

The Gospel of John

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Course description

John's Gospel stands out from the other three in a variety of ways: style, historical content and theological emphasis.

This class will examine the figure at the center of the fourth gospel (and indeed the whole of history), Jesus of Nazareth. Alongside examining John's portrait of Jesus, we will examine questions of historicity, dating and authorship. Finally, in cases where John appears to elevate Jesus more so than the other gospels, we will examine how to recover these same theological claims from the Synoptics (Matthew, Mark and Luke).

Course Expectations

Attendance You must attend 4 of 5 classes to receive credit. Roughly, everyone has 1 "excused absence" before receiving an incomplete. Any further absence is negotiable, to be discussed with the instructor.

Readings and Homework There will be weekly readings to keep in step with the material being covered each week. Questions on the readings can be found on the back of this sheet. These are strictly completion based.

Calendar

WEEK	CONTENT	READINGS FROM JOHN
1	Introduction, Prologue	N/A
2	Book of Signs I	1-7
3	Book of Signs II	8-12
4	Book of Glory I	13-17
5	Book of Glory II, Epilogue	18-21

Miscellaneous

Students will be responsible for their own notes. We will provide notebooks and the presentations will be available upon request.

Homework 1- Read the weekly selection-Reflect on and answer the following questions.

- A. Compare Matthew 17:11-13 and John 1:21. How would you explain the difference between John the Baptist's and Jesus' words.
- B. Respond to this claim: Receiving the eucharist (holy communion) is essential for salvation, as indicated by John 6:53-59.
- C. Respond to this claim: Jesus didn't turn water into wine! Fermentation takes time and therefore Jesus made grape juice.

Homework 2- Read the weekly selection - Reflect on and answer the following questions.

- A. Compare and contrast Jesus healing the lame man at the pool (5:1-14) and the blind man (9:1-41).
- B. What do you think Jesus means when he says, "Before Abraham was, I am," (John 8:58)?

Homework 3- Read the weekly selection - Reflect on and answer the following questions.

- A. On his last night, Jesus emphasizes love and unity between the disciples (Cf. John 13:34, 15:12, 17:21). Why is this so important? Give scriptural references.
- B. List 3 ministries the Holy Spirit will perform (also called Counselor here) described in this section.

Homework 4- Read the weekly selection- Reflect on and answer the following questions.

- A. Psalm 22 is cited in John 19:24. Read through Psalm 22 and identify any fulfillments in Jesus' crucifixion from it. Feel free to look at other gospel accounts too.
- B. Name 3 things that we learn about Jesus' resurrection body from John 20-21.