifying a Christian ethic in pursuit of truth, reconciliation, compassion and hope.

Leadership

- Demonstrate integrity and humility in all matters.
- Practice collaborative skills and an ability to debate and successfully resolve interpretive issues when engaging in theological dialogue.

Required Texts and Materials

Required:

Carson, D. A. *The Gospel According to John*. Pillar New Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.

Estes, Douglas, and Ruth Sheridan, eds. *How John Works: Storytelling in the Fourth Gospel*. Resources for Biblical Study. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2016.

***Note: Before purchasing your textbooks, be sure to consult your Logos library as well as the Trinity Western University Library for available resources.**

***Note: Additional readings will be posted to Moodle (learn.twu.ca).**

Course Activities and Requirements

Discussion Forums

- During discussion forum weeks:
 - the first forum post is due midnight on Tuesday
 - the second forum post is due midnight on Wednesday
 - the third forum post is due midnight on Thursday.

Written Assignments

- Written assignments are due by midnight (your time) on the Saturday of the week they are due. I would ask that you submit your assignments in the online Moodle classroom accessible through learn.twu.ca. When you go to the Moodle classroom, you will see assignment folders where you can submit assignments.

Late Assignment Policy

- Please contact the instructor immediately via email if you need an extension.
- In the case of illness, whenever possible please try to secure a doctor's note. If you cannot secure a doctor's note, please notify the instructor as soon as possible and provide the doctor's note when completing the *Incomplete Grade Contract*.
- Students must submit an *Incomplete Grade Contract* to the university registrar if they wish to submit any outstanding work after the course end date. The form is available on the ACTS website.

Course Assignments

Here is an overview of all the assignments followed by a detailed description of them:

Initial Course Zoom Meeting

We will have an initial Zoom meeting during the first week to discuss the syllabus and assignments. This will also be a great chance for everyone to meet each other and ask questions about the course.

Meeting Date: **August 30, 2023 (exact time TBA)**.

Readings (10%)

Read the assigned course textbooks, articles, and relevant Scripture portions noted in the syllabus, and complete and sign the Reading Report (**appended below**).

Additional supplementary readings (SR) intended to facilitate class discussion and the engagement of NT materials with culture will be made available via the Moodle website at: learn.twu.ca

Reading Report Due: **August 29, 2023**.

Participation (30%)

"Classroom" participation is gauged by the degree to which a participant engages in the online discussion forums. ACTS students come from diverse educational, socio-economic, and theological backgrounds. Since we will not all agree on every matter or consider each issue to be of equal importance, it is vital that all participants be intentional about modelling civility, empathy, and reasoned discourse when participating in group discussions. Cumulatively, Readings and Participation are worth 30% of the final score.

Written Assignments (60%)

Assignments should follow Turabian or SBL formatting. Essay assignments should be double-spaced and written in English using Times New Roman 12-point font. Essays should begin with a separate title page, with the bibliography placed after the essay and beginning on its own new page.

Make sure you know how to make the most of the Journals Databases (EBSCO, JSTOR, ATLA) and TWU library electronic resources (e-books). Bible Study notes are not appropriate resources for graduate work.

Submission of Assignments. Please submit your assignments to the appropriate folder in the course website at: learn.twu.ca

A. Assignment 1: Book Review and Critique (10%)

Due: Sept 9

- Write an 8-page book review (12-point font, double-spaced) of Sheridan and Estes' *How John Works: Storytelling in the Fourth Gospel* (2016).
- The *review* portion in which you will summarize the content and argument(s) of the book should constitute no more than 2/3 of the project.
- The *critique* portion in which you assess, evaluate, and appreciate the text should comprise 1/3 of the project.

Include:

- b. The editor's professional and theological background.
- c. Summarize the content of the book in *your own* words.
- d. Explain the most interesting or important points in the book.
- e. Provide constructive criticisms of parts of the book that you think could use more development or refinement, or its possible limitations.
- f. Summarize how this book is useful to you or how it might be useful to others.

B. Assignment 2: Thematic Paper (20%)

Due: Sept 23

- Write an analysis (8 to 10 pages) of a major theme, motif, or metaphor in John's Gospel. It should include the following elements:
 - i. Give an overview of how the theme borrows from Old Testament parallels. (2 or 3 pages)
 - ii. Give an overview of how John adapts this theme to the message, context, and theology of the Fourth Gospel. (2 or 3 pages)
 - iii. Apply the biblical theology derived from your topic to your own ministry context, so that it speaks meaningfully to our culture today (or the culture you serve in) and can be practiced within the Church and Christian discipleship. (2 or 3 pages)
- On average, 8 peer-reviewed sources should be consulted including journal articles, commentaries, lexicons, and Bible dictionaries.

C. Research and Application Paper and Video Presentation (30%)

Presentation Due: Oct 7; Paper Due: Oct 21

Select a relating to a theological, social justice, historical, textual, or linguistic/discourse-critical issue from John. Analyze and explain its importance for interpretation, theology, and how this may impact church life, ministry, and witness today. Example topics include but are not limited to:

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|--|---|
| i. A metaphor related to John's Christology. | ix. The Festivals. |
| ii. Anti-Judaism. | x. John's views on the Roman Empire. |
| iii. John's views on Gender or ethnicity. | xi. John's relationship to Qumran. |
| iv. The Holy Spirit. | xii. John's relationship to Greek culture. |
| v. The Temple. | xiii. Aporias. |
| vi. The Ascent-Descent Motif. | xiv. Parataxis or another prominent linguistic element. |
| vii. Dualism and/or apocalypticism. | xv. John's use of rhetoric or genre conventions. |
| viii. John's views on Eschatology. | |

The paper should be 12 pages double-spaced (excluding Title Page and Bibliography). Approximately 6 pages should be devoted to historical, cultural, and exegetical issues, approximately 2 or 3 pages to theological construction, and 2 or 3 pages to cultural exegesis and contemporary application. You can use feedback from fellow students and the instructor concerning your presentation to revise your paper for submission.

The Video Presentation should be a *short* summary of your paper and the importance of your findings for ministry or the Christian life. Students are free to select an appropriate format for their presentation such as a PowerPoint presentation on a Zoom recording (students may use their TWU Zoom accounts) or a simple PowerPoint presentation with a voiceover. Presentations must be uploaded to Moodle on the same date as the papers. The videos should be no more than 10 minutes in duration.

Tips:

Keep it Focused

- Try to concentrate your attention on a single passage in John that you think provide a representative example.
- Show awareness of how your topic may be handled similarly or differently in other parts of John but avoid rabbit trails.

Keep it You

- Familiarize yourself with the relevant passages of Scripture BEFORE going to theological texts, commentaries, or specialist studies.
- Identify important Greek words, check their meaning in a lexicon or commentary and compare the meaning of this word in other places in the New Testament or Septuagint. Explain how the meaning of these important words shed light on your topic.
- Try to rely as much as possible on your own thinking and reasoning, and dialogue with scholars rather than citing them as authorities.

Keep it Relevant

- Identify points of cultural contact between John's context and your own. Devote some space to clearly communicating how your topic addresses challenges that the church or society faces today.

Keep it Informed

- Make sure you know how to make the most of the Journals Databases (EBSCO, JSTOR, ATLA) and TWU library electronic resources (ebooks).
- Use of *at least* 12 significant peer-reviewed sources of which fully 1/3 are from significant journals and periodicals.

D. Forum Dialogues with Student Papers (10%)

Students may be divided into discussion groups to better facilitate dialogue. Discussion questions for guiding your conversation will be posted to Moodle.

- Question 1 Due: Tuesday
- Question 2 Due: Wednesday
- Presenter Response Due: Thursday

Assignments and Due Dates

Assignment	Due Date	Percentage
Course Meeting	August 30	
Assigned Pre-Readings (individual)	August 29	10%
Discussion Forums	Week assigned	20%
Book Review and Critique	Sept 9	10%
Thematic Paper	Sept 23	20%
Presentation	Oct 7	10%
Presentation Dialogues	Week 7	10%
Final Paper	Oct 21	20%

Course Evaluation

Near the conclusion of this course, you will be asked to complete a course evaluation. Because feedback is very important, the course evaluation is a required part of the course and is tied to the submission of your last assignment. The course evaluation will be integrated into the Moodle classroom in Week 8.

Grading System

Letter Grade	Percentage	Description	Grade Point	Meaning in Graduate Work
A+	97-100	Superior	4.30	Exceptionally well-reasoned, compelling development of position. Outstanding incorporation of personal vision as well as of references and resources. Strikingly appropriate examples. Extraordinary insight, critical analytical and evaluative ability, and creativity. Superlative style and language usage. Makes an original contribution and is potentially publishable.

A	93-96.99	Excellent	4.00	Well-argued and convincing development of position. Insightful incorporation of personal vision as well as of references and resources. Notably appropriate examples. Excellent insight, critical analytic and evaluative ability, and creativity. Impressive style and language use.
A-	90-92.99	Very Good	3.70	Thorough and plausible development of position. Skilful incorporation of personal vision as well as of references and resources. Very good examples. Very good insight, analytic and evaluative ability, and creativity. Commendable and fluent style and language usage.
B+	87-89.99	Proficient	3.30	Proficient development of position. Appropriate incorporation of personal vision as well as of references and resources. Relevant examples. Good quality insight, analytic and evaluative ability, and creativity. Clear and correct style and language usage.
B	83-86.99	Good	3.00	Competent development of position, but possibly with some gaps and/or limitations. Good incorporation of personal vision as well as of references and resources. Good examples. Reasonable insight, analytic and evaluative ability. Little creativity. Generally good style and language usage, but possibly with some minor flaws.
B-	80-82.99	Average	2.70	Average development of position, but with obvious gaps and/or limitations. Satisfactory incorporation of personal vision as well as of references and resources. Satisfactory examples. Reasonable insight, analytic and evaluative ability. Little creativity. Generally satisfactory style and language usage, but possibly with some minor flaws.
C+	77-79.99	Adequate	2.30	Adequate development of position with significant gaps and/or limitations. Some incorporation of personal vision as well as references and resources. Adequate use of examples. Very little creativity. Considerable number of issues related to coherence and style.
C	73-76.99	Acceptable	2.00	Limited development of position with a noticeable lack of consistency with personal vision or references. Limited integration with external sources. Acceptable analytic and evaluative ability. Numerous weaknesses in terms of clarity, coherence, and grammar.
C-	70-72.99	Needs Work	1.70	Passable but unimpressive development of position. Position not completely consistent with personal vision <i>or</i> references and resources not taken fully into account <i>or</i> examples are basic or not completely convincing <i>or</i> barely acceptable insight and analytic and evaluative ability. Adequate style and language usage, but with weaknesses in some respects (e.g., clarity, coherence, grammar). Overall quality shows noticeable deficiencies.
F	Below 70	Below Standard	0.00	Unacceptable work at graduate level. Shows lack of understanding and/or competence in several of the criteria described above. This grade is a failing grade at the graduate level.

Grade Appeals

Students can appeal their grade to the course instructor by stating in writing their reasons for contesting the grade. Deadline for such appeals is one week after the student has receipt of grade. Formal course grade appeals can be made with the ACTS Office.

READING STATEMENT

I have read ____ % of the assigned portions of Carson, *Gospel according to John*.

I have read ____ % of Estes and Sheridan's *How John Works*.

I have read ____% of the Supplemental Readings (SR) Assignments.

Name: _____ Date Signed: _____

Signature: _____

Course Outline

Note: *Written* assignments are due by midnight on the **Saturday of that week. *Forum posts* are due **Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday**.

**Note: Readings are listed with the relevant sessions but are due prior to the start of class.

Week 1 (Aug 28-Sept 2)	Readings	Learning Task Due
-Part 1: General Introduction -Part 2: The Date -Part 3: Situation and Purpose -Part 4: Location and Possible Influences on John	-Carson, Introduction I-IV	
Week 2 (Sept 3-9)		
-Part 5: John and Anti-Judaism -Part 6: The Christology of the Prologue -Part 7: Origins and Function of the Prologue	-Carson, Introduction V-IX -SR: Evans, <i>Word and Glory</i> , ch3.	Due: Book Review
Week 3 (Sept 10-16)		
-Part 8: Intro to the Book of Signs and Johannine Metaphors -Part 9: Johannine Festival Metaphors -Part 10: The First Disciples	-Carson, 1:19-51. -SR: Porter, "Jesus and the 'I Am' Sayings"	Forum Week 1
Week 4 (Sept 17-23)		
-Part 11: True Purification -Part 12: Spiritual Rebirth -Part 13: True Worship -Part 14: The Trial Begins (John 5)	-Carson, 2:1-5:47 -SR: Bryan, "Power in the Pool"	Due: Thematic Paper
Week 5 (Sept 24-30)		
-Part 15: Jesus the Deliverer -Part 16: Jesus at the Feast of Booths -Part 17: Responses to the Light of the World -Part 18: Jesus and Spiritual Blindness (John 9)	-Carson, 6:1-9:41 -SR: Reinhartz, "Children of the Devil" -SR: Hoskins, "Freedom"	Forum Week 2
Week 6 (Oct 1-7)		
-Part 19: Trusting in the Good King -Part 20: The Ways to Life and Death -Part 21: John 12	-Carson, 10:1-12:50 -SR: Carter, "Good Shepherd"	Due: Presentation (Oct 7)
Week 7 (Oct 8-14)		
-Part 22: The Farewell Discourses I -Part 23: The Farewell Discourses II -Part 24: The Arrest and Trials of Jesus	-Carson, 13:1-17:26 -SR: Thompson, "Spirit"	Presentations Discussions
Week 8 (Oct 15-21)		
-Part 25: The Crucifixion and Burial of Jesus -Part 26: The Resurrection of Jesus -Part 27: Summary of the Theology of John -Part 28: Course Conclusion	-Carson, 18:1-21:25 -SR: Ashton, "Story of Wisdom"	Due: Final Paper (Oct 21)

Course Policies

ADD/DROP POLICY

All OL courses are open for registration until the first day of class. Once the class has begun, students wishing to drop or withdraw from the class must contact the Registrar's Office by submitting a request through the TWU Service Hub (twu.ca/help). Tuition (excluding fees) refund rates are as follows:

Weeks 1-2 - 100%

Week 3 - 60%

Week 4 - 50%

Week 5 - 40%

Weeks 6-8 - 0%

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND AVOIDING PLAGIARISM AT TWU

One of the core values of Trinity Western University is the integration of academic excellence with high standards of personal, moral, and spiritual integrity. The University considers it a serious offence when an individual attempts to gain unearned academic credit. It is the student's responsibility to be informed about what constitutes academic misconduct. For details on this, and on identifying and avoiding plagiarism go to the [University Homepage > Academics > Academic Calendar](#) (p. 47).

<https://prezi.com/od62fxnkbmxh/plagiarism-how-to-get-it-out-of-your-life/> (Prezi presentation)

<http://bit.ly/1p00KX3> (Google Slide presentation offering more comprehensive information)

STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY

Students with a disability who need assistance are encouraged to contact the Equity of Access Office upon admission to TWU to discuss their specific needs. All disabilities must be recently documented by an appropriately certified professional and include the educational impact of the disability along with recommended accommodations. Within the first two weeks of the semester, students must meet with their professors to agree on accommodations appropriate to each class. Students should follow the steps detailed by the Equity of Access Office on their website at: <http://www.twu.ca/student-life/student-success/disabilities-and-equity-access>.

HOSPITALITY IN THE CLASSROOM

TWU is committed to an ethic of inclusion centred on the principles of Christian hospitality, reciprocity and reconciliation. We seek to cultivate generous learning spaces that are based on respect for differences and are open to diverse views, opinions, and identities that are thoughtfully expressed in a collegial manner. We welcome and value all voices, including those from under- represented groups or those who have been marginalized.

The following policies are optional but recommended, to allow you to efficiently respond to student challenges to the syllabus. *Click on these fields and press delete if you do not wish to use them:*

CAMPUS CLOSURE AND CLASS CANCELLATION POLICY

In the event of extreme weather conditions or other emergency situations go to the <https://www.twu.ca/campus-notification>.

COURSE GRADE APPEALS

Students can appeal their grade to the course instructor by stating in writing their reasons for contesting the grade. Deadline for such appeals is one week after the student has receipt of grade. Formal course grade appeals can be made to the ACTS Academic Director's Office.

PAPER FORMATTING

The preferred manner for citations is the Turabian Notes (Bibliography) format. For information and accuracy you may wish to reference the following style guide: Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, 9th ed. Students may find the following website helpful: http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that Trinity Western University, Langley campus is located on the traditional ancestral unceded territory of the Stó:lō people.