



Syllabus



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BIL-303: The Synoptic Gospels

Written By: David Ackerman, Ph.D.

Course Description

An intensive study of the Gospel of Mark, with attention given to the parallel accounts in Matthew and/or Luke. Examination of unique material in the first and third gospels. Special note will also be made of various solutions to the synoptic problem and to such concepts as the Messiah and the Kingdom of God.

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisite Courses: BIL-201, BIL-202 or BIL-203 or permission of program director.

Prerequisite Skills and Knowledge:

- Basic knowledge of the contents of the Old Testament and New Testament
- Basic knowledge of the main domains of Christian theology
- Basic knowledge of the Inductive Bible Study methodology

Course Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. Analyze the Gospel of Mark using the Inductive Bible Study method.
2. Employ research on cultural and historical features in the interpretation of parables in the Synoptic Gospels.
3. Relate the major themes and events of Jesus' life and ministry to the present context.
4. Explain with confidence how Jesus is the Messiah.
5. Gain knowledge about the historical, cultural, and religious setting of the Synoptic Gospels.
6. Design a Bible study lesson based on an Inductive Bible Study of Mark.
7. Respond with personal commitment to the call to discipleship as recorded in the New Testament Gospels.

Course Textbook

Blomberg, C. L. (2009). *Jesus and the Gospels: An introduction and survey* (2nd ed.). Nashville: Broadman & Holman.

Brower, K. (2012). *Mark*. New Beacon Bible Commentary. Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press.

Green, J. B., Brown, J. K., & Perrin, N. (Eds.). (2013). *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Course Technology

- www.biblegateway.com
- www.blueletterbible.org
- www.biblehub.com

Grading Scale

Grade	Quality Points Per Credit	Percentage	Score
A	4.0	95%–100%	950–1000
A-	3.7	92%–94.9%	920–949
B+	3.3	89%–91.9%	890–919
B	3.0	85%–8.9%	850–889
B-	2.7	82%–84.9%	820–849
C+	2.3	79%–81.9%	790–819
C	2.0	75%–78.9%	750–789
C-	1.7	72%–74.9%	720–749
D+	1.3	69%–71.9%	690–719
D	1.0	65%–68.9%	650–689

F	0.0	0%–64.9%	0–649

Grading Policies

Your grading policy for your course is dependent on your school and program. Your grading policies can be found in the IWU Catalog.

Letter Grade Equivalencies

Grade	Description of Work
A	Clearly stands out as excellent performance. Has unusually sharp insights into material and initiates thoughtful questions. Sees many sides of an issue. Articulates well and writes logically and clearly. Integrates ideas previously learned from this and other disciplines. Anticipates next steps in progression of ideas. Example "A" work should be of such nature that it could be put on reserve for all cohort members to review and emulate. The "A" cohort member is, in fact, an example for others to follow.
B	Demonstrates a solid comprehension of the subject matter and always accomplishes all course requirements. Serves as an active participant and listener. Communicates orally and in writing at an acceptable level for the degree program. Work shows intuition and creativity. Example "B" work indicates good quality of performance and is given in recognition for solid work; a "B" should be considered a good grade and awarded to those who submit assignments of quality less than the exemplary work described above.
C	Quality and quantity of work in and out of class is average. Has marginal comprehension, communication skills, or initiative. Requirements of the assignments are addressed at least minimally.
D	Quality and quantity of work is below average. Has minimal comprehension, communication skills, or initiative. Requirements of the assignments are addressed at below acceptable levels.
F	Quality and quantity of work is unacceptable and does not qualify the student to progress to a more advanced level of work.

Course Workshop Summary

Workshop	Discussion*	Assignment*	Total Points per Works
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Workshop One	2/50	1/100	150
Workshop Two	2/50	1/100	150
Workshop Three	2/50	1/100	150
Workshop Four	2/50	2/150	200
Workshop Five	2/50	1/100	150
Workshop Six	1/25	2/175	200
End of Course Survey			10**
TOTAL	11/275	8/725	1000

* Number of Activities/Sum Point Totals

** Extra credit

Course Assignments

Workshop One Outline

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
1.1 Assignment: Inductive Study One: Book Survey on Mark	Due by the end of the workshop.	6 hours	100
1.2 Discussion: The Synoptic Problem	Post your initial response by Day Four and your three responses by the end of the workshop.	4:30 hours	25
1.3 Discussion: The Birth of Jesus	Post your initial response by Day Four and your three responses by the end of the workshop.	3:30 hours	25

	Totals	14 hours*	150
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Workshop Two Outline

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
2.1 Assignment: Section Survey of Mark 1:14-3:6	Due by the end of the workshop.	5 hours	100
2.2 Discussion: Jesus' Baptism & Temptation	Post your initial response by Day Four and your three responses by the end of the workshop.	3:30 hours	25
2.2 Discussion: Background Studies	Post your initial response by Day Four and your three responses by the end of the workshop.	4:30 hours	25
	Totals	13 hours*	150

Workshop Three Outline

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
3.1 Assignment: Parable Paper	Due by the end of the workshop.	6 hours	100
3.2 Discussion: The Sermon on the Mount	Post your initial response by Day Four and your three responses by the end of the workshop.	3:30 hours	25
3.3 Discussion: The Historical Reliability of the Synoptic Gospels	Post your initial response by Day Four and your three responses by the end of the workshop.	3:30 hours	25
	Totals	13 hours*	150

Workshop Four Outline

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
4.1 Assignment: Historical Background Paper	Due by the end of the workshop.	5 hours	75
4.2 Assignment: Word Study on Kingdom	Due by the end of the workshop.	4 hours	75
4.3 Discussion: Jesus' Teachings on the Kingdom	Post your initial response by Day Four and your three responses by the end of the workshop.	2 hours	25
4.4 Discussion: Who do you say that I am?	Post your initial response by Day Four and your three responses by the end of the workshop.	3 hours	25
Totals		14 hours*	200

Workshop Five Outline

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
5.1 Assignment: Bible Study Lesson	Due by the end of the workshop.	6 hours	100
5.2 Discussion: The Miracles of Jesus	Post your initial response by Day Four and your three responses by the end of the workshop.	3:30 hours	25
5.3 Discussion: Historicity	Post your initial response by Day Four and your three responses by the end of the workshop.	3:30 hours	25
Totals		13 hours*	150

Workshop Six Outline

WORKSHOP SIX OUTLINE

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
6.1 Assignment: Application of Luke	Due by the end of the workshop.	7 hours	100
6.2 Discussion: The Great Commission	Post your initial response by Day Four and your three responses by the end of the workshop.	3 hours	25
6.3 Assignment: Reflection Essay	Due by the end of the workshop.	4 hours	75
End of Course Survey	Due by the end of the workshop.	30 minutes	10**
Totals		14:30 hours*	200

* These timings are based on estimations of average times to complete each assignment. Actual assignment completion times will vary.

** Extra credit

Course Development Resources

Barclay, W. H. (1975). *The gospel of Matthew, daily study Bible*. Philadelphia, PA: Westminster.

Barclay, W. H. (1975). *The gospel of Mark, daily study Bible*. Philadelphia, PA: Westminster.

Barclay, W. H. (1975). *The gospel of Luke, daily study Bible*. Philadelphia, PA: Westminster.

Blomberg, C. L. (1987). *The historical reliability of the Gospels*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity.

Blomberg, C. L. (1990). *Interpreting the parables*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity.

Blomberg, C. L. (1992). *Matthew, new American commentary*. Nashville, TN: B & H Publishing Group.

Carson, D. A. (1985). *God with us: Themes from Matthew*. Ventura, CA: Regal.

Carson, D. A. (1987). *When Jesus confronts the world: An exposition of Mt. 8-10*. Grand Rapids,

MI: Baker.

Ferguson, E. (2003). *Backgrounds of Early Christianity* (3rd ed.). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

Green, J. (1997). *Gospel of Luke, New International commentary of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

Hahn, R. (2005). *Matthew: A commentary for Bible students*. Indianapolis, IN: Wesleyan Publishing House.

Heer, K. (2006). *Matthew: A commentary for Bible students*. Indianapolis, IN: Wesleyan Publishing House.

Hurtado, L. (1990). *Mark: New International biblical commentary*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson.

Jones, M. L. (1981). *Studies in the Sermon on the Mount*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

Keener, Craig S. *The Historical Jesus of the Gospels*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2009

Kent, H. (2005). *Studies in the gospel of Mark: The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ*. Nashville, TN: B & H Publishing Group.

Lenski, R.C.H. (1998). *Commentary on the New Testament*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson.

McKnight, S. (1990). *Interpreting the Synoptic Gospels*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker.

Mounce, R. (1990). *Matthew: New International biblical commentary*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson.

Pennington, John. (2012). *Reading the Gospels wisely: A narrative and theological introduction*. Grand Rapids: Baker.

Perkins, P. (2009). *Introduction to the Synoptic Gospels*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing.

Roberson, A.T. (1950). *A harmony of the Gospels*. New York, NY: Harper and Row.

Smith, D. (2006). *Mark: A commentary for Bible students*. Indianapolis, IN: Wesleyan Publishing House.

Stein, Robert H. (1995). *The method and message of Jesus' teachings*. Rev. ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press.

Trench, R.C. (1981). *Notes on the parables of our Lord*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker.

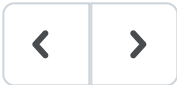
Reflect in ePortfolio

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Open with docReader



Activity Details

Completion Summary



Task: View this topic