

Department of Theology

UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: **Spring 2010**
Instructor: William Kurz, S.J.
Course #: THEO 2110
Section: 101
Course Title: **New Testament Selected Books:**
Course Sub-Title: **Johannine Writings**

Description:

John's Gospel has had more apparent impact than the other three on Christian creeds and doctrine. Although it differs significantly from the other three, it shares some common traditions. This Gospel emphasizes Jesus as pre-existent Word and Son of God made flesh, which emphasis the First Letter of John balances by stressing the death of the human Jesus as atoning for our sins. We will use historical and narrative approaches and ask about the community environment for such a Gospel and letters, then their theological interpretation, including learning how to apply these Scriptures to our situations, and their meaning for Christians today.

Finally, as especially relevant to end-time (apocalyptic) preoccupations with wars and disasters (such as the best-selling *Left Behind* series of novels), we will study the very different book of Revelation in relation to other apocalypses (such as Daniel 7-12 in your Bible) and its message for today.

Class preparation, attendance and contributions are important since the format involves heavy use of class analysis of texts and discussion groups more than lecture. No previous Scripture courses are presupposed.

Grades will probably be based on:

- [10%] contributions to class interpretation (quality vs. quantity)
- [10% = 5% + 5%] ten brief quizzes for class preparation
- [10%] Exegetical outlined argument for thesis (preparation for final paper) 1-2 pages
- [20%] Midterm Test [25%] Final Exam
- [25%] Paper, 8-10 pages (minimum 4 pp. exegesis & 4 pp. personal synthesis & application to contemporary experience).

Required texts: **(Always bring Bible to class. When studying Gospel passage, also bring Synopsis.)**

- **Study BIBLE:** If you do not already have one, least expensive but good: *New American Bible (NAB, St. Joseph Medium Edition, paperback)*. All tests are open-Bible and open-synopsis, and quotations in questions are from *NAB*. (Two more expensive versions are the *Catholic Study Bible* and *St. Mary's Press College Study Bible* [both include New American Bible]).
- Aland, K. ed., *Synopsis of the Four Gospels* (American Bible Society, <http://www.bibles.com/>, Catalog #102706, ISBN 978-0-82670-500-6)

plus the following paperbacks:

HOME READING (required and on quizzes & tests, but not needed in class):

- *The Gospel of John* (Ignatius Catholic Study Bible), Scott Hahn & Curtis Mitch
- *What does the Bible say about the End Times? A Catholic View*, William Kurz