

## **GOSPELS MINI-SYLLABUS**

**Note:** This syllabus is the “mini-syllabus” and is not to be confused w/ the large syllabus that contains all the class-lecture notes, biblio, etc. This large syllabus will be distributed electronically to the students later and is needed for all the class lectures.

**Note:** If the student wants to get ahead, answer the Reading Questions after reading Ferguson, Ladd, and Carson-Moo. The Reading Questions will be found in the large syllabus to be distributed later.

### **PROFESSOR**

\* Dr. Bob Cara (technically, Dr. Robert J. Cara, Ph.D.)

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

- \* Ferguson, Everett. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*. 3d ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.
- \* Ladd, George Eldon. *A Theology of the NT*. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993.
- \* Carson, D. A., and Douglas J. Moo. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.
- \* *Trinity Psalter*.

### **PURPOSE OF COURSE**

- \* The over arching aim is to provide *tools* to the student in order that one might better interpret / apply the Gospels to one's self, their church and their world.
  - \* Learn narrative content of Gospels.
  - \* Learn major biblical theological categories in the Gospels along with methodology to do further biblical theological interpretation.
  - \* Learn best of Reformed / evangelical scholarship concerning interpretation / application of Gospels (e.g., parable theory).
  - \* Learn enough about critical views to:
    - 1) Utilize common grace insights in critical commentaries.
    - 2) Provide an intelligent global critique of critical theories.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### 1. Reading

- \* Ferguson, *Background of Early Xty*, 3d ed., 396-620.
- \* Ladd, *A Theology of the NT*, rev. ed., 1-348
- \* C-M, *An Introduction to the NT*, 23-284.
- \* Gospels (read twice)

### 2. Reading Questions (RQ) (Ladd, C-M, Ferguson)

- \* Do not hand in but will be on tests.
- \* Ladd RQ's as appropriate w/ lectures.
- \* C-M RQ's as appropriate w/ lectures.
- \* Cara will not answer these questions directly until *after* the appropriate test. You may / should enquire of fellow students *in this class*.

### 3. Lecture Review Questions (LRQ)

- \* Located at beginning of each lecture.
- \* Do not hand in but will be on tests.
- \* Cara will not answer these questions directly (except as part of lecture) until *after* the appropriate test. You may / should enquire of fellow students *in this class*.

### 4. Daily Quizzes on outlines and chap identification

- \* Possible quiz questions given in advance
- \* Covers Bible content
- \* Quizzes are cumulative.
- \* Drop one quiz, no make-ups

### 5. Paper

- \* This should be a serious research paper of at least several serious commentaries (both conservative and critical) and a few BTs. Must also footnote at least one serious journal article. Note helpful annotated biblio at end of Cara syllabus.
- \* 10-15 typed pages
- \* Format: as if appearing (*not* submitting to) in a scholarly journal. Use *JBL* standards, sections 3, 4, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 6, 7 and abbreviations (8-16). The *JBL* standards are in the reference section in the library. The key section is 6.3. If you are using *The SBL Handbook of Style*, the key section is 7.2. You may also use Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. See "Real Paper Comments" following Lec 1.

- \* Three options
  - 1) BT study of any major or minor theme in one of the gospels. Cannot use a theme Cara has covered.
  - 2) Exegesis of a pericope highlighting its relationship to the rest of that Gospel.
  - 3) Comparison of synoptic triple tradition. Must be done w/ knowledge of Greek.
- \* Use secondary sources, but primarily it is *your* study. Please “theologize” and have a “point” (i.e., thesis) to your paper.
- \* Due on ???, severe penalty for lateness (32.2 f/s/s)

## 6. Psalter

- \* Lose points if don't bring and sing.

## GRADES

1. 2 Tests - 50% of grade. (Mid-term is 25%; final is 25%.)
  - \* 85% of tests will be *verbatim* questions from the RQ's and LRQ's. The remaining 15% will be misc questions from lectures, readings, and cumulative quizzes.
  - \* Tests are not cumulative (except for any questions related to quizzes).
2. Paper - 35%
  - \* Due on ???.
3. Daily Quizzes - 10% of grade
  - \* Quizzes are cumulative.
4. Read entire Gospels twice - 5% of grade
  - \* On test, student will report concerning his reading.
  - \* Must have read 100% to get any credit.