

NT 3320 - LIFE AND TEACHINGS OF JESUS
Fall 2007

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I. Course Description

This course is a historical study of the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth within the framework of the religion of Israel in the first century, C.E. We will focus *especially on Jesus and his message* as he emerges in the narrative accounts of the gospels.

Since Jesus is a pivotal figure in human history, it will not be possible to study everything he is attributed to have said or has been written about him. We will have to be selective in our approach. So, using *Gospel Parallels: A Synopsis of the Three Gospels*, with special emphasis on the gospel of Mark, we will look at certain major stages and transitions in his life. These can function as essential clues as to who Jesus was and what he was up to in his ministry. Our secondary reading is designed to underscore obtaining a comprehensive knowledge of the overall intent of the ministry of Jesus. As noted above, we will concentrate on the Synoptic Gospels.

II. Goals

- A. The student will acquire familiarity with the basic features of Jesus' life in conjunction with significant persons, events, and themes in the story about him as presented in the Synoptic Gospels.
- B. The student will enhance his/her ability to function effectively as a participant or leader in adult Bible education programs through this program of study.

III. Objectives

- A. The student will gain a basic understanding of the religion of Israel in the context of the Greco-Roman world at the time of Jesus.
- B. The student will be able to identify the particular units (pericopes) and their sequence in the entire Markan account of the life of Jesus as well as an overview of the Sermon on the Mount and the Lukan parables. These units will be underscored with an emphasis on the major points made available electronically.
- C. The student will be introduced to the basic methodologies used by biblical scholars to study the Gospels and reconstruct the life of Jesus.

- D. The student will gain a deeper appreciation of the impact of the life of Jesus, not only in the church, but also in Western Culture.

IV. Texts

- A. A.B. Throckmorton (ed.), *Gospel Parallels*. Thomas Nelson, 1967. (Required)
- B. Peter Walker, *Jesus and His World*, InterVarsity Press, 2003. (Required)

V. Library Resources

- A. Austin Graduate School of Theology (8:30 - 10:00 Mon, Tues, Thurs; 8:30 - 4:30 Wed, Fri)
- B. Undergraduate (A.C.) Library; Main Library (UT); APTS Library; Episcopal Theological Seminary Library.
- C. Instructor will facilitate student orientation and access to basic software and data based resources in the library.
- D. Mark Goodacre's web page is the basic tool for biblical resources on the Internet and can be found at <http://ntgateway.com/>. Other recommended resources are Oxford Internet Theology Resources at <http://info.ox.ac.uk/ctitext/theology/>, and Early Christian Writings at <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/>.

VI. Required Work

- A. Weekly attendance at class for lectures and discussion.
- B. Regular reading of assignments as noted in the course syllabus.
- C. One book report on book approved by Instructor (5-7 pages).

VII. Evaluation

- A. Three tests will be given. The tests will be on the content of the biblical text, the secondary reading, and the class notes. The averages of the tests will determine 75% of your grade for the course. The grading scale will be:

90 -100 A
80 - 89 B
70 - 79 C
60 - 69 D
- 59 F

Each test will count 25% of the total grade. All tests should be taken on time. An unexcused makeup will have an automatic deduction of ten points. *No extra credit!*

- B. Paper will count for 25% of the grade.

VIII. Outline

A. Preliminary Matters

- Week 1: Sources on the life of Jesus; the Synoptic Problem. The Jesus of the Gospels.
Reading: *Jesus and His World*, 6-73.

B. The Markan Life of Jesus

- Week 2: The initial announcement of the Kingdom of God in Galilee and the call of the disciples.
Reading: *Gospel Parallels* §1, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11.

- Reading: The first miracles of Jesus' mission in Galilee.
Gospel Parallels §12, 13-14, 15-16, 45.

- Week 3: The beginning of opposition to Jesus.
Reading: *Gospel Parallels* §52, 53-54, 69, 70, 71-72, 85, 86 and 89.

- Reading: The kingdom is explained by parables.
Gospel Parallels §90-91 and 93, 94, 95 and 97 and 99.

- Week 4: Further dramatic activity by Jesus in Galilee.
Reading: *Gospel Parallels* §105, 106, 107, 108, 109-111, 112.

- Reading: Misunderstanding about Jesus deepens.
Gospel Parallels §113-114, 115, 116, 117, 118-120.

- Week 5: **Test 1: October 8**

- Week 6: Jesus decides to leave Galilee.
Reading: *Gospel Parallels* §121, 122, 123, 124-125, 126, 127, 129-130, 131-132.

- Week 7: Jesus arrives at the end of the way: Jerusalem.
Reading: *Gospel Parallels* §187, 188, 189, 191, 192, 193.

- Reading: The Crisis in Jerusalem.
Gospel Parallels §196, 198-201, 202.

- Week 8: Further confrontation in Jerusalem and final verdict on the temple and Jesus' statement on the future.

Reading: *Gospel Parallels* §204, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210-212, 213, 214-222.

The days before Jesus' arrest

Reading: *Gospel Parallels* §231, 232, 233-235, 236.

Week 9: The arrest, first trial, and trial before Pilate.

Reading: *Gospel Parallels* §238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 244, 246, 247-248.

Crucifixion, empty tomb.

Reading: *Gospel Parallels* §249-250, 251, 253, Longer Ending.

Further

Reading: *Jesus and His World*, 74-169.

Week 10: **Test 2: November 12**

C. **Selected Issues in the Life of Jesus.**

Sermon on the Mount 1

Reading: *Gospel Parallels* §18, 19, 20, 21.

Week 11: **No class—Thanksgiving Week: Book Report Due November 20**

Week 12: Sermon on the Mount 2

Readings: *Gospel Parallels* §22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27.

Sermon on the Mount 3

Readings: *Gospel Parallels* §28, 29-30, 31, 32-34, 35, 36, 37, 38-39, 40-44.

Week 13: Saying of Jesus in Luke.

Reading: *Gospel Parallels* §143-144, 156, 172-173, 174, 177.

The Birth Narratives of Jesus in Matthew and Luke.

Reading: *Gospel Parallels*, pp. 1-7.

Further

Reading: *Jesus and His World*, 172-184

Week 14 **Test 3: December 10**

IX. Bibliography (AGST Library Call Number)

- W. Barclay, *Life of Jesus for Every Man*, New York: Harper and Row, 1966.
(BT 301.2 .B26 1966)
- M. Bockmuehl, *This Jesus: Martyr, Lord, Messiah*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1994.
(BT 301.2 .B62 1994)
- F. Bovon, *The Last Days of Jesus*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2006.
(BT 440 .B6813 2006)
- C. H. Dodd, *The Founder of Christianity*, New York: MacMillan, 1970. (BT 202 .D57)
- J. Dunn, *Jesus' Call to Discipleship*, Cambridge University Press, 1992.
(BS 2417 .K5 .D86 1992)
- D. Flusser, *Jesus*, New York: Herder & Herder, 3rd edition, Magnes Press, 2001.
(BT 301.2 .F59 2002)
- S. Freyne, *Jesus, A Jewish Galilean: A New Reading of the Jesus Story*, T&T Clark, 2004.
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- M. Hooker, *Beginnings: Keys That Open the Gospels*, TPI, 1997. (BS 2555.2 .H67 1997)
- A. M. Hunter, *The Work & Words of Jesus*, London: SCM Press, 1950. (BS 2415 .H8)
- P. Jenkins, *Hidden Gospels: How the Search for Jesus Lost Its Way*, Oxford University Press, 2001. (BS 2851 .J46 2001)
- G. Lohfink, *Jesus and Community*, Philadelphia: Fortress, 1984. (BS 2417 .C53 .L6413)
- T. Manson, *The Servant Messiah*, Cambridge University Press, 1961. (BT 230 .M33)
- J. Pelikan, *Jesus Through the Centuries*, Yale University Press, 1985. (BT 198 .P44)
- P. Perkins, *Jesus as Teacher*, Cambridge University Press, 1990. (BT 306 .P47 1990)
- E. Rivkin, *What Crucified Jesus?*, Nashville: Abingdon, 1984. (BT 431.6 .R58 1997)
- E. P. Sanders, *The Historical Figure of Jesus*, New York: Penguin, 1993.
(BT 301.2 .S254 1993)
- E. Schweizer, *Jesus*, Richmond: John Knox, 1971. (BT 202 .S38213 1971)
- N. T. Wright, *Mark for Everyone*, SPCK, 2001. (BS 2585.53 .W7)
- N.T. Wright, *The Challenge of Jesus: Rediscovering Who Jesus Was and Is*, InterVarsity Press, 1999. (BT 303.2 .W75 1999)