GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: Fall 2015  
Instructor: Dr. Julian V. Hills  
Course #: THEO 8321/8211 (combined)  
Course Title: Later New Testament Writings/Advanced Hellenistic Greek  
Topic: THEO 8321: The Johannine Epistles

Content:  
This course will be taught concurrently with THEO 8211 Advanced Hellenistic Greek, in the context of which we shall read OT, later Jewish, pagan, and Christian religious, philosophical, and exegetical texts (including homilies) that have a direct bearing on the interpretation of 1, 2, 3 John.

For THEO 8321:  
My “Grand Plan”: **Ph.D. students** — I intend that all Ph.D. students, regardless of doctoral specialty (J.C.A.; Historical; Systematics - Ethics) make as their goal the production of a final paper that is publishable as a peer-reviewed article in a biblical or some other theological journal. Our special focus will be 1, 2, and 3 John because of my current research in those texts. But there are plenty of ways that key “themes” (for want of a better word without using too many words here) in those letters might be developed in less exegetically but more theologically or historically sophisticated ways, if students in HIST or SYST/ETH wish to develop such essays.  
**M.A. students** — I intend that all M.A. students make as their goal the production of a final paper publishable as a “short note” or “study” in a scholarly journal.  
**M.A.C.D. students** — I intend that all M.A.C.D. students make as their goal the production of a final paper that corresponds to the ethos of the M.A.C.D. program, e.g., integrating the Johannine literature into a Christian Formation syllabus, perhaps setting out for a more popular audience a substantial textual and theological issue in the interpretation of the 1, 2, and / or 3 John.

If these goals are to be realistic, we shall need to work together in an especially collegial manner — as generous critics, for example, sharing insights and discoveries in the primary and secondary literature.

NOTE: For neither Ph.D. nor M.A. students does this mean that only a paper actually submitted to a journal for possible publication can receive a strong grade. Some essays will turn out to be “tips of icebergs” — opening up questions that go beyond the scope of a 4,000 - 8,000 word article, or that would simply take more time to build into a polished article.

The actual “shape” of the course will depend on the number of students enrolled, and on the extent of their background. I can be very flexible. Please see also the course description for THEO 8211 Advanced Hellenistic Greek  
Book recommendation, class format, etc., TBA.

PLEASE NOTE: I do NOT plan on placing a book order with BookMarq.