

NT 2G03: Greek Exegesis – Johannine Epistles

McMaster Divinity College
April 29 – June 28, 2019
Online Reading Course
Summer 2019

Instructor: Zachary K. Dawson
dawsonz@mcmaster.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an exegetical and interpretive study of the Johannine epistles based on the Greek text. It is intended for those who have had one year of Greek and wish to expand their knowledge of Greek and their ability to read the New Testament in its original language. Following a two-step hermeneutical approach, we will look closely at the Greek text and learn to understand and articulate its original historical meanings. We will then reflect on the contemporary relevance of the Johannine epistles. Elements to be studied include all passages in the epistles from exegetical, grammatical, translational, and theological perspectives.

Because this is a reading course, it is structured around weekly reading, translation assignments, and online discussions. There will also be short video lectures to assist students in increasing their understanding of Greek grammar. Assigned readings will be used to introduce the student to the background and theology of the Johannine epistles. An online forum will be set up on Avenue to Learn to facilitate a virtual learning environment. The instructor will engage with any questions raised in the forum and the assignments. Vocabulary quizzes and a final exam will test the student's ability to read and analyze a Greek text.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The following goals are set for the student:

Knowing:

- To become familiar with the Greek text of the Johannine epistles for use in teaching and preaching
- To gain an understanding of exegetical and theological issues involving the Johannine epistles and to be able to identify the relevant text(s)
- To know more advanced concepts for study of the Greek of the NT and exegetical methods that aid in the interpretation of individual passages

Being:

- To become competent interpreters of the text
- To appreciate the value of being able to exegete the Greek text for use in ministry

- To allow the Johannine epistles to motivate, form, and transform one’s faith, worship, and Christian way of life

Doing:

- To master the skills necessary to exegete the Greek text of these documents
- To explain key topics and major exegetical issues related to the Johannine literature
- To develop and practice responsible exegetical methods that draw upon the varied resources available (opentext.org, Greek grammar, commentaries, etc.)

COURSE PREREQUISITES

NT 1G03 and NT 1H03, or equivalent. This course satisfies the Greek exegesis requirement, and should be the first exegesis course for those who have completed one year of Greek. This course may be used to make up admissions deficiencies for M.A. and Ph.D. students.

TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS

1. Students are required to possess the following:

A standard edition of the Greek New Testament, such as the Nestle-Aland (27th–28th ed.) or UBS (4th–5th ed.).

Porter, Stanley E., *Idioms of the Greek New Testament* (2nd ed.; Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1994).

A suitable Greek-English lexicon (see bibliography below, preferably one of the starred entries).

A suitable commentary on the Johannine epistles (chosen from the list below, preferably one of the starred entries).

2. Students are recommended to have access to the following:

Porter, Reed, and O’Donnell, *Fundamentals of New Testament Greek* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010).

A parsing tool, such as Tyndale house STEP Bible (www.stepbible.org), biblewebapp.org, Bibleworks, Logos, Accordance, etc.

All required textbooks for this class are available from the College’s book service, READ On Bookstore, Room 145, McMaster Divinity College. Texts may be purchased on the first day of class. For advance purchase, you may contact READ On Bookstore:

Address: 5 International Blvd., Etobicoke, ON M9W 6H3

Phone: 416.620.2934; Fax: 416.622.2308; Email: books@readon.ca

Other book services may also carry the texts.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students are required to complete all of the following assignments. Each weekly assignment should be uploaded in PDF format to the designated Avenue to Learn (A2L) course submission folder. No unfinished assignments are permitted. See below for late submission policy.

1. Weekly Exegetical Assignments (40%).

Each week, students will examine an assigned passage (see schedule below) and then prepare both exegetical notes and an English translation. A template for the weekly exegetical assignment will be posted on A2L before the first week of class. These assignments are due at 10:00 am each Monday, according to the class schedule below.

2. Reading Response (20%).

Students are required to read Judith M. Lieu's *The Theology of the Johannine Epistles* in the New Testament Theology series (Cambridge University Press) and submit a written response that answers the questions below. Although the questions can be answered independently using a new heading for each, the thoughts included in each answer must be well organized and clearly presented in full paragraphs (i.e., these are to be formal responses). The entire reading response must be at least 1,500 words and must follow the "MDC Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses." It is due at 11:59 pm on **June 28th** (Exam day).

Lieu, Judith M. *The Theology of the Johannine Epistles*. New Testament Theology
Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991.

- a. Present five quotations from the book that made you stop and think, briefly explaining each choice.
- b. How has this book deepened your understanding of the Johannine epistles as a part of the New Testament? Give specific examples.
- c. How has this book deepened your understanding of the theology of the Johannine epistles? Give specific examples.
- d. How has the book deepened your understanding of the relevance of the message of the Johannine epistles to the contemporary world? Give specific examples.

3. Vocabulary Quizzes (15%).

Students will write four brief vocabulary quizzes on **May 13th**, **May 27th**, **June 3th**, and **June 17th**. The "Special Vocabulary" for the Johannine epistles from Kubo's *A Reader's Greek–English Lexicon of the New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1975) will be included on every quiz, but each quiz will also cover a specific section of the Greek vocabulary included in Porter, Reed, and O'Donnell. The relevant vocabulary lists will be

uploaded to the course page on A2L, with the relevant sections highlighted. Students must complete all four quizzes. The quiz with the lowest score will be dropped.

4. Final Examination (25%).

Students must complete a final examination, which is scheduled for **June 28th** (time to be determined). This exam will test each student’s familiarity with the Greek language and with the Johannine epistles. Students will be asked a variety of grammatical questions and will be required to translate two passages from the Johannine epistles. For those students who cannot come to the college on the exam date, a proctor must be appointed.

Grading Summary:

Exegetical Assignments	40%
Reading Response	20%
Vocabulary Quizzes	15%
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>25%</u>
Total	100%

SCHEDULE

Week Starting	Assignment Due	Passage	Reading	Quizzes/Exams
April 29			Articles on A2L <i>Idioms</i> Chs. 4–6	
May 6	1	3 John 1–12	Chs. 7–9	
May 13	2	2 John 1–13	Chs. 10–11	Quiz 1 (May 13)
May 20	3	1 John 1:1–10	Chs. 1–3	
May 27	4	1 John 2:1–14	Chs. 12–14	Quiz 2 (May 27)
June 3	5	1 John 2:15–27	Chs. 15–16	Quiz 3 (June 3)
June 10	6	1 John 2:28–3:10	Chs. 17–19	
June 17	7	1 John 3:11–24	Chs. 20–21	Quiz 4/Review
June 24	8	1 John 4:1–16	Reading Response DUE	EXAM (June 28th)

INTERACTION WITH THE INSTRUCTOR

The instructor will be available via email and the Avenue to Learn discussion forum. Short lectures will be posted weekly on Avenue to Learn for students to view. These lectures are designed to supplement the readings in *Idioms* as well as help students gain expertise in analyzing Greek grammar.

LATE SUBMISSION POLICY

All assignments must be submitted on or before the date due, unless other arrangements are made in advance. A late penalty of 2% per day will be applied to all assignments submitted after the deadline, unless an extension has been obtained from the instructor prior to the deadline. Assignments will not be accepted if more than seven days late.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that may take any number of forms, including plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one's own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result in severe consequences, e.g., failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on one's academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College.

Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty ~ <https://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/programs/rules-regulations>.

GENDER INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all of its publications. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected. The NRSV and TNIV are examples of the use of inclusive language for human beings. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments.

STYLE

All stylistic considerations (including but not limited to questions of formatting, footnotes, and bibliographic references) must conform to the McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses:

<https://mcmasterdivinity.ca/sites/default/files/documents/mdcstyleguide.pdf>

Failure to observe appropriate form will result in grade reductions.

REFERENCES

1. Greek-English Lexicons

Bauer, Walter, Frederick W. Danker, W. F. Arndt, and F. W. Gingrich. *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. 3rd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000.*

Danker, Frederick W. *The Concise Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009.

Liddell, Henry George, Robert Scott, and Henry Stuart Jones. *A Greek-English Lexicon*. 9th ed. Oxford: Clarendon, 1996. [Available Online @ www.tlg.uci.edu/lsgj/]

Liddell, Henry George, and Robert Scott. *An Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1889.

Liddell, Henry George, and Robert Scott. *Liddell and Scott's Greek-English Lexicon, Abridged*. Simon Wallenberg Press, 2007.

Louw, J.P., and E.A. Nida, *Greek–English Lexicon of the New Testament Based on Semantic Domains*. 2 vols. New York: United Bible Societies, 1989.*

Thayer, J.H., *A Greek–English Lexicon of the New Testament*. New York: American Book Company, 1897.

2. Commentaries on the Johannine Epistles

Brooke, A.E. *The Johannine Epistles*. ICC. Edinburgh, T&T Clark, 1912.

Brown, Raymond E. *The Epistles of John*. AB. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1982.

Bruce, F.F. *The Epistles of John: Introduction, Exposition, and Notes*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1979.

Bultmann, Rudolf K. *The Johannine Epistles*. Hermeneia. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 1973.

Jobes, Karen H. *1, 2, and 3 John*. Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014.*

Kruse, Colin G. *The Letters of John*. Pillar New Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2000.*

Lieu, Judith M. *I, II, & III John*. New Testament Library. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008.

Marshall, I. Howard. *The Epistles of John*. NICNT. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1978.*

Schnackenburg, Rudolf. *The Johannine Epistles*. Spring Valley, NY: Crossroad Publishing, 1992.

Smalley, Stephen S. *1, 2, 3 John*. Rev. Ed. Word Biblical Commentary. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2009.*

Strecker, Georg. *The Johannine Letters*. Hermeneia. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 1996.

Westcott, Brooke F. *The Epistles of St John: The Greek Text with Notes and Essays*. NY, Macmillan, 1883.*

Yarbrough, Robert W. *1-3 John*. BECNT. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2008.*

NOTE

This syllabus is the property of McMaster Divinity College and is prepared with currently available information. MDC reserves the right to make changes and revisions.