



River City School of Leadership

Syllabus for
BIB 106 The Writings of John
Summer 2025

Professor
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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will present an exegesis of the Gospel and letters of John, highlighting the apostle's distinctive in presenting the gospel and life of Jesus Christ. Special attention will be paid to the historical context of John's letters and how that context impacted the writing of his gospel. There will also be an examination of John's unique literary style, and his unique portrait of Jesus found through the signs he chose to present to cause people to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God.

II. COURSE GOALS & OUTCOMES

- A. Theological Framework
 - 1. Understand John's Christology.
 - 2. Note John's theological priorities in presenting the Gospel of Jesus Christ compared to the other Gospels.
- B. Historical Framework
 - 1. Examine the various historical and cultural traditions Jesus utilized to reveal his identity.
 - 2. Learn how Jesus fulfills various Old Testament feasts.
- C. Literary
 - 1. Examine John's use of keywords and themes throughout his writings.
 - 2. Note the use of literary tools like irony, metaphors, paradox, and symbolism.

III. TEXTBOOK(S)

Burge, Gary M. *The Letters of John: The NIV Application Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998. ISBN 978-0310486206. Please note the title: "*The Letters of John*" (**NOT** "*John*").

Buzzard, Justin. *Knowing the Bible: John, A 12-Week Study*. Crossway, 2013. ISBN: 978-1-4335-3452-2 .

Wright, Nicholas Thomas (N.T.). *The Letters of John*. InterVarsity Press, 2012.
ISBN: 978-0-8308-2198-3.

IV. ASSIGNMENT & DUE DATES

A. Chapter Assessments (32%)

Read the selected chapters in either the NIV or NASB. For **each chapter assigned**, provide the following:

- Summary Statement – One Sentence. Explain what happened.
- Application Statement – One Sentence. What was the main point or application?
- Key Words – List any keywords in that chapter.
- Question – Ask one question about the chapter.

Student will post the four bullet points in the “Discussion” portion of the on-line classroom portal. **Each Chapter should be labeled separately:**

EX: June 10 Week 2 John 2

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June 10 Week 2. John 3

| Date due (11:59 PM) | Class Week | Chapter Assignment |
|---------------------|------------|--------------------|
| June 10 | Week 2 | John 2, 3, 4 |
| June 17 | Week 3 | John 5, 6, 7 |
| June 24 | Week 4 | John 8, 9, 10 |
| July 8 | Week 5 | John 11, 12 |
| July 15 | Week 6 | John 13, 14, 15 |
| July 22 | Week 7 | John 16, 17 |
| July 29 | Week 8 | John 18, 19 |
| Aug 5 | Week 9 | John 20, 21 |

B. Essay (There are three graded components totaling 43%. See below.)

Write a 1,000-1,500-word essay on **1 John**.

This essay is **based on Burge's text**, *Letters of John*. Your essay must cover the following topics.

- Audience (Describe the audience.)
- Challenges (John's audience is facing what challenges?)
- Opponents (Who are John's opponents? What threat do they pose?)
- Solutions & Instructions (What solutions does John present? Are there key verses that articulate John's solutions?)

Reading. Before you begin this assignment, read the assigned portions of *Letters of John* by Gary M. Burge. As you read, highlight key insights and key pages in the book. It will help you write your outline, rough draft, and final paper. The 1 John portions are in bold. This is the essay required reading.

| Date | Class Week | Page Assignment |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| June 10 | Week 2 | Pgs. 17 - 51 |
| June 17 | Week 3 | Pgs. 52- 109 |
| June 24 | Week 4 | Pgs. 110- 171 |
| July 8 | Week 5 | Pgs. 172 - 227 |
| July 15 | Week 6 | 2 John Pgs. 228- 242 |
| July 22 | Week 7 | 3 John Pgs. 243- 254 |

Read the following portions for each section

The Scripture

Original Meaning

Bridging Contexts

You are not required to read the Contemporary Significance portion.

Essay Outline. (10%). DUE July 22nd. 11:59 PM

Develop an outline that organizes your insights from Burge's text. Your outline must cover the required topics. As you build your outline, use quotes and paraphrase Burge's text. Remember to note the page number for quotes and the sections you paraphrase. Example: "CHURCHES OFTEN STRUGGLE. Even good churches." (Burge 17)

Use the following outline to begin your work.

I. Introduction

II. Audience

- III. Challenges
- IV. Opponents
- V. Solutions & Instructions
- VI. Conclusion

Essay - 1st Draft (8%). July 29th. 11:59 PM

The following criteria will determine the grade for the first draft.

- Included the required topics.
- Word count. (1,000 – 1,500 words)

Essay - Final Draft (25%). August 5th 11:59 PM

The following criteria will determine the grade for the final draft.

- Includes the required topics.
- Word count. (1,000 – 1,500 words)
- Use of Burge's text and Scripture. (Note: Quotations must be limited to 20% of your essay. Paraphrasing does not count towards the 20% maximum.)
- Grammar
- MLA Format
- Submission of final draft to AI for refinement

Submit each portion of the essay (Outline, 1st Draft, and Final Draft) in a Word or PDF document under the “Assessment” portion of the online class portal.

C. Exam (25%), Tuesday, August 12th

The exam will be available online from Tuesday, August 5th, until Tuesday August 12th. You may complete the exam at your convenience during that time. The exam is found under the "Quiz" section of the online portal.

A study guide will be provided; however, the **exam is closed book**. This means that, while taking the exam, you may not refer to any notes or study guides.

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. Grades and Assessments

1. Grading Scale

A 90 - 100%

B 80 - 89%

- C 70 - 79%
 - D 60 - 69%
 - F 59% and below
2. Percentage of Final Grade per Assessment & Due Date. (100%) total
- a) Chapter Assessments (32%), due by the dates listed. See page 2 of syllabi.
 - b) Essay (43%) total
 - i Outline (10%), due July 22nd 11:59 PM
 - ii First Draft (8%), due July 29th 11:59 PM
 - iii Final Draft (25%), due August 5th 11:59 PM
 - c) Exam – (25%) due August 12th 11:59 PM

B. Correspondence

All correspondence with professors should be done through the email address provided in this syllabus.

Pastor Jo Lehberger
Joette.Lehberger@RiverCitySchool.com

C. Academic Honesty

1. Plagiarism is copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structures and submitting them as one's own, which is claiming the work of others as your own without specific acknowledgment. It is always required that a student cite resource used in any paper that is written. Both students and faculty at River City School of Leadership are expected to deal ethically with other's materials, whether it is in the form of print, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software.
2. Collaboration (e.g. writing a paper with someone else so that the resulting paper is not the product of the person turning it in) is not permitted unless specifically allowed by the instructor. Unless noted on the course syllabus a student should assume that the required work is meant to represent their own efforts. It is permissible to have a proofreader review one's paper and comment on the grammar and general paper structure; however, the thought and content of the paper must be student work.
3. AI – Artificial Intelligence Proofing is required for the Essay Assignment once the student has completed final work.

D. Late Assignment Policy

For each week that an assignment is late, it will receive a 10% grade deduction. An assignment will be considered late unless the student has prior permission from the instructor for a later due date. No homework will be accepted after the end of the term. Additional points can be docked by the teacher for not meeting assignment requirements or standards.

Example:

- 1-7 Days Late – Maximum Grade 90
- 8-14 Days Late – Maximum Grade 80
- 15-21 Days Late – Maximum Grade 70
- 22-28 Days Late – Maximum Grade 60
- 29+ Days Late – Maximum Grade 59

E. Absenteeism

An absentee is defined as not being present in-person or online when a class is being taught. Students are allowed two absences in each semester. If a student is absent more than twice, they will be given an I (Incomplete) for the semester. An **absentee can be erased if a student watches/listens the full video/audio content** of a class that they missed, writes a 250-word response to the class video that was watched/listened to, and **send the notification and the response to River City by email** (info@rivercityschool.com) that they have made up the absence, noting the date of the absence. The latest a student can submit an email to this effect is the day following the last class of that semester.

F. Tardiness

When attending an online class via Zoom, if a student joins 10 minutes or later after the start of the class, a Tardy will be noted for that week's attendance.

G. Zoom Protocol

When attending a River City class that is held via Zoom, students are expected to adhere to the following protocol. The camera must be on the whole class and audio muted unless

a question is being asked or answered. It is expected that students will be interactive in the class, answering or following the instructions given by the professor.

H. Recorded Class Protocol

There are times when a professor might need to record a class meeting for students to view instead of meeting on the designated class night. If this does occur, for a student to be counted as present for that class week, the class recording will need to be viewed and then an email sent to the professor notifying that the recording has been watched. No written response is needed.

VII. COURSE CONTENT / SCHEDULE

Week 1 – Syllabus Review, Background & John Chapter 1

Week 2 – John Chapters 2, 3, & 4

Week 3 – John Chapters 5, 6, & 7

Week 4 – John Chapters 8, 9, & 10

Week 5 – John Chapters 11, 12, 13

Week 6 – John Chapters 14, 15, 16

Week 7 – John Chapters 17, 18, 19

Week 8 – John Chapters 20, 21 1 John

Week 9 – Epistles 2 John

Week 10 – Epistles 3 John

VIII. CHANGES

This syllabus is subject to change. It is the responsibility of the student to note any revisions when released.