



John's gospel: where children can paddle and elephants can swim

Start date Friday 11th March

End date Sunday 13th March

Venue Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge

Tutor Dr Jane McLarty

Course code 1516NRX096

Director of Programmes

Emma Jennings

For further information on this course, please contact

Public Programme Co-ordinator, Clare Kerr
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To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Dr Jane McLarty is Senior Tutor at Wolfson College and an Affiliated Lecturer for the Faculty of Divinity, where she teaches New Testament Greek. Her particular interest is in early Christian narrative and its relationship with the pagan literature of the first and second centuries.

Course programme

Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00	Dinner
20:30 – 22:00	Session 1 Introduction to the Gospel: who wrote it, when and where? What are the particular enigmas of John's gospel?
22:00	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Session 2 The Prologue – introduction to the person of Jesus
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Session 3 Seven Signs: miracles in the gospel
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	Session 4 Seven Sayings: Jesus' self-presentation in John
18:00 – 18:30	Free
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	Session 5 Jesus' opponents: is John anti-semitic?
21:30	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Session 6 The death of Jesus and the question of historicity
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Session 7 The Spirit and the Church in the gospel
12:45	Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

Aims:

1. To introduce students to the particular themes and interests of the gospel of John.
2. To gain a deeper understanding of John's unique style of discourse, and how this relates to the other gospels' presentation of Jesus and to the Judaism of Jesus' day.

Content:

After a general introduction to the gospel (who wrote it? when? why was it written?), we will move on to with a close reading of the Prologue which in itself touches on many of the themes of the gospel as a whole; we will then look at some of the characteristic and distinctive aspects of John – the miracles (why does he prefer to call them 'signs'?); the 'I am' sayings as a way into John's Christology (his understanding of the person of Jesus); the difficult question of John's apparent hostility to 'the Jews'; and how John presents the death of Jesus. In this session we will look at the different timing of Jesus' death compared to the other gospels and the change in the placing of the cleansing of the Temple, as a way in to discussing issues of historical reliability. Finally we will look at John's special interest in the Holy Spirit and in the church as a way of considering the gospel's particular contribution to the way in which Christians understand themselves.

Presentation of the course:

Each session will combine presentation of material with class discussion of the topics and texts under consideration. Sessions will be supported by Powerpoint presentation and primary and secondary sources as appropriate.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

1. Understand the major themes and interests of the gospel.
2. Critically engage with and interpret the theology of the gospel, in particular its presentation of the person of Jesus.

Reading and resources list

Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

Author	Title	Publisher and date
Anderson, Paul N.	<i>The Riddles of the Fourth Gospel</i>	Fortress Press, 2011
Ashton, John	<i>Understanding the Fourth Gospel</i>	OUP (2 nd ed) 2007
Culpeper, R. Alan	<i>Anatomy of the Fourth Gospel</i>	Fortress Press, 1987
Moody Smith, D.	<i>The Theology of the Gospel of John</i>	CUP, 1995
Van der Watt, Jan	<i>An Introduction to the Johannine Gospel and Letters</i>	T&T Clark, 2007

Website addresses

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

Information correct as of: 29 February 2016