



Course Syllabus

Course name and code (English): PIO412 Writings of John

Course name and code (Estonian): PIO412 Johannese kirjutised

Course name and code (Russian): PIO412 Книги Иоанна

Course value: 3 EAP

Goals of the course: To enable students to interpret and understand the Johannine writings in their literary, social, cultural and historical contexts, and to apply what they have learned to their Christian life and the ministry contexts in which they serve.

Outcomes of the course:

The student who has passed the course is able:

- 1) To identify the purpose of each Johannine work, its major themes, how best to interpret them, and their distinctive contribution to Christian faith and life.
- 2) To interpret the Johannine writings effectively and to apply what they have learned to their lives and to the church.
- 3) To teach and preach from the Johannine writings within their ministry contexts.
- 4) To grow in their relationship with the Lord and in holiness through the study of the Johannine writings.

Content of the course: An introduction to Johannine Literature: namely, John's Gospel, John's letters and Revelation. We will consider the purpose of each book, its historical context, its distinctive features, its key themes and how to interpret it. We will provide an overview of each work and focus on some important passages. We will discuss how what we have learned should apply to us today individually and as the church.

Evaluation method: Graded (A-F)

Pre-requisites: None

Class and semester: Spring semester, 2025

Course taught by: Dr. Philip Richardson email address: prichardson@onemissionsociety.org

Course Schedule:

Date: 13.11.2025. Hours: _4_. Form of study: interactive lecture.

Topic: **John's Gospel:** We shall look at the differences between the "Synoptic Gospels" and John's gospel, John's purpose, John's writing style, his main themes including the "I am" sayings, signs, the theme of eternal life, the unique teaching on the Holy Spirit, glory, revelation, and what John teaches us about Jesus.

Date: 14.11.2025. Hours: _8_. Form of study: interactive lecture.

Topic: **John's Gospel** (continued).

The Letters of John: We shall look at the likely circumstances that gave rise to the letters, the nature of the false teaching they address, John's response to this teaching, the purpose and shape of the letters, and their key themes.

The Revelation to John: We shall look at the nature of apocalyptic, the genres of Revelation, how to interpret the book, its structure and composition, its use of images, symbols, metaphors and number, its use of the Old Testament, its perspectives on God and Jesus, Emperor worship, the followers of the lamb, and its vision of the future.

Date: 15.11.2025. Hours: _6_. Form of study: interactive lecture.

Topic: **The Revelation to John** (continued)

Assessment:

Requirements for receiving credit: Class participation at least 75% and completion of assignments according to the course syllabus.

Means of liquidating academic debts: The Seminary's academic regulation states the following:

5.11. Assignment deadlines and examination dates are set by the lecturer in the syllabus.

These due dates can be no more than 4 weeks after the final lecture for the course.

5.11.1. Students may request an extension in writing to the lecturer before the due date, explaining the circumstances.

5.11.2. After the deadline or extended deadline, it is not possible to submit an assignment. If failure to submit an assignment results in failing the subject, the student will have to retake the course next time it is offered and pay the resit fee.

5.11.3. Lecturers have 14 days after the due dates to return the graded assignments and post the grades.

All written assignments may be sent through the *StrikePlagiarism* detection system. If plagiarism is detected, the student may be required to rewrite the assignment. Plagiarism to a larger extent, may require the retaking of the subject. The student has the right to dispute the teacher's decision by appealing to the Dean.

According to Academic Regulation 5.5, if a student does not complete an online exam that was open for more than two days, the resit fee must be paid to the Seminary (description: resit fee and course name) and the payment voucher sent to the teacher with the request that the online exam be reopened. The teacher will not re-open the exam until proof of payment is received. See the Tuition page on the Seminary webpage for more details.

Required reading:

The complete text of John's Gospel, the Letters of John, and Revelation.

Selected passages from one commentary of your choice on the following passages: John 1:1–18; 4:1–42; 6:22–59; 11:1–44; 14:16–26; 15:26–27; 16:7–15; 1 John 1:5–10; 3:1–10; 4:7–21; Revelation 1:1–20; 5:1–14; 7:1–17; 13:11–14:5; 20:1–10; 21:1–7; 22:1–7.

Recommended reading: See complete bibliography below (all available in the library)

Assignment 1: Active participation in lectures and discussions.

Percentage of final grade: 10%

Description: Pass-Fail (Participated, Did not participate)

Deadline: None. Instructor assigns a grade.

Assignment 2: Reading report

Length: I will simply ask you to provide your own estimate of what percentage of the required readings you have done from (A) The Bible texts themselves (10%) (B) The commentary readings on the passages indicated below (10%). I will supply a chart for you to fill in the percentage.

Percentage of final grade: 20%

Deadline: 1 December 2025

Evaluation criteria:

Grade	Percentage Range	Description
A	90–100%	Completed nearly all or all readings.
B	80–89%	Completed most readings.
C	70–79%	Completed a fair amount.
D	60–69%	Completed some readings.
E	50–59%	Completed few readings.
F	Below 50%	Completed very little or none.

Assignment 3: Sermon/Bible Study on passage

Prepare a 2-page outline for a sermon or Bible study on no more than 12 verses from Revelation (a passage of your choice) How would you preach/teach this to a congregation or Bible study group here, applying its message to your church and society? I only need key points/bullet points (not the actual sermon or message), however it must contain sufficient information to fulfill the evaluation criteria below.

Percentage of final grade: 30%

Deadline: 1 December 2025

Evaluation criteria:

To receive an A, the student must submit a properly formatted paper that identifies and evaluates different opinions of the passage, demonstrating an excellent understanding of the issues involved and the relationship of the passage to the book of Revelation; displays critical analytical thinking, and clarity in presenting their understanding of the passage to an audience of laypeople; demonstrates excellent awareness of how the principles of the passage could apply to the contemporary church and wider society.

To receive a B, the student must submit a properly formatted paper that identifies different opinions of the passage, demonstrating a good understanding of the issues involved and the relationship of the passage to the book of Revelation; clearly presents their understanding of the passage to an audience of laypeople; demonstrates good awareness of how the principles of the passage could apply to the contemporary church and wider society.

To receive a C, the student must submit a properly formatted paper that shows some understanding of the issues involved in interpreting the passage, presents their understanding of the passage to an audience of laypeople; demonstrates some awareness of how the principles of the passage could apply to the contemporary church and wider society.

To receive a D, the student must submit a paper that outlines the main message of the passage; makes some attempt to apply the passage to a contemporary audience.

To receive an E: means that the student submitted a paper that shows minimal understanding of the passage; presents little or no relevant application of the passage to a contemporary audience.

To receive an F: means that the student submitted a paper that: demonstrates little or no understanding of the message of the passage, makes no attempt to apply the message of the passage to the church and society; has not met the minimum requirements for passing the assignment.

Assignment 4: Research Paper

Write a 6 page final paper which answers this question: Take either the story of Jesus with the Samaritan woman of John 4 or the story of the blind man in John 9 and explain (a) how the 'drama' of the story unfolds as John describes it and (b) how the story illustrates ideas and themes that are important to John in the gospel as a whole, with supporting evidence.

Make sure you support your arguments with relevant verses/passages from the wider gospel (not just John 4 or John 9) and have understood those verses in context.

Percentage of final grade: 40%

Deadline: 3 Januar 2026

Evaluation criteria:

The paper must include a minimum of 5 sources in the bibliography, in addition to the Bible and lecture notes. The commentary read for the reading assignment on John's Gospel must be one of the sources used.

To receive an A, the student must submit a properly formatted paper that:

- conducts wide ranging research into the subject, significantly exceeding the minimum number of sources, providing excellent referencing,

- provides a detailed overview of the selected passage, and identifies and evaluates the relationship between the ideas and themes in the passage to the rest of the gospel, showing an excellent understanding of the issues
- displays critical analytical thinking in presenting an opinion on the topic.

To receive a B, the student must submit a properly formatted paper that:

- meets or exceeds the minimum number of research sources, providing excellent referencing,
- provides an overview of the selected passage and shows some awareness of the relationship between the ideas and themes in the passage to the rest of the gospel,
- presents a balanced opinion on the topic.

To receive a C, the student must submit a properly formatted paper that:

- meets the minimum number of research sources, providing proper referencing,
- provides a clear presentation of the passage,
- draws a reasonable conclusion on the topic.

To receive a D, the student must submit a paper that:

- meets the minimum number of research sources, providing referencing,
- provides an understandable description of the passage.

Receiving an E means that the student submitted a paper that:

- has met the minimum number of research sources, but provided only minimal referencing,
- describes the basic issue in a confused and inaccurate manner.

Receiving an F means that the student submitted a paper that:

- has not met the minimum number of research sources and not provided referencing,
- has not provided an understandable description of the passage,
- has not met the minimum requirements for passing the assignment.

WORKS AVAILABLE IN THE LIBRARY: (* indicates that the book is recommended)

English Resources (General):

*Richard Bauckham, *The Theology of the Book of Revelation* (Cambridge University Press, 1993)

*Craig A. Evans and Stanley E. Porter, *Dictionary of New Testament Background* (IVP Academic, 2000)

Gordon D. Fee, *New Testament Exegesis* (Westminster Press, 1983)

*Joel B. Green et al (eds.), *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. 2nd edition (IVP Academic, 2013)

Joachim Jeremias, *Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus* (Fortress Press, 1969)

*Craig S. Keener, *IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament* (IVP, 1994)

English Resources (Commentaries):

Raymond E. Brown, *The Gospel According to John I-XII* (Anchor Bible. Doubleday, 1966)

Raymond E. Brown, *The Gospel According to John XIII-XXI* (Anchor Bible. Doubleday, 1970)

Corneliu Constantineanu (eds.) *Central and Eastern European Bible Commentary* (Langham Global Library, 2022)

Frank E. Gaebelin (ed.), *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 9: John* by M.C. Tenney (Zondervan, 1981)

*William Hendriksen, *The Gospel of John* (Baker, 1953)

*David Jackman, *The Message of John's Letters* (Bible Speaks Today. IVP, 1992)

*Thomas F. Johnson, *1, 2, and 3 John* (NIBC. Hendrickson, 1993)

*J. Ramsey Michaels, *John* (NIBC. Hendrickson, 1989)

*Robert W. Wall, *Revelation* (NIBC. Hendrickson, 1991)

Estonian Resources:

*Leon Morris, *Revelation* (Tyndale, 1987) Estonian translation.

Peeter Roosimaa, *Johannese Evangeelium ja Kristus Jeesus* (Logos, 2019)

*John Stott, *The Letters of John* (Tyndale, 1964) Estonian translation.

*R. V. G. Tasker, *Johannese Evangeelium* (Logos, 2002) = R. V. G. Tasker, *John* (Tyndale, 1960)

Russian Resources:

*Джозел Грин (редактор), *Словарь Иисуса и Евангелия* = Joel Green et al. (eds) *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels. 1st edition* (IVP, 1992)

*David Jackman, *The Message of John's Letters* (Bible Speaks Today. IVP, 1992) Russian translation

*Крейг Кинер, *IVP Библейский фоновый комментарий: Новый Завет* = Craig S. Keener, *IVP Bible Background Commentary* (IVP, 1993)

Генри Мэхен, *Евангелие от Иоанна* - = translation of Henry T. Mahan, *Bible Class Commentary: Gospel of John* (Evangelical Press, 1987)

*Майкл Уилкок, *Откровения Иоанна Богослова*. Rahva Raamat = translation of Michael Wilcock, *The Message of Revelation* (Bible Speaks Today. IVP, 1975)