COURSE INFORMATION

Course goals

At the completion of this course you should be able to describe the various views concerning the authorship, date, and audience of John’s epistles and the Revelation, and to defend the conservative view. You should understand the various methods of interpretation of the book of Revelation, and the arguments advanced for each. You should have mastered a fairly detailed outline of these books, and be able to interpret any part of them. You will have read a commentary on each book, will have investigated at least eight questions of your own choice about these books, and will have completed a major assignment involving translation, research, or sermon/lesson preparation concerning these books.

Contact with the professor

Please feel free to contact the professor (Dr. Battle in this case) anytime you have a question about the course material. Office phone: 253-272-0417. Home phone: 253-759-3840. Cell phone: 253-720-7586. Email: battle@wrs.edu.

Course notes and study questions

The course notes are provided on the seminary website (http://wrs.edu/courses/johannine_writings.htm). Please print these out. You should work through the notes during the year, in consultation with the professor and your pastoral mentor. The study questions provided will be used as the basis for your midterm (Questions #1-34) and final examinations (Questions #35-62). Be especially careful to understand the answers you will give for the various study questions. These questions are in the order of the notes.

During the concentrated sessions we will go over these notes in class discussion. However, since the concentrated sessions are not as long as the on-campus classes held during the regular semester, we will not be able to spend as much time in class as resident students do. For this reason, it is especially important that you have gone through them on your own during the year, before the concentrated classes take place.
Reading assignments

- John’s epistles and Revelation
- John R. W. Stott, *The Letters of John (TNTC)*
- George Eldon Ladd, *A Commentary on the Revelation of John*

Due dates are noted in the assignment schedule.

Special investigations

During the year you will undertake five special investigations involving the study and interpretation of John’s writings. One of them should be taken from John’s epistles, and four from Revelation. Be prepared to give a brief oral report about your method of investigation and the results in class. Investigation sheets may be printed out from the course page on the seminary website (http://www.wrs.edu/courses/johannine_writings.htm).

Major assignment

You will select one of these three as a major assignment in Johannine Writings:

1) Translation

You will turn in, using the format described in class, a translation of the following portions:

1 John 1:5 - 2:11
1 John 2:15-27
1 John 5:1-12
2 John 7-11
3 John 5-12
Revelation 1 - 2:11
Revelation 3:7-22
Revelation 17:7-18
Revelation 19:11-21
Revelation 20
Revelation 22:1-7

2) Research paper
You will prepare a research paper of approximately 3,000 words on a controversial question involving the introduction or interpretation of one of John’s epistles or the Revelation. Please use standard format.

3) Sermon/lesson preparation

You will prepare detailed notes for an eight-part (or more) series of sermons or Bible lessons on either the epistles of John or the book of Revelation.

Grading

Each item will count 20% toward the final grade:

- major assignment
- investigations
- required reading
- midterm examination
- final examination

Assignment schedule

Due by the end of January:

- Investigations #1-4
- Reading of John’s Epistles and Revelation
- Reading of NT Introduction section
- Reading of Stott

Due by concentrated class in May/June:

- Investigations #5-8
- Major Assignment
- Reading of Ladd

Due by end of June:

- Midterm Examination
- Final Examination