

NT508 – Gospels

Abbreviated Syllabus – Spring 2009

A more detailed syllabus, including a course schedule, will be available prior to the start of the semester.

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Besides in person and by telephone, students are encouraged to communicate with me via e-mail at mglodo@rts.edu. Please do not use the e-mail function on the IQ Web site.


Course Description.

Attention is given to each writer's literary art, theological teaching, pastoral purpose, and message for today's church and world. (4 hours)

Class Meetings.

The class will meet 10:00 a.m.-noon and 1:00-3:00 p.m. Tuesdays starting February 3 through May 12 (except spring break on March 24). This includes meeting 1:00-2:00 most weeks for Sermon on the Mount discussion groups (see further explanation below).

Course Requirements.

Following is a summary of the course requirements with percentage of final grade indicated. Further explanation of each follows. Ctrl-click on the  icon next to each explanation to return to this summary.)

Gospels outlines memorization	4
Sermon on the Mount participation & reflection	16
Examinations (3)	60
Exegetical project	20
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Total	<u>100%</u>

Required Reading.

The following textbook materials are to be read during the course. Assigned reading is subject to examination (see below).

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *The Cost of Discipleship*. New York: Touchstone, 1959/95. Pp. 11-304. ISBN 978-0684815008

- Carson, D. A. and Douglas J. Moo. *An Introduction to the New Testament*, 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005. Pp. 23-284. ISBN 978-0310238591.
- Clowney, Edmund P. "The Final Temple." *Westminster Theological Journal* 35.2 (1973): 156-89. (This article will be made available on IQ Web.)
- Ferguson, Everett. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*, 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003. Pp. 1-47, 396-582. ISBN 978-0802822215.
- Ridderbos, Herman. *The Coming of the Kingdom*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian & Reformed, 1962. Pp. ix-xxxii, 3-539. ISBN 978-0875524085.
- Strimple, Robert B. *The Modern Search for the Real Jesus*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian & Reformed, 1995. Pp. 1-154. ISBN 978-0875524559.

While all reading is subject to examination, review questions will be provided to help the student identify major points.

Other articles and brief selections may be assigned at various times during the course. The materials listed, along with additional assigned readings, will be available on the course reserve reading shelf in the library and/or on the [Gospels IQ.web](#) page.



Gospels Outline Memorization.

Outlines of Bible books provide overviews of biblical books and help locate the context of specific passage of scriptures. Each student will be required to memorize outlines for all four gospels and recite them to a fellow student to complete the assignment. The course schedule in the final syllabus will include the outlines to be memorized and the dates the outlines are due.



Sermon on the Mount Participation & Reflection.

The objective of this assignment is to reflect personal growth in the Christian life in light of the examining power of the Sermon on the Mount – one of the classic texts of scripture throughout the history of the church – through meditation, reflection and group discussion.

Students will be assigned to a discussion group, meet together with a group leader, and participate in discussion based upon questions to be provided in the final syllabus. The questions and discussion will be based upon scheduled readings of Bonhoeffer's *Cost of Discipleship*.

By the term paper deadline each student will submit a 3 page paper reflecting upon the benefit of this process including observations such as conviction regarding personal change, progress in a particular quality or attribute, wider comprehension of the nature of the kingdom of God, transformed views of "neighbors," etc.

Evaluation for this requirement will be based upon attendance, preparation, participation and final reflection.



Examinations.

There will be three examinations given throughout the semester focusing primarily on the lecture material and required reading since the previous examination. Students may,

and are encouraged to, work in groups to prepare answers to reading review and lecture review questions.

No study materials may be used during the exam.

The examinations will consist of objective (multiple choice, true/false, matching, etc.) short answer and essay questions. Each examination will allow up to two hours. Sermon on the Mount groups will not meet on the days of examinations.

Since knowing the biblical material is essential to mastering larger issues related to the scriptures, each exam will include several objective questions to assess your reading and comprehension of the biblical material.



Exegetical Assignment.

Exegetical Project. A short exegetical project will be assigned in four segments. Each segment will involve a brief research assignment and writing 1/2 to 1 page to turn in. Details will be provided in the final syllabus.

Course Materials & Lecture Outlines.

All lecture handouts, some supplemental readings and lecture outlines will be available on the [IQ.web](#) page for the course. Each week's handout will be available for downloading by the morning of class days. Limited quantities of printed copies will be distributed to those preferring or requiring hard copies.