

# Wesley Theological Seminary

## Doctor of Ministry Program

DM-CR-602 Perspectives from John for a Renewed Church  
April 11-15, 2016 in Cambridge UK  
Dr. Judith Lieu

This is the booklist for the above course. A pre-course assignment will be posted as soon as it is received.

### Required Books

Brant, Jo-Ann. John. 2011. ISBN 978-0-8010-3454-1  
Huyen, Susan. Imperfect Believers. 2009 ISBN 978-0-664-23372-3  
Lincoln, Andrew. The Gospel According to St John. 2005. ISBN 978-0801049422/23  
Moloney, Francis. The Gospel of John. 1998. ISBN 978-0814658067  
Thompson, M.M. John: A Commentary. 2015. ISBN: 978-0-664-22111-9

### Recommended Books

Bauckham, Richard. Gospel of Glory. 2015  
Edwards, Ruth. Discovering John. 2014 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.  
Koester, Craig. The Word of Life. 2008  
Smith, D. Moody. The Theology of the Gospel of John. 1995

### Pre-class Assignment

Students will be expected to have read through carefully the Gospel of John and to have become familiar with at least one Commentary on the Gospel from those recommended (M.M. Thompson, NTL, WJK, 2015; Jo-Ann Brant, Paideia, 2011; F. Moloney, Sacra Pagina, Liturgical, 1998; A. Lincoln, Blacks, 2005). Those who have little recent experience of recent study of the Fourth Gospel will find one of the recommended books helpful.

Students will also be expected to have studied EITHER Susan Huyen, *Imperfect Believers: Ambiguous Characters in the Gospel of John* (Louisville, KY: WJK, 2009) OR Sharon H. Ringe, *Wisdom's Friends: Community and Christology in the Fourth Gospel* (Louisville, KY: WJK, 1999).

Exercise: 1) Study EITHER Hulen, *Imperfect Believers*, chapter 2 (Nicodemus) OR Ringe, *Wisdom's Friends* ch. 5 (Appointed to be Friends) alongside a careful reading of the Biblical text cited and at least one of the recommended commentaries. NB read the whole book first so you can see how the chapter fits in the overall argument.

How would you describe the method or approach adopted by Hulen/ Ringe? Do they identify issues or insights that are not picked up by the Commentary/ies? Do they pass over aspects of the text (perhaps as noted by the Commentaries) that you consider important?

When interpreting the Biblical text scholars sometimes distinguish between:

A) The world behind the text (e.g. the events described; the historical, geographical, social setting; the author and the author's intention; the situation of the first audience); imagining the text as a window through which we look at what lies behind.

B) The world of the text (e.g. the contents and the way they are presented; the story or narrative told; the use of plot or argument or persuasion); imagining the text as stained glass with an intricate design.

C) The world in front of the text: (e.g. us as readers and our response which may differ according to our setting); imagining the text as a mirror in which we see ourselves reflected, perhaps in new ways.

Where is the balance between A, B, and C in Hulen/ Ringe and in the Commentary you have studied? How might their emphasis enrich the way you would use John in your context?