

## **Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary**

*“Then I saw a new heaven and anew earth.” (Revelation 21:1)*

### *SS 821 Johannine Literature and Revelation*

Winter, 2012

Three credits

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#### **I. Course Description**

“Examination of the Gospel of John and the Johannine letters. An overview of the composition and theology with special attention given to Christology, ecclesiology, and sacramental theology. Exegesis of selected passages will be provided. The composition and theology of the Book of Revelation will also be treated with an exegesis of selected passages. Prerequisite SS 523” (*Catalog*)

#### **II. Course Objectives - Rationale**

It is the objective of the Sacred Scripture department to give the student an overview and introduction to each book of the Bible over the course of the program. Of course not every book can be examined in depth, nor even can each book be treated equally. However, at the end of each course the student should have a familiarity with the books covered. He/She should also be able to see how the books considered in a particular course relate to the Bible as a whole.

#### **III. Required Texts**

The only required text is the Bible itself. Any modern English language translation may be used. Different translations are encouraged and will sometimes be referred to in class to show how certain passages may be interpreted due to how they are translated.

#### **IV. Church Documents**

It is presumed that the student is familiar with the following Church documents:

1. Catechism of the Catholic Church
2. *Providentissimus Deus*
3. *Divino Afflante Spiritu*
4. *Dei Verbum*
5. *Interpretation of the Bible in the Church*

#### **V. Assignments**

A pastoral project will also be assigned. Details will be given in the first class. The project may be in outline form. Project approval is due by 9 February (by class time). The finished project is due 15 March (by class time).

Assignments are to be submitted electronically (see above for email address). No extensions will be given.

#### VI. Attendance

In accord with the formation and academic norms of the seminary program and because the material will be presented by way of lectures along with discussion, attendance at all classes is expected of seminarians. Exceptions will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Lay students have the option of attending lectures or hearing them online, at their own choice.

#### VII. Examinations

Three written essay style exams will be given throughout the course.

Dates for these exams are:

2 February

1 March

12 April

3 May

The examinations are not cumulative. Once an exam is taken on a section of the course, that material is finished. Hence, the final exam of the course, taken during exam week, will cover only the subject matter treated since the last exam. Options for online student examinations will be presented in class.

#### VIII. Evaluation

The final grade will be calculated by the average of the three exams and the pastoral project totaled and averaged evenly. Examinations take place in the first half of the regular class time; lectures resume in the second half.

#### IX. Academic Integrity

“Students are expected to maintain personal honesty and professional integrity in examinations, assigned papers, and research projects. Source materials and citations used in preparation of papers are to be indicated by proper documentation. Copyright laws should be honored when duplicating materials. Plagiarism and cheating are a breach of academic integrity. Violations in this area are considered a serious offense and may result in failing grade and/or dismissal from the program.” (*Catalog*)

#### X. Availability

Office hours by appointment. I am available every day of the week and throughout most of the day. Please email, call or simply see me in class to arrange a mutually convenient time. My office is on the first floor, north side of the east wing of the SAC.

## XI. Course of Study

### I. The Gospel of John

#### A. Composition

#### B. Overview

1. John's community
2. John's theology
3. Stylistic elements
  - a. literary devices
  - b. irony
  - c. double meanings
  - d. metaphor
  - e. dialogue
  - f. swelling hostility
  - g. "the Jews"

#### C. Structure and Analysis

1. Prologue
2. Book of Signs
  - a. 7 signs
  - b. themes of Jesus replacing the former covenant
3. Bridge -- public ministry ends
4. Book of Glory
  - a. Last Discourse
  - b. Priestly Prayer
  - c. Passion and Death
  - d. resurrection and appearances
5. Epilogue

### II. The Epistles of John

#### A. Composition

#### B. Overview

#### C. Structure

#### D. Issues and Message

### III. Apocalypse

#### A. Introduction to apocalyptic in and out of the Bible

1. Old Testament beginnings, other cultures
2. Stylistic elements in the Book of Revelation

#### B. The Book of Revelation

1. Overview
2. Structure
  - a. letters to the churches
  - b. heavenly liturgy
3. Part 1 Sacred Scroll Opened
  - a. seven seals
  - b. seventh seal

- c. seven angels, seven trumpets, three woes
- 4. Part 2 Heavens Opened
  - a. seven plagues
  - b. seven bowls
  - c. Babylon falls
  - d. end of history
  - e. millennialism
- 5. Passages for Particular Exegesis
  - a. the four horsemen 6:1ff
  - b. the 144,000 7:4ff
  - c. the beasts 13:1ff
  - d. the 666 13:18
  - e. the woman clothed with the sun 12:1ff
  - f. the new Jerusalem 21:10ff

## XII. Select Bibliography

Students are encouraged to use the many on-line resources available through the campus library or any other modern library.

### *Anchor Bible*

#### *Anchor Bible Dictionary.*

Brown, R. E. *An Introduction to the New Testament.* New York: Doubleday, 1997.

*Elenchus of Biblica.* Rome: Pontifical Biblical Press.

#### *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*

#### *New Testament Message Series*

Obloy, Leonard. "The Passion According to John". *Witness: A Journey through the Passion Narratives.* Virginia: The Catholic Distance University, 1995.

Obloy, Leonard. "Apocalyptic and the Book of Revelation". Lecture Series, Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. Cleveland, 2010. Audio Download from [SaintJohnCathedral.com](http://SaintJohnCathedral.com).

### *Sacra Pagina*

#### *The New Jerome Biblical Commentary*



