The full set of school regulations and procedures is contained in the Undergraduate Student Handbook which is available online at your MyAberdeen page. Students are expected to familiarise themselves not only with the contents of this leaflet but also with the contents of the Handbook. Therefore, ignorance of the contents of the Handbook will not excuse the breach of any School regulation or procedure.

You must familiarise yourself with this important information at the earliest opportunity.

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR/COURSE TEAM
Course co-ordinator:
Jutta Leonhardt-Balzer
Office: King’s College KCS12
Email: j.leonhardt-balzer@abdn.ac.uk
Tel.: 01224-27-3248
Office hours: By appointment

Discipline Administration:
Mrs Claire Hargaden
50-52 College Bounds
Room CB001
01224 272366 / divrs@abdn.ac.uk
TIMETABLE
Thursdays 1-2pm King’s College KCS11
Fridays 9-10am MacRobert MR301
Students can view their university timetable at
http://www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/study/timetables-550.php

COURSE DESCRIPTION
'I am the light', 'I am the resurrection and the life' ... All these statements from the Gospel of John have shaped people's idea of Christ for millenia. Its symbolic language reverberates through art and literature, as well as in Christian lives throughout the world.

This course will pay particular attention to the Johannine Corpus - consisting of John's Gospel and the three Epistles. We investigate the origins of the community which produced these texts, examine allegations of anti-Jewishness and Christian sectarianism, uncover the distinctive Christology and the ideas of salvation within the literature, and look at the background of some of the best known images within the whole New Testament. Selected passages from the gospel and letters will be studied in English.

There is also the option of working with the original text for those with the necessary background in Greek.

INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES
The course familiarises students with the Gospel and Letters of John, their particular style and thought, with fundamental theological themes and relevant aspects of the scholarly debate. It invites and challenges students to form and defend an opinion on any given Johannine text.
The aim is to understand the contested nature of Christian belief and of the development of the Christian Church as reflected in the Johannine corpus:

- Familiarity with the Johannine corpus and its literary and theological interpretation in tradition and contemporary debate.
- An understanding of the contested nature of Christian belief and of the development of the Christian Church as reflected in the Johannine corpus.
- The ability to interpret the Johannine texts.

LECTURE/SEMINAR PROGRAMME

WEEK 1

THURSDAY, 18th Sept INTRODUCTION; JOHN FROM THE FIRST TO THE TWENTY FIRST CENTURY

Passages to prepare: John’s gospel and letters

Reading:


M. F. Wiles, The Spiritual Gospel: the interpretation of the gospel in the early church (Cambridge, 1960), ch.6


FRIDAY JOHN 1, ESP. 1:1–18

Prepare the passage with R. Bultmann’s commentary.

WEEK 2

THURSDAY, 25th Sept JOHN’S GOSPEL IN RELATION TO THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS

Passages to prepare: John 11–13, 20–21

Start reading the gospel at 1:19 and write down the first twenty things that you notice that are significantly different from the Synoptics. Which chapter are you on by the time you finish your list of twenty? Start again and write
down the first twenty things that are significantly similar. Which chapter are you on by the time you finish your list of twenty?

Reading:
**R. Brown, An Introduction to the Gospel of John (ed. F. Moloney; ABRL; New York, 2003), ch.3**
**S. Smalley, John: Evangelist and Interpreter, ch.1–2**

Origen, Commentary on the Gospel according to John

FRIDAY JOHN 2, ESP. 2.13–22

WEEK 3

THURSDAY, 1st Oct JOHANNINE LETTERS AND JOHANNINE LITERATURE

Passages to prepare: 1 John, 2 John, 3 John

Read the epistles: what themes do they have in common a) with each other, b) with John’s gospel? how do they differ a) from each other, b) from John’s gospel?

Reading:
**R. Brown, The Epistles of John, pp.86–115**
C. Tuckett, Christology in the New Testament: Jesus and his earliest followers (Louisville, Kentucky, 2001), ch.10, pp.172-6

FRIDAY JOHN 3:1–21

WEEK 4

THURSDAY, 8TH Oct JOHANNINE COMMUNITY, SECT, OR DOCTRINE OF CHURCH

Passages to prepare: John 6, 13, 15–17; 1 John; 2 John; 3 John

Reading:
**R. Edwards, *Discovering John*, ch.5, pp.37–49

FRIDAY JOHN 3:22–4:26 FRIDAY COURSEWORK DEADLINE:
Hand in essay title, plan (1–2 A4 sides) and bibliography for essay

WEEK 5
THURSDAY, 15th Oct JOHN AND THE JEWS
Passages to prepare: John 8
Reading:
FRIDAY JOHN 8.12-57, ESP. 8.31–47

WEEK 6
THURSDAY, 22nd Oct OPPONENTS IN THE JOHANNINE EPISTLES
Passages to prepare:
1 John 2:22–3; 4:1–6; 2 John 7–11; 3 John 9–10
Reading:
FRIDAY STRUCTURE AND UNITY IN 1 JOHN
Preparation: what structure do you find in John? Think about structures within the epistle as well as the structure of the whole. What elements of unity are there, and what elements of disunity?
Reading:


WEEK 7


– Jesus and Wisdom

Passages to prepare: John 5:17–23, 10, 17

John 1:1–18; **Wisdom of Solomon; **Proverbs 1–9; Ecclesiastes; Daniel; Job;

Sirach

[Wisdom of Solomon and Sirach are found in the New Testament Apocrypha; some bibles include these, otherwise they are found in separate additions of the apocrypha. ‘Sirach’ may also be called ‘Wisdom of Ben Sira’ or ‘Ecclesiasticus’.

Reading:


FRIDAY JOHN 10, ESP. 10.1-30
WEEK 8
THURSDAY, 5th Nov JOHANNINE CHRISTOLOGY: GLORY AND SIGNS
Passages to prepare: John 1:14; 2:11; 12:37–43; 17
Reading:
P. J. Riga, ‘Signs of glory: the use of “semeion” in St. John’s gospel,’ Interpretation 17 (1963), 402–24
**J. Ferreira, Johannine Ecclesiology (JSNTSup 60; Sheffield, 1998), ch.5, pp.138–65
FRIDAY JOHN 11, ESP. 11.1-45

WEEK 9
THURSDAY, 12th Nov JOHANNINE IMAGES
Passages to prepare:
Which images are particularly important in the gospel? Which ones tie in with what is in the letters? What different kinds of imagery are used? How does John handle images?
Think especially about (i) the vine; (ii) water; (iii) the shepherd
Reading:
**C. R. Koester, Symbolism in the fourth Gospel: meaning, mystery, community (Minneapolis, 1995).
M. W. G. Stibbe, John as storyteller: Narrative criticism and the fourth gospel (Cambridge, 1992)
FRIDAY JOHN 6 ESP. 6:35–51 FRIDAY COURSEWORK DEADLINE
Hand in the 2500-word essay.

WEEK 10
THURSDAY, 19th Nov JOHANNINE ESCHATOLOGY
Passages to prepare: John 5:19–29; 11; 14; 20:22; 1 John 3
Reading:
FRIDAY JOHN 5:9B–46; JOHN 16:1–15, 25–33

WEEK 11
THURSDAY, 26th Nov JOHN 20, ESP. 20:1–18
Reading:
R. Edwards, *Discovering John*
R. Edwards, *The Johannine Epistles*
FRIDAY Concluding session

READING LIST

**REQUIRED COURSE LITERATURE**
Every student must have a copy of the New Testament in a reasonably good English translation, e.g. the NRSV, NIV or ESV. Students should be using a variety of translations simultaneously throughout the course (if possible in
different languages), comparing the differences between them. Comparison of modern translations with the KJV is particularly recommended.

Although there is no set book in the secondary literature that students are obliged to purchase, it is advisable for students to have to hand copies of the better commentaries when working, esp. Hoskyns, Bultmann, Barrett, Schnackenburg, Brown, Carson for the gospel; Strecker, Brown and Bultmann for the epistles.

In addition, the following provide good introductions:


SECONDARY READING

The following books are all in the University Library; some can also be found in the Divinity library. You should be familiar with some of those in each section.

Commentaries on the English Text


F. F. Bruce, The Gospel of John: Introduction, Exposition and Notes (Basingstoke: Pickering & Inglis, 1983) [226.5 Bru]


**Commentaries on the Greek Text**


**Introductions and general works**


B. Lindars, *John* (NT Study Guides; Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1990) [226.5 Lin]


There is also good introductory material to be found in the opening chapters of major commentaries: see especially commentaries by Barrett, Brown and Schnackenburg. The latter two of these also have a number of useful excurses on specific issues.

**Specific Issues**


R. Bauckham and C. Mosser (eds), *John and Christian Theology* (Grant Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2008) [226.506 Bau]


W. A. Meeks, *The Prophet King. Moses Traditions and the Johannine Christology* (NovT Sup, 14; Leiden: Brill, 1967) [Per 200 Nov]


**Johannine Epistles**


Useful Dictionaries
Anchor Bible Dictionary (a copy of this is in the Divinity Library, Reference Section)
J. B. Green et al., Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels, IVP. [Ref 225 Gre]
Web Resources
Fourth Gospel and John’s Epistles [http://www.fourthgospel.com/]

ASSESSMENT
PLEASE NOTE: In order to pass a course on the first attempt, a student must attain a Common Grading Scale (CGS) mark of at least E3 on each element of course assessment. Failure to do so will result in a grade of no greater than CGS E1 for the course as a whole.

One essay of 2,500 words (30%), deadline: 13th November 2014.
One oral presentation in class (10%), dates: tba.
One two hour exam (60%).

Click to view the University Level Descriptors (ANNEX A).
Click to view the University Assessment Scale Band Descriptors (ANNEX B).

ESSAYS
Essays should be 2500 words long, including quotations and footnotes; students should note that they will be penalised for work which is either too long or too short.
The essay should be an exegesis of a passage from the Johannine texts WITH an exposition of ONE theological issue related to that passage. The title of the essay must be chosen by the student and confirmed by the course co-ordinator. By 9th October every student should submit an essay title and bibliography to the course co-ordinator for feedback.
The final submission of the essay is on deadline: 13th November 2014.
PRESENTATION
The presentation will be a brief (10 mins) review of an article or book on a topic related to the course. It will involve not just a repetition of the author’s argument but an interaction with the author’s views.

ASSESSMENT DEADLINES
Essay: 10th October 2014: Submission of essay title and bibliography

13th November 2014: Submission of essay.

Presentation: The dates for the presentations will be set in the first week of the half session.

Admission to the exam and to the resit depends on the submission of all coursework and each item’s assessment at E3 or above

SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS
Submit one paper copy to the drop boxes in CB008 in 50-52 College Bounds and one electronic copy to Turnitin via MyAberdeen. Both copies to be submitted by 3.00pm on the due date.

Please note: Failure to submit both an electronic copy to TurnitinUK and an identical paper copy, with the digital receipt attached, will result in a deduction of marks. Failure to submit to TurnitinUK will result in a zero mark.

EXAMINATION
There is one written examination lasting 2 hrs. It will comprise three questions; candidates must answer all questions:

- 1. Write exegetical comments on two passages out of a choice of four. Passages will be approx. 5 verses in length and will be taken from the gospel and/or from 1 John.
- 2. Write one essay from a choice of three. Topics are drawn from the gospel, and may invite comparison with the epistles.
3. Write one essay from a choice of three. Topics are drawn from the epistles or issues concerning the Johannine community and may invite comparison with the gospel.

RESIT INFORMATION
The resit consists of 100% exam.

Access to the resit which is provisional on:

- All submitted coursework having been submitted and graded at E3 or higher.
- Student having a valid Class Certificate. Students with C7’s are not eligible for resits.

Past exam papers can be viewed at [http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/learning-and-teaching/for-students/exam-papers/](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/learning-and-teaching/for-students/exam-papers/).