

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

June 25, 2018—July 12, 2018, Monday—Thursday 8:30 AM—11:45 AM

This course will explore the Gospel of John with attention to its distinctive literary and theological voice within its historical context. Topics that will be given special consideration include Johannine Christology, the relationship between the Johannine communities and the Jewish groups of their time, the understanding of community and discipleship in the Fourth Gospel, and the reception of this Gospel in the history of the Christian Church.

Requirements for the course include attendance and participation (10%), a pre-class assignment (15%), and weekly papers (3 papers-25% each).

PRE-COURSE WORK

- 1. Read:** Brown and Moloney, *Interpreting the Gospel and Letters of John*, Introduction and Chapters 1-4 and the corresponding biblical texts as indicated in the textbook
 - 2. Write:** An essay of about 1000 words, responding to the following questions: What is scripture? How and why did it develop in the ancient world? How and why did it develop in Judaism? How do you describe and discuss the scholarly method for interpreting scripture? For the rest of the essay, focus on the world behind the text: What is a covenant? How does this concept relate to ancient Judaism as revealed in the Jewish Scriptures? How would you trace the covenant relationship between God and humankind/God's chosen people as manifest in the Jewish Scriptures? How does all this play out in Judaism in the first century of the Roman Empire (still in terms of covenant)?
 - 3. Read:** The Gospel of John, in its entirety, preferable in one sitting
 - 4. Write:** An essay of about 500 words that offers a critical reflection on your experience reading this particular Gospel. Based upon your previous work and this initial reading of the Gospel, what might John's distinctive voice offer in the Christian canon?
- Reminder:** these are academic essays and should be written in 3rd person with a clear intro/thesis, body, and conclusion.

REQUIRED READING

Bible (NAB or NRSV)

Brown, Sherri and Francis J. Moloney. *Interpreting the Gospel and Letters of John: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2017. ISBN: 978-0802873385.

Clark-Soles, Jaime. *Reading John for Dear Life: A Spiritual Walk with the Fourth Gospel*, Westminster John Knox Press, 2016. ISBN 978-0664238476

Moloney, Francis J., SDB. *Love in the Gospel of John: An Exegetical, Theological, and Literary Study*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2013. ISBN 978-0-8010-4928-6

Schneiders, Sandra M. *Written that You May Believe: Encountering Jesus in the Fourth Gospel*. Rev. and Exp. Ed. New York: Herder & Herder, 2003. ISBN 0-8245-1926-4

BOSTON COLLEGE
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

SUMMER AT STM 2018

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After undergraduate study at Washington and Lee University and early graduate work at Yale University Divinity School and Columbia University School of Social Work, and following a stint in the US Peace Corps and several years working in the international development field, Sherri Brown returned to graduate school at the Catholic University of America to pursue a PhD in Biblical Studies. Her research interests focus primarily on the Gospel and Letters of John and, in addition to publishing a number of journal articles, she recently both co-wrote an introduction to the Johannine Literature and co-edited a volume on Johannine ethics. She is currently co-writing a volume on interpreting the NT as well as working on a solo project on the role of women in the Gospel of John. She also writes occasionally on the letters and theology of Paul and has recently completed two projects in 2 Peter. She loves traveling and facilitating study internationally, particularly in the archaeology and lands of the Bible.

EDUCATION

B.A., Washington and Lee University

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