

COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL OF OHIO AT MTSO

Spring 2020

April 17-18 and May 15-16, 2020

COS 321 Bible III: Gospels

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Course Description:

"This course focuses on the content and message of the Gospels, as well as the theological perspectives of the Gospel writers. The practice of exegesis will be emphasized."

Goals

By the end of the course students will be able to

- 1) Understand the origin, message, and purpose of each Gospel.
- 2) Faithfully exegete this form of literature.
- 3) Apply exegesis to preaching, other pastoral responsibilities, and issues of the present day.

Objectives

To reach our goals we will engage in the following activities:

- 1) *Readings from assigned primary and secondary material.*
 - a) Primary Literature (i.e., the text being studied):
-An English translation of the Bible. The recommended translations are the NRSV and the NIV. The ESV may also be used. Paraphrases (for example, *The Message*) are not appropriate for exegetical study.

NOTE: Students should bring their Bible to each class session.

- b) Secondary Literature (i.e., interpretive literature):
Required
 1. Levine, Amy-Jill. *Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi*. Paperback ed. New York: HarperOne, 2015. [several readings]
 2. Powell, Mark Allan. *Introducing the New Testament*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2017. [course textbook]

A schedule of readings is attached.

NOTE: Students should bring both books to each class session.

Recommended Supplementary Texts (not required for any assignments)

1. Carroll, John T. *Jesus and the Gospels: An Introduction*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2016.
2. Conway, Colleen M. *John and the Johannine Letters*. Core Biblical Studies. Nashville: Abingdon, 2017.
3. Murphy, Frederick J. *An Introduction to Jesus and the Gospels*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2005.

2) *Lectures and class discussions*

- a) Attend all class sessions.
- b) Participate fully in class sessions: that means arriving on time and staying through the entire class session, completing all required readings prior to the appropriate weekend and being able to discuss them, and contributing to class conversations. Discussion questions accompany the reading assignments.

3) *Written assignments*

- a) Written assignment #1: Synoptic Gospels comparison. See pp. 4-5 below for detailed instructions. The assignment is to be 4-5 pages in length. Assignment #1 is due at the beginning of class on **Friday, April 17, 2020**.
- b) Written assignment #2: Exegetical paper and sermon on the Gospel of John. See pp. 6-7 below for detailed instructions. The assignment is to be 12 pages in length. Assignment #2 is due at **8:00 p.m.** on **Friday, May 29, 2020**.

4) *All written work*

is to be typed, double-spaced, and submitted in twelve-point, Times New Roman font, with the following exceptions:

- the parallel texts for the Synoptic Gospels comparison may be single-spaced, and font size may be adjusted so that the information can be presented in columns;
- outlines / structural analyses, sermon outlines, endnotes or footnotes, and bibliographies for the exegetical paper and sermon on the Gospel of John may be single-spaced.

GRADING

Grading will be based on the following factors:

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| • Written Assignment #1 | 20% |
| • Written Assignment #2 | 40% |
| • Class Participation (includes class attendance, participation in class discussions, and knowledge of the required reading) | 40% |

NOTE: All course responsibilities must be at a C or higher level before a grade of A, B, or C can be assigned for the course.

A	93-100	D	70-76
B	85-92	F	0-69
C	77-84		

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

- Students who receive a D or F on their written work may rewrite the D or F paper/s one time. The grade on the rewritten material will constitute the final grade on that part of the course.
- It is expected and understood that all assignments will be completed by the date indicated.

Academic Honor

The Course of Study School of Ohio requires that all material submitted by a student in fulfilling his or her academic requirements be the original work of the student.

Violations of academic honor include any action by a student indicating dishonesty or lack of integrity in academic ethics. Violations in this category include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly passing off work of another as one's own.

Cheating includes seeking, acquiring, receiving or passing on information about the content of an examination prior to its authorized release or during its administration. Cheating also includes seeking, using, giving or obtaining unauthorized assistance in any academic assignment or examination.

Plagiarism is the act of presenting as one's own work with the work of another whether published or unpublished (including the work of another student). A writer's work should be regarded as his or her own property. Any person who knowingly uses a writer's distinctive work without proper acknowledgement is guilty of plagiarism.

A student found guilty of a violation of the academic honor code, after a review of the case, may be subject to one or more of the following actions: (1) warning; (2) probation; (3) suspension for the remainder of the course; (4) dismissal from the Course of Study School of Ohio; (5) grade of Fail for the course. Regardless of the outcome, a letter will be sent to the student's District Superintendent and Board of Ordained Ministry representative.

Written Assignment #1: Synoptic Gospels Comparison

The Cleansing of the Leper

Due at the beginning of class on April 17, 2020

Length: 4-5 pages

Matthew 8:1-4 // Mark 1:40-45 // Luke 5:12-16

1. Copy or type the texts side-by-side in three columns, typing in the same line material that is parallel. If there no parallel material, leave the line empty. If you use Word, use the Landscape orientation to give you more width.

Example:

Matt 9:1-8

1) And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city.

Mark 2:1-12

1) And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. 2) And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and he was preaching the word to them.

Luke 5:17-26

17) On one of those days, as he was teaching, there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting by, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem; and the power of the Lord was with him to heal.

You may also, of course, use a Gospel Synopsis, such as one of the following:

Aland, Kurt, ed. *Synopsis of the Four Gospels: English Edition*. New York: American Bible Society, 2010. [The English text is the RSV.]

Aland, Kurt, ed. *Synopsis of the Four Gospels: Greek - English Edition of the Synopsis Quattuor Evangeliorum* (English and Greek Edition). 12th ed. Stuttgart: United Bible Societies, 2001. [The English text is the RSV.]

Throckmorton, Burton. *Gospel Parallels: A Comparison of the Synoptic Gospels*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1993. [The English text is the NRSV.]

A helpful online option is

Marshall, John W., ed. *The Five Gospels Parallels*. It is available at opening page

<http://sites.utoronto.ca/religion/synopsis/>

three synoptic gospels only

<http://sites.utoronto.ca/religion/synopsis/meta-syn.htm>

four New Testament canonical gospels only

<http://sites.utoronto.ca/religion/synopsis/meta-4g.htm>

four New Testament canonical gospels plus Gospel of Thomas

<http://sites.utoronto.ca/religion/synopsis/meta-5g.htm>

[The English text is the RSV.] [There are also additional configurations you may find helpful on other projects: Q, Sayings Sources, Paul.]

2. Read the three passages carefully and compare them with one another. Use a system to highlight:

- a. Elements and details shared by all three
- b. Elements shared by two of the accounts.
- c. Elements unique to individual gospels.

[A more detailed system (“Highlighting”) can be found at the bottom of this page. You do not need to go into this detail! But it might guide you in developing your own system. You may use the more detailed system, if you wish.]

3. You should now have a text in which all the words are highlighted. You may print out the clean text and mark it by hand, or you may choose to do all the highlighting on screen and then print it out. Either way is fine.
4. Look at your highlighting and answer the following questions:
 - a. How are the three texts alike, and how do they differ?
 - b. Do the accounts seem to be related to each other, or do they seem to be independent of each other?
 - c. Where does this story appear in each author’s account of the life of Jesus?
5. Give two insights from this exercise that you could use in a lesson or sermon. Please explain how you would use them.
6. List any questions this exercise has prompted.

Summary of what needs to be submitted:

- a marked-up list of parallel texts
- responses to the three questions (4.a-c above)
- your two insights and how you would use them
- any questions you have

HIGHLIGHTING

Highlighting is a form of color-coding parallel passages in order to be able to analyze the similarities and differences between the passages. Highlighting is particularly useful in the study of the gospels, and most especially in the comparison of the Synoptic gospels with each other. By means of highlighting, one is able to isolate what is common among two or three parallel passages, as well as what is unique to one gospel writer.

Matthew	=	pink highlighter
Mark	=	yellow highlighter
Luke	=	blue highlighter
John	=	brown underline*

Matthew, Mark, Luke	=	green highlighter
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Matthew and Mark	=	blue underline
Luke and Mark	=	red underline
Matthew and Luke	=	fluorescent green highlighter

*In the Gospel of John there is no parallel to the assigned passage.

Written Assignment #2: Exegetical Paper and Sermon on the Gospel of John
Due at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, May 29, 2020
Length: 12 pages

The student is to choose one of the passages or sets of passages from the list below. Each passage contains one or more "I Am" sayings with a predicate nominative.

- John 6:35-40, 47-51 (bread of life, living bread)
- John 8:12, 9:1-12 (light of the world)
- John 10:1-10 (gate)
- John 10:11-21 (shepherd)
- John 11:17-27 (resurrection and life)
- John 14:1-11 (way, truth, life)
- John 15:1-11 (vine)

1. The paper is to be divided into two six-page sections:
 - a. Exegesis of the passage
 - b. Sermon on the passage (in outline, full manuscript, or leading thought format)
 - c. Bibliography of sources consulted (does not count toward the twelve-page limit)

2. Specific suggestions for the exegesis

(5 points)	a.	Historical introduction	½ page
		Summary of your view of authorship, date, and purpose of the Gospel of John	
(5 points)	b.	Context	½ page
		1) Broad context	
		How did the author reach this point in the gospel? Place of the passage in the book as a whole.	
		2) Narrow context	
		What immediately precedes and what immediately follows your text? How is that important for understanding your passage?	
(5 points)	c.	Structure / outline of the passage	½ page
(35 points)	d.	Commentary	4 pages
		1) Pay special attention to the major image of the text (bread of life, e.g.)	
		2) Search out possible cross references that illuminate meaning, background, or other dimensions of the text. Select the most helpful. Do not quote passages unless the exacting wording is crucial.	
		3) Be attentive to the non-canonical context by studying any specific mention of customs, events, movements, persons, or concepts of antiquity.	
		4) Comment on other matters as space permits.	
		5) Please consult at least three reliable commentaries that deal only with the Gospel of John, as well as the course textbook by Mark Allan Powell.	
(5 points)	e.	Summary: what is the witness of this text?	½ page
(40 points)	f.	Sermon	6 pages
		1) May be presented in a format of your choosing (outline, full manuscript, leading thought)	

- 2) However, the sermon material needs to be developed enough that the reader is able to get a clear sense of the main thoughts and development of the sermon
 - a) Thus, language such as “story about making bread” is not sufficient. Enough of the story or example needs to be stated so that the reader knows the content and the move being made.
 - b) The sermon also needs to be much more than an outline of the passage, even if the sermon is expository preaching.

(5) points)

- g. English Writing Style
- h. Bibliography and Notes
 - 1) You are free to choose whatever standard method of citation you prefer, but please be consistent.
 - 2) The bibliography is to list sources you have used for the paper. It is not meant to be a place to list every book on the Gospel of John!
- i. The paper may be submitted electronically to wtaylor4@capital.edu
or
by mail to
Professor Walter Taylor
2747 Berwick Blvd.
Columbus, OH 43209-2919
- j. On Friday, May 15, 2020, please provide Professor Taylor with a stamped and addressed envelope so he can return the evaluated paper to you.