

#218 Johannine Writings
Western Reformed Seminary
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Spring 2021

COURSE INFORMATION

Course description

Special introduction to the epistles of John and the book of Revelation; survey of themes emphasized in John's gospel and epistles; outline and content of John's epistles; methods of interpretation of Revelation; outline and teaching of Revelation.

Course objectives

During this course you will study the introduction and contents of the Johannine Epistles and the book of Revelation, using lectures and class discussion. You will read a commentary on each of these books. You will have investigated and reported six questions of your own choice about these books. You also will have completed a major assignment involving translation, research, or sermon/lesson preparation concerning these books.

Course outcomes

At the completion of this course you should be able to do the following:

- Describe the various views concerning the authorship, date, and audience of John's epistles and the Revelation, and defend the conservative view
- Know and teach a fairly detailed outline of these books, and interpret any part of them
- Defend the orthodox doctrines concerning Christ and salvation using the Johannine Epistles
- Explain the various methods of interpretation used to understand the book of Revelation, and the arguments advanced for each
- Provide several reasonable suggested interpretations for the more difficult sections of Revelation
- Teach or preach a series of lessons or sermons on these books
- If seeking ordination, pass the part of an ordination exam that deals with these books

Reading assignments

- John's epistles and Revelation

- Everett F. Harrison, *Introduction to the New Testament*, ch. 23-24; OR D. A. Carson, Douglas J. Moo, and Leon Morris, *An Introduction to the New Testament* (2nd ed.), ch. 23, 25
- 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 course schedule. For most effective use of time, these should be read at the pace of classroom discussion.

Special investigations

During the semester you will undertake six special investigations involving the study and interpretation of John's writings. One of them should be taken from John's epistles, and five from Revelation. Be prepared to give a brief oral report about your method of investigation and the results in class. Investigation sheets will be provided, and will be collected at the end of the period when they are due.

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 3000 words on a controversial question involving the introduction or interpretation of one of John's epistles or

the Revelation. Please use the seminary's 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

- Attendance and participation 10%
- Major assignment 20%
- Investigations 10%
- Required reading 20%
- Midterm examination 20%
- Final examination 20%

Course schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lecture</u>	<u>Assignment Due</u>
Jan. 25	Introduction to John's Epistles; 1 John 1-2	
Feb. 1	1 John 3-5	JOHN'S EPISTLES AND REVELATION
8	2 & 3 John	Investigation 1
15	(Presidents' Day recess)	
22	Introduction to Revelation; Revelation 1	Investigation 2
Mar. 1	Revelation 2-3	
8	Revelation 4-7	Investigation 3 NT INTRODUCTION & STOTT
15	MIDTERM EXAMINATION	
22	Revelation 8-11	Investigation 4
29	(Spring Recess)	
Apr. 5	Revelation 12-14	Investigation 5

	12	Revelation 15-17	
	19	(SC trip; no class)	
	26	Revelation 18-20	Investigation 6 LADD
May	3	Revelation 21-22	MAJOR ASSIGNMENT DUE
	10	FINAL EXAMINATION	