

St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute
Fall 2017

Tuesday

6:00-8:30 p.m.

BS643 Proclamation of the Gospel of John

Dr. C. Edward Richardson
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Course Description: Students will explore the Gospel of John (John) as a model for and source of Christian proclamation. Topics include the nature and content of the Gospel, including literary forms such as Jesus' discourses; a theology and spirituality of proclamation inspired by it; and the challenges of and multiple modalities (including learning styles) for proclaiming John in a post-modern, digital society. Emphasis is placed on proclaiming the primary text, exploring reading strategies, and developing forms for proclaiming John in a multitude of preaching (e.g., sermons/homilies) and teaching settings, the latter of which could consist of inductive and deductive forms such as group studies to retreats. Students will prepare and present one oral proclamation for a specific setting as part of their experiential activities.

Course Requirements

- **Reading requirements:** Students should expect no more than 900 pages of required reading, including articles as assigned. Group discussion and participation on reading: **10%** of final grade.
- **Writing requirements:** The following writing assignments will be required:
 - Personal reflective paper: a spirituality of proclamation of the Gospel of John (or of teaching/preaching specifically) (7-9 pages): **15%** of the final grade.
 - Theological statement: a theology of John (8 pages): **15%** of the final grade.
 - Written oral presentation (9-10 pages): **20%** of the final grade.
- **Other requirements:** The following learning activities are expected of students:
 - Reflective oral report on an essay from assigned reading and approved by instructors (5-8 minutes): **10%** of final grade.
 - Reading of one proclamation passage from John to the class, adhering closely to the biblical text (approx. 8-12 verses): **5%** of the final grade.
 - Exegetical analysis of oral proclamation passage to the class: **10%** of the final grade.
 - Oral presentation in class (12-18 minutes): **15%** of the final grade.

Required Texts

- John D. Hendrix, *Nothing Never Happens: Experiential Learning and the Church* (Mercer, GA: Smyth & Helwys, 2004), 1-57312-421-4: 198 pages.
- Christopher W. Skinner, *Reading John* (Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2015), 978-1-61097-803-3: 152 pages.
- Robert Kysar, *John's Story of Jesus* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1984; repr., Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2003), 978-1592443758: 96 pages.
- Dorothy A. Lee, *Hallowed in Truth and Love: Spirituality in the Johannine Literature* (Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2012), 978-1-62032-275-8; 268 pages.
- Lamar Williamson Jr., *Preaching the Gospel of John: Proclaiming the Living Word* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2004), 978-0664225339: 354 pages.*
- Dave Bland and David Fleer, eds., *Preaching John's Gospel: The World It Imagines* (Duluth, GA: Chalice Press, 2008), 978-0827230071: 176 pages.*

*These texts are resources that students will be using throughout the course, reading only a portion of them that is relevant for completing their respective assignments.