

## Syllabus

# *The Gospel of John*

### **Basic Course Information**

Course number: NT 437A/637A  
Semester: Online  
Credits: 1 credit

### **Instructor**

Name: Dr. Matthew Newkirk  
Email: [matt.newkirk@cbijapan.org](mailto:matt.newkirk@cbijapan.org)

### **Course Overview**

In *The Gospel of John* students will examine the story of Jesus through the eyes of a declared eyewitness. Attention will be paid to the presentation, themes, and theological interests that are peculiar to this author in contrast with the Synoptic Gospels. Although helpful, knowledge of Greek is not required.

### **Course Requirements**

#### **Attendance**

Students are required to watch every class lecture. Class lectures will provide information for which you will be responsible in your paper and final examination.

#### **Assigned Reading**

Before each lecture, students must read the assigned Bible passages listed in the class schedule below. In addition, before each lecture, choose two commentaries from the list below and read the sections commenting on the assigned Bible passages for that lecture. The final exam will ask if you have completed all the assigned readings before viewing each lecture. This item will be graded either 0 or 100 points, so read carefully!

Please choose two of the following commentaries:

*Invitation to John*, George Macrae, 1978.  
*John*, R.V.G. Tasker (TNTC), 1983.  
*The Gospel According to John*, D. A. Carson, 1990 (PNTC)  
*John*, Andreas Köstenberger, 2004 (BECNT)  
*John*, Colin G. Kruse, 2017 (TNTC)  
*John*, Edward Klink, 2017 (ZECNT)

## Lecture Reflections

After viewing each lecture, students will write a 1-2 page reflection report. The report should include the following:

- (1) For all lectures: A brief summary of the lecture content
- (2) For lectures 2-10: Answer one of the following questions:
  - a. "What did you learn about Jesus from this part of the Gospel of John?"
  - b. "How did the teaching of the lecture differ from the interpretations in the commentaries?"

## Paper

Students will write a five-page double-spaced essay answering the question, "Why do we need the Gospel of John?" Students should discuss how John is unique among the four Gospels, its emphases, as well as the purpose for which this Gospel was written.

## Final Examination

Once you have completed all lectures, contact the professor to receive a study guide for the final exam. The study guide describes the exam format and all the possible questions that may appear on the exam. During the actual exam, your professor will choose two questions from your study guide and ask you to answer one of them.

## Assignment Submission

All assignments should be submitted in both PDF and Word format to the following email address:

[matt.newkirk@cbijapan.org](mailto:matt.newkirk@cbijapan.org)  
[kadai@shingakkou.net](mailto:kadai@shingakkou.net)

Please be sure to include the course number (NT437A or NT637A) in the subject line of your email.

## Lecture Schedule

Lecture	Content	Lecture pre-reading
1	Introduction	none
2	Prologue (1:1–18) The Years of Jesus' Life (The First Year) (1:19–2:25)	Bible: John 1-2 Two commentaries: John 1-2
3	The Years of Jesus' Life (The Second Year) (3–6)	Bible: John 3-4 Two commentaries: John 3-4
4	The Years of Jesus' Life (The Second Year) (3–6)	Bible: John 5-6 Two commentaries: John 3-4
5	The Years of Jesus' Life (The Third Year) (7–12)	Bible: John 7-8 Two commentaries: John 3-4
6	The Years of Jesus' Life (The Third Year) (7–12)	Bible: John 9-10 Two commentaries: John 9-10

7	The Years of Jesus' Life (The Third Year) (7–12)	Bible: John 11-12 Two commentaries: John 11-12
8	The Final Days of Jesus' Life (The Last Discourse) (13–17)	Bible: John 13:1-15:17 Two commentaries: John 13:1-15:17
9	The Final Days of Jesus' Life (The Last Discourse) (13–17) The Final Days of Jesus' Life (Death and Resurrection) (18–20)	Bible: John 15:18-18:40 Two commentaries: John 15:18-18:40
10	The Final Days of Jesus' Life (Death and Resurrection) (18–20) Epilogue (21)	Bible: John 19-21 Two commentaries: John 19-21

## **Evaluation**

Assigned Reading	15%
Lecture Reflections	20%
Paper	25%
Final Exam*	40%

\* Students enrolled in NT 437A are not responsible for John 18–21 on the final exam, but are required to read these chapters in preparation for the class lecture.