

#218 Johannine Writings
Western Reformed Seminary
John A. Battle, Th.D.
Pastoral Mentorship Program
Academic Year 2017-2018

COURSE INFORMATION

Course content

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 seeing ordination, pass the part of an ordination exam that deals with 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. 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
- 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*

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 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%

Special investigations

During the year 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 may be printed out from the course page on the seminary website (http://www.wrs.edu/courses/johannine_writings.htm).

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