

STUDENTS WILL EXPLORE THE GOSPELS OF MARK, MATTHEW AND LUKE AS EXPRESSIONS OF THE EARLY CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY, THEIR HISTORICAL CONTEXTS AND LITERARY FORMS, IN ORDER TO CRITICALLY ASSESS THEIR MEANING WITHIN THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FROM ANTIQUITY TO THE PRESENT. STUDENTS WILL EXAMINE THE VARIETY OF APPROACHES TO THE STUDY AND PRAYERFUL REFLECTION ON THESE GOSPELS, AND SURVEY THE IMPORTANT THEOLOGICAL THEMES THAT ARISE FROM THEIR PRESENCE AND APPLICATION WITHIN THE CHRISTIAN TRADITION.

GOAL

To provide insight into (and invite appreciation for) the person and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth, as found in the synoptic gospels. Employing principles of the historical-critical method, this course will highlight both traditional as well as unconventional aspects of Jesus of Nazareth, herald of the messianic kingdom. Detailed consideration will be given to synoptic gospel themes & structures, as well as to a comparative analysis of texts & authors.

Objectives:

- 1) To introduce the world of contemporary biblical scholarship concerning Jesus of Nazareth, based upon appreciation of synoptic gospel texts, authors & the ecclesial communities that gave them birth
- 2) To trace through the life and career of that man from Galilee, highlighting themes & values most essential to his character and mission
- 3) To validate the historical & theological viability of the synoptic gospels as effective tools for Jesus remembrance and research
- 4) To dismantle beliefs & theories about the personal life & saving work of Jesus that diminish both humanity & divinity, and to offer in their place insights & approaches that inculcate the best of contemporary theology & its dialogical partners
- 5) To submit the ancient gospel texts to "the test of faith," that is, by existential methodology, to test their capacity for leading people of every time & place to understanding faith in the person, teachings & practice of Jesus as witnessed in the synoptic gospels

Requirements:

- 1) presence and participation in all scheduled classes for this course
- 2) completion of all assignments/projects as given throughout the course
 - a) assigned readings in text
 - b) project: select any Synoptic theme or text and present a 5 page typed report due on the last class session [3 pages on selected subject/1 page on reason for selection/1 page on contemporary correlation or connection]
- 3) satisfactory completion of all course examinations

Recommendations:

- 1) notebook for recording information during class presentations & assigned readings
- 2) research & reading of extra materials relevant to the course
- 3) attentive & participative class presence to foster learning attitude & aptitude

Grading:

20% class presence & participation
20% course paper

40% mid-course exams
20% final exam

Date Day/Class Presentation Rm: H225 RE#413 Jesus in Mark, Matthew & Luke

1/19	W 1	Introduction
1/21	F 2	The Pre-History of Jesus I
1/24	M 3	The Pre-History of Jesus II
1/26	W 4	The Jesus of History I
1/28	F 5	The Jesus of History II
1/31	M 6	The Preaching of Jesus I
2/2	W 7	The Preaching of Jesus II
2/4	F 8	The Death of Jesus I
2/7	M 9	The Death of Jesus II
2/9	W 10	The Resurrection of Jesus I
2/11	F 11	The Resurrection of Jesus II
2/14	M 12	The Scandal of Jesus
2/16	W 13	The Followers of Jesus
2/18	F 14	The Christ of Faith
2/21	M	No Class (President's Day)
2/23	W 15	The Church of Jesus & Early Christianity
2/25	F 16	The Gospel & Gospels of Jesus
2/28	M 17	The Synoptic Problem
3/1	W 18	Review
3/3	F 19 *	Exam I
3/6	M 20	The Gospel of Mark I
3/8	W 21	The Gospel of Mark II
3/10	F 22	The Gospel of Mark III
3/13	M 23	The Gospel of Matthew I
3/15	W 24	The Gospel of Matthew II
3/17	F 25	The Gospel of Matthew III
3/20	M 26	The Gospel of Luke I
3/22	W 27	The Gospel of Luke II
3/24	F 28	The Gospel of Luke III
3/27-31	M-W-F	No Class (Spring Recess)
4/3	M 29	Faces of the Synoptic Jesus
4/5	W 30	The Johannine Jesus [Contrast Portrait]
4/7	F 31	The Infancy Narratives of Matthew & Luke
4/10	M 32	Synoptic Parables I
4/12	W 33	Synoptic Parables II
4/14	F 34	Synoptic Parables III
4/17	M 34	Synoptic Study: The Historical Critical Method I
4/19	W 35	Synoptic Study: The Historical Critical Method II
4/21	F	No Class (Good Friday)
4/24	M 37	Review
4/26	W 38 *	Exam II
4/28	F 39	Synoptic Titles for Jesus of Nazareth
5/1	M 40	Contemporary Approach to Jesus & the Gospels I
5/3	W 41	Contemporary Approach to Jesus & the Gospels II
5/5	F 42	Semester: Overview & Evaluation

- 1) The schedule may be amended as deemed necessary during the semester. Please be advised.
- 2) Course Text: The New Testament by Bart D. Ehrman/Oxford University Press, ed. 2000
- 3) Prof. David Anderson (Humanities Department)/Phone: 947-8922
- 4) Final Exam: Thursday/May 11th: 10:30-12:30