

BBL211 Synoptic Gospels



Pathways

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For the Acadeum Course Sharing Consortium



We're delighted to have you study at RMC! Please note the following policies:

We try our best to ensure you get the most from the courses in which you are enrolled and welcome your feedback!

Online Courtesy

As beings created in the image of God, we all deserve to be treated with the utmost respect whether we are a facilitator or a student. Online courses give us the opportunity to encourage social interaction, relationship building and trust between participants which befits our status as image-bearers. Failure to show respect in course interchange, through emails, announcements, discussion forums or instant chat, whether in the form of racism, chauvinism or simple unkindness is ungracious and inappropriate for the health of Christian community. Where mutual respect exists, the possibility of learning is enhanced for all.

Therefore, please remember that there is a person behind every comment on the course website – when you respond, be gracious, give the benefit of the doubt and ask for clarification. Review your comments in the discussion forums for tone before submitting them – sarcasm and jokes often do not translate well in the online environment. Be sure your messages are clear – it is tempting to quickly write a response and submit it but this can lead to confusion if your thoughts are a bit jumbled – take time to polish your remarks. Remember that your comments, whether in emails or discussion forums can become public so act accordingly.

RMC Grading Policy

Grade GradePoint

A+	4.0	
A	4.0	A = Excellent - superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
A-	3.7	
B+	3.3	
B	3.0	B = Good - clearly above average performance with knowledge of the subject matter generally complete.
B-	2.7	
C+	2.3	
C	2.0	C = Satisfactory — basic understanding of subject matter.
C-	1.7	
D+	1.3	
D	1.0	D = Inferior work which falls below the expectations of the course but which is of passing quality.
D-	0.7	
F	0.0	F = Failure to meet the minimum standards required for a passing grade.
P	Pass	P = Represents satisfactory work. Given only in courses specially designated for Pass /Fail grading.
IN		Incomplete
VW		Voluntary Withdrawal from a course before the course withdrawal deadline.

Grading Scale

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

Plagiarism & Academic Misconduct at Rocky Mountain College

A. Plagiarism Defined

Plagiarism - involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Plagiarism exists when:

1. the work submitted was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting the work,
2. parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
3. the whole work is copied from another source, and/or
4. a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence.

B. Penalties

1. **Failing Grade** - a student may be given a failing grade in either the assignment or course in which that student is found guilty of plagiarism. Except in circumstances in which leniency is warranted, this penalty will be applied in conjunction with one or other of the other penalties mentioned below.
2. **Disciplinary Probation** - when a student is placed on disciplinary probation, he or she is entitled to proceed with their academic program. If the student is found guilty of a further academic offence the student will be suspended or expelled.
3. **Suspension** - suspension takes place when a student is denied continuance at the college for a specified period of time. A student who has been placed under suspension is eligible to reapply for admission after the end of that specified period of time. Suspension does not imply automatic readmission; a student must satisfy the dean of his/her eligibility for readmission.
4. **Expulsion** - a student who is expelled is dismissed permanently from the college with no right to apply for readmission.

C. Penalties and Their Application

1. In cases in which the dean is satisfied that a student is guilty of a clear intention to deceive, the normal penalty will be either suspension or expulsion from the college.
2. In cases in which the dean is satisfied that an offence has been committed, but doubt is left as to the existence of a clear intention to deceive, the normal penalty will be disciplinary probation.
3. In cases where a student is found guilty of more than a single offence, the normal penalty will be expulsion from the college.

Copies of the official policy regarding Plagiarism and other academic offenses can be found on the RMC website. If charged with plagiarism, it would be wise for a student to familiarize themselves with the RMC policy,

“Plagiarism, Cheating & Academic Misconduct.”

This policy is based on the University of Calgary policy “Plagiarism, Cheating & Academic Misconduct - 1996-97” Copyright ©1998 University of Calgary

BBL211 Synoptic Gospels
Rocky Mountain College
Credits: 3

Course Description

An introductory study of the gospels of Mark, Matthew and Luke, with the goal of knowing the Christ to whom they bear witness more deeply. Attention will be given to what these gospels share in common, what is unique to each, and to various important topics and themes of these gospels. During this course students will develop skill in gospel interpretation through attention to their historical, literary, and theological features.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Identify the contents of the first three gospels;
- Explain how the synoptic gospels are similar to each other and distinct from John;
- Explain the character and theological emphases of each of the synoptic gospels;
- Identify the dominant motifs and topics covered by these gospels;

Textbooks

McClymond, Michael J. *Familiar Stranger: An Introduction to Jesus of Nazareth*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2004

Powell, Mark Allan. *Fortress Introduction to the Gospels*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1998.

Course Requirements & Grading

1. Writing six 400 word responses to Discussion Posts. **25%**
2. Writing four 500 word assignments (essays). **25%**
3. Midterm exam (modules 1-5) **25%**
4. Final exam (module 6-10) **25%**

Course Overview

Module	Time (hrs)	Textbook Reading	Assignment
1 Intro to Synoptics I	7	Powell, Intro, p 1-9	Discussion: Mark
2 Intro to Synoptics II	5	Powell, Ch1, p10-37 McClymond, p 26-43	Short essay: Mark
3 Mark	4	Powell, Ch2, p 38-60	Discussion: Powell on Mark
4 Matthew	4.5	Powell, Ch3, p 61-84	Short Essay: Matthew
5 Luke	6.5	Powell, Ch4, p 85-111	Discussion: Luke Mid-term exam
6 Miracles	3	McClymond "The man of power..." p 82-92	Discussion: Miracles

7 Messiah	4	McClymond “Wisdom...” p 133-138	Short essay: Jesus the crucified Messiah
8 Kingdom	3	McClymond, “The Central Message...” p 67-81	Discussion: Kingdom of God
9 Parables	4.5	McClymond, “The Teacher...” p 93-108	Short essay: Parables
10 Passion	8	McClymond, “Approaching the End...” p 120-128; “A New Beginning...” p 129-132	Discussion: Passion Narratives Final exam

***Note Regarding Exams**

The plan is to have proctored exams that the student may write in their location (city). This means that the student will need to identify someone who can serve as a proctor (oversee and supervise the giving of the exam). The student will inform the course facilitator of the contact information of the proctor and the time he or she wishes to write the exam. The facilitator will email the access code of the exam to the proctor who will open the exam for the student. At the completion of each exam, the proctor will email the facilitator confirming the student wrote the exam, only using resources permitted.

The mid-term exam is closed book – no resources may be used.

The final exam permits the use of a Bible (not a study Bible with notes) only. No other resources may be used.

Select Bibliography

Gospel Synopsis

Aland, Kurt, ed. *Synopsis of the Four Gospels (English Edition)*. United Bible Societies, 1982.

Introductions to the Gospels and New Testament

Achtemeier, Paul J., Joel B. Green, and Marianne Meye Thompson. *Introducing the New Testament: Its Literature and Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.

Barker, Glenn W., William L. Lane, and J. Ramsey Michaels. *The New Testament Speaks*. New York: Harper & Row, 1969.

Brown, Raymond E. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. Toronto: Doubleday, 1996.

Guthrie, Donald. *New Testament Introduction*. Downers Grove: Inter-Varsity Press, 1970.

Kümmel, Werner Georg. *Introduction to the New Testament, revised edition*. Trans. by Howard C. Kee. Nashville: Abingdon, 1973.

Background to the Gospels (religious and historical)

Cartlidge, David R., and David L. Dungan, eds. *Documents for the Study of the Gospels, revised edition*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1994.

Lohse, Eduard. *The New Testament Environment*. Translated by John E. Steely. Nashville: Abingdon, 1976.

Scott, J. Julius. *Jewish Backgrounds of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1995.

Tenney, Merrill, C. *New Testament Times*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1965.

Studies of the Historical Jesus

Allison, Dale C. *Constructing Jesus: Memory, Imagination, and History*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2010.

- Beilby, James, and Paul Rhodes Eddy, eds. *The Historical Jesus: Five Views*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2009.
- Borg, Marcus J. *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time: The Historical Jesus and the Heart of Contemporary Faith*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1995.
- Borg, Marcus J., and N. T. Wright. *The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1998.
- Crossan, John Dominic. *Jesus: A Revolutionary Biography*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1994.
- Dahl, Nils Alstrup. *Jesus the Messiah: The Historical Origins of Christological Doctrine*. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1991.
- Evans, Craig A. *Fabricating Jesus: How Modern Scholars Distort the Gospels*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2006.
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- Vermes, Geza. *Jesus the Jew: A Historian's Reading of the Gospels*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1981.
- Sanders, E. P. *Jesus and Judaism*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1985.
- Schweitzer, Albert. *The Quest of the Historical Jesus: A Critical Study of Its Progress from Reimarus to Wrede*. Trans. by F. C. Burkitt. Originally published in English in 1910. Reprint, Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998.
- Stein, Robert H. *Jesus the Messiah: A Survey of the Life of Christ*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1996.
- Witherington, Ben. *The Jesus Quest: The Third Search for the Jew of Nazareth*. 2d. ed. Downers Grove, ILL.: InterVarsity Press, 1995.
- Wright, N.T. *The Challenge of Jesus*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1999.

Parables

- Blomberg, Craig L. *Interpreting the Parables*. Downers Grove, ILL.: InterVarsity Press, 1990.
- Donahue, John R. *The Gospel in Parable*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1988.
- Dodd, C. H. *The Parables of the Kingdom*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1961.
- Hultgren, Arland. *The Parables of Jesus: A Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.
- Jeremias, Joachim. *The Parables of Jesus*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1972.
- Stein, Robert H. *An Introduction to the Parables of Jesus*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1981.

Miracles

- Brown, Colin. *Miracles and the Critical Mind*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1984.
- Gaiser, Frederick. *Healing in the Bible: Theological Insight for Christian Ministry*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2010.
- John, Jeffrey. *The Meaning in the Miracles*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.
- Keener, Craig S. *Miracles: The Credibility of the New Testament Accounts*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011.
- Richardson, Alan. *The Miracle Stories of the Gospels*. London: SCM Press, 1964.
- Twelftree, Graham H. *Jesus the Miracle Worker: A Historical & Theological Study*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1999.

General/Other Topics

- Allison, Dale C. *The Historical Christ and the Theological Jesus*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009.

- Barclay, William. *The First Three Gospels*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1966.
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *The Cost of Discipleship (revised edition)*. Translated by R. H. Fuller. New York: MacMillan Publishing Company, 1959.
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