

Night class at Laidlaw

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

with Dr Phillip Porter

If you are eager to gain a better understanding of Scripture and develop skills in reading the Bible well, this course is an excellent opportunity. It will give you a taste—and hopefully spark a love—for theological and biblical study.

Thursday Nights 6.30-8.30pm
Onsite (Auckland & Christchurch campuses), online, or in groups at your home/local church
Semester Begins: 22 February; first lecture 4 March
Mid Semester Break: 12-23 April
Semester Ends: 24 June

What you will learn

The Gospel of John contains many well-known characters and much-loved passages, together with John's presentation of Jesus as the one who "in the beginning" was both "with God and was God". John's remarkable claim is that the eternal Son of God became a human being and lived among us in the person of Jesus Christ. In this course we will explore why Jesus came, who he came for, and how the saving and life-giving power of his death and resurrection remain accessible to us today. This course is your opportunity to explore John's Gospel in depth, learning from each other, your lecturer and from a great selection of scholarship on John. The course is exegetically based and will cover most parts of John. The Thurs evening events will be a mix of lecture and class discussion and will focus on both the text of John and its importance for us in the twenty-first century.

Your lecturer Phillip Porter

Phillip is a lecturer in the School of Theology at Laidlaw College and mainly teaches New Testament papers, including an Introduction to the New Testament and courses on the four Gospels, Romans, 1 Thessalonians, 1 Peter, and James. Phillip came to Laidlaw after a couple of decades devoted to pastoral ministry (Presbyterian, Baptist), missionary experience (Vietnam), study of the New Testament, and raising five children with his wife Siobhan. His research interests include Jesus' parables (and how they speak to the contemporary church) and exploring different ways various NT authors present the Christian Gospel.

Night Class at Laidlaw

Accessible Theology for every church community

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How it works

It is an interactive videoconference, including your church site, the Henderson campus and the Christchurch campus of Laidlaw, and other church communities. You come to your local church each Thursday, sit around discussion tables with 6-15 others, and watch a screen or large TV that will show the lecturer and their display. You'll also be able to see the other classes at their various locations. You control what you see and what the lecturer hears. Sometimes the lecturer will be talking, sometimes they will get you to discuss things in your local small groups, sometimes they will have a big discussion with all the sites simultaneously. The experience is very close to having the lecturer in the room with you.

Practical Information

Details

Lectures will happen every Thursday, 6:30-8:30pm, from 4 March to 24 June 2027. There will not be lectures during school holidays. If you are doing the course for credit, you should expect to spend another 7-8 hours each week reading and doing assignments. If you are doing the course just for interest, then we recommend spending another hour a week doing assigned reading.

Costs

There are two options.

- For credit (includes assignments): $1,000
- Just for interest: $230 (individual), $50 (church group)

While we recommend the credit option (as you learn best by applying your knowledge), we recognise that not everyone has time to be able to do this. Note that the credit option can also count towards a diploma or bachelor's degree.

Next Steps

Questions

If you have questions, first talk to the relevant people at your church. For anything they cannot answer, feel free to contact Phillip Porter at Laidlaw (freephone 0800 999 777).

Interested

If you are interested, first give your details to the relevant people at your church.

The final date for applications is 5th February, but if possible, we need to know well before then to properly set up your church as a remote lecture site. The sooner you can enrol the better. You don't need to pay until a few weeks before the course starts.

Applying for Night Class

Study Non-credit

What is 'Interest Only'?

Interest Only is what Laidlaw calls their courses done 'for audit'. This means you can sit in on the class and have access to resources that all students attending the course have, but you do not have to complete assessments.

Study for credit

What is a 'Certificate of Proficiency'?

This is what Laidlaw calls a single, stand-alone course. It allows you to study at Laidlaw without committing to a qualification. Under the Certificate of Proficiency, you have access to resources like any other student, and the enjoyment of completing assessments, tests etc. Laidlaw keeps a record of credits achieved. Should you continue studying with Laidlaw and choose a qualification, your relevant credits will be awarded to that qualification.

Can I start a qualification now?

You are welcome to start, but we suggest you have a conversation with us first. You can fill out a study enquiry on the Laidlaw website, or you can e-mail study@laidlaw.ac.nz or call us on 0800 999 777. We will send you further information so that you can make a well-informed decision.

How do I apply?

All applications are received on-line. Remember that the final date for applications is 5th February.

1. Go to https://www.laidlaw.ac.nz/apply/
2. Fill in the application form. You will be asked questions that Laidlaw College is required to ask of every applicant (to gather statistical information for the Ministry of Education). If you need to leave the form, you can save and resume later at the bottom of each page. Be sure to enter a password.
   a. When you are asked 'What programme of study are you interested in?' choose either ***Interest Only*** *or* ***Certificate of Proficiency - Theology (COP-T)***
   b. Where it asks 'Which will be your primary location of study?' choose Night Class at Laidlaw
   c. Unless you have them ready, don't worry about uploading any documents in the application – choose 'Upload files later ...'

Laidlaw Admissions Office will be in contact once you apply and can verify your documents online. If you have any questions, we will be on hand to help you complete your application and enrol you for the course.

Where and when do I pay?

You will be sent an invoice once you have been accepted for study. The invoice will have payment options on it. You are expected to pay in full for the course before it starts on 4 March 2027.