

NT508 – Gospels

Abbreviated Syllabus – Spring 2011

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

Instructor: Associate Professor Michael Glodo

Office hours: Mondays by appointment
Tuesdays 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Wednesdays 1:00-3:00 a.m.
Thursdays 8:00-10:00 a.m.

During my published office hours I will be in or near my office or else available in one of the public campus spaces. If the latter, there will be note on my door indicating where I am or Joyce will know.

Contact information: Professor Glodo: mglodo@rts.edu, (407)366-9493, ext. 232
Administrative Assistant Joyce Sisler: jsisler@rts.edu, (407)366-9493, ext. 219
Teaching assistant: Andrew Morton (amorton@rts.edu)

Communication: I prefer communicating in person, but email is fine, too. If we are Facebook “friends,” please don’t use it to message me about class matters.

Class meeting: Tuesdays 10:00 a.m.-Noon, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Course web page: <http://chp.rts.edu/sites/2011-SPRING/ORLANDO-2NT508-LECT-01/default.aspx>

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 from February 1 through May 10 (except spring break on March 22). This includes meeting 2:00-3:00 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.

Sermon on the Mount participation & reflection	15
Examinations (3)	60
Brief Exegetical paper	25
	<hr/>
Total	100%
	<hr/>

Required Reading.

The following textbook materials are to be read during the course. Assigned reading is subject to examination (see below). Required portions of these book will be indicated in the final course syllabus.

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Discipleship*. Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works, Vol. 4. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Press, 1959/95. Pp. 100-198 (page numbers subject to change). ISBN 978-0800683245.¹

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 Self-Service.)

Ferguson, Everett. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity, 3rd ed.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003. Pp. 1-47, 396-582. ISBN 978-0802822215.

Hill, C. E. *Who Chose the Gospels?: Probing the Great Gospel Conspiracy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010. ISBN 978-0199551231.

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.

Reading Availability.

All assigned reading will be available in the reserve reading section of the Library or on the course web page.

Course Materials & Lecture Outlines.

All lecture outlines and some supplemental readings will be available on the Self-Service course home page.

¹ NOTE: This classic Christian work is also available in the same edition in hardback, ISBN 978-0800683047. While more than double the cost, you may wish to consider this classic in hardback for its longevity. While there are several other editions, the translations are not all the same and the pagination varies among different editions of the same translations. It will be extremely helpful to have right edition as you use this book in small group discussion

Sermon on the Mount Participation & Reflection.

The objective of this requirement 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 Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *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 based on the lectures 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.

These exams will cover the outlines for Matthew through John as contained in the final syllabus. 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.

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.

No study materials may be used during the exam.

Brief Exegetical Paper.

Each student will write a brief exegetical paper on an assigned passage from one of the gospels. The steps for preparing this paper will be covered in class. The final paper will be 10-12 pages (double-spaced) in length and is due on the published term paper deadline (11:00 a.m., May 13). The final paper and related preliminary assignments are to be submitted electronically to the course web page in Microsoft Word or Rich Text Format.

Course Materials & Lecture Outlines.

All lecture handouts, some supplemental readings and lecture outlines will be available on the course web page. Handouts will be posted in several parts throughout the semester. Students will be notified by email when the next handout has been uploaded.