Gospels

NT508

Reformed Theological Seminary
Orlando Campus

Spring 2007
NT508 – Gospels

Spring 2007

Instructor: Professor Michael Glodo (mglodo@rts.edu or 407/366-9493)

Administrative Assistant: Joyce Sisler (jsisler@rts.edu)
Teaching Assistant: Brandon Crowe (berowe315@hotmail.com)

Office hours: Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m.-noon
Thursdays, 10:00 a.m.-noon
By appointment if the above times are not suitable

Class meeting: Thursdays, 1:00-5:00 p.m.

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)

Course Objectives.

Students meeting the course objectives will have attained...

Knowing.

• A foundational knowledge of the content of the canonical gospels, including the distinctive emphases of each gospel within their historical, cultural, literary and canonical context.
• An awareness of the fundamental issues in the history of gospels criticism and their continuing relevance for life and ministry.

Being.

• Greater confidence (faith) in the good news of the coming of the kingdom of God/heaven in Jesus Christ.
• Growth in the kingdom virtues of the Sermon on the Mount.

Doing.

• Skills in analyzing passages within the canonical gospels according to their various contexts and particular sub-genres.
• Progress in habits of spiritual formation.

Required Reading.


Other articles and brief selections will be assigned at various times during the semester.

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.

**Course Requirements.**

Following is a summary of the course requirements with percentage of final grade indicated. Further explanation of each follows. Take note of assignment due dates in the course schedule.

- Bible reading & outline quizzes: 15%
- Sermon on the Mount reflection: 10%
- Mid-term examination: 25%
- Final examination: 25%
- Research paper: 25%

**Bible Reading & Outlines.**

Each student should read through each of the gospels and memorize the outlines contained in this syllabus. There will be a brief (approx. ten-minute) quiz at the beginning of class on the dates indicated in the schedule (total of 4 quizzes).

**Spiritual Formation – Sermon on the Mount Reflection.**

In order to integrate spiritual formation with formal study, each student will read and reflect upon Doriani’s *The Sermon on the Mount* by completing the following assignment:

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 community.

Read one chapter of Doriani each week of the semester (except for reading chapters 1-2 the first week), meaning you will read chapters 1-14 taking into account one week off for spring break.

After you have read the chapter for a particular week, prayerfully reflect upon the verses to which the chapter relates, take a minimum of 45 minutes to meditate on the personal implications of those scripture verses in particular.

Record each your reflection times in a minimum of two full pages in handwriting. After you have finished, note the date, beginning time and ending time of this reflection...
period. The time spent writing is to be included in calculating the minimum time requirement stated above. The written reflections may be on loose leaf paper or in a bound journal.

Every four weeks you will meet with a group of four to six other students to share your reflections with one another. The groups may be of your own choosing or you may be assigned if needed. Your group should remain the same throughout the semester. During each meeting every member of the group should participate freely. After each group meeting a designated member must turn in to me a report indicating the date of the meeting, its duration and confirmation that each member was present.

By the term paper deadline each student will submit a 3-5 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, etc.

**Mid-Term & Final Examinations.**

Mid-term and final examinations will take approximately half of the class meeting time on the dates they are administered. Exams will include objective and essay questions based upon lectures and course readings. Reading review questions will be provided in advance of the scheduled reading assignments. Lecture review questions will appear at the conclusion of each lecture handout. These review questions are not exhaustive and do not include the type of objective questions which will appear on exams, but are intended to focus your review following the readings and lectures. The final exam will not be cumulative, i.e. it will not include material tested on the mid-term, except for a few essay questions requiring synthesis of concepts covered during the semester.

**Research Paper.**

Each student will conduct research on either 1) a specific passage from one of the gospels or 2) a biblical-theological theme within one of the gospels and then write a paper relating his or her results. Students who have successfully completed 2NT504-Greek II are expected to interact with the Greek text, including significant grammatical, syntactical or textual features of the text. The paper must demonstrate insight into the text and thoughtful interaction with scholarly commentary. Requirements for the paper are as follows:

- 10-15 typed/printed pages, double spaced
- Conformity with generally-accepted formatting guidelines, e.g. Turabian, MLA.
- Properly formatted footnotes or in-text citations. No endnotes.
- Separate bibliography including all works consulted, not just works cited.
- Well-written – clear and well-formed thoughts, accurate spelling, proper grammar, etc. This includes a clear introduction and statement of purpose; close interaction with the biblical data; summary; additional questions or future work; conclusion.

Passage/topic must be submitted by e-mail for approval by the date indicated on the schedule. Submissions should include 1) description of topic; 2) preliminary bibliography and 3) brief explanation of your interest in the passage/topic.
Course Materials & Lecture Outlines.

Handouts, some supplemental readings and lecture outlines will be available on the IQ.web page for the course. Limited quantities of printed copies will be distributed to those preferring or requiring hard copies.

Bibliography.

A course bibliography is under development. Each lecture handout will include sources related to the particular lecture topic. A very useful resource regarding commentaries is D. A. Carson’s *New Testament Commentary Survey, 5th ed.* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001).
**Course Schedule.**

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<th>Topics</th>
<th>Reading due</th>
<th>Other assignments due</th>
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<td>Feb 15</td>
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<td>Turn in SoM reflection group list.</td>
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<td>Matthew quiz</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>Mark quiz</td>
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<td>Mid-term examination</td>
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<td>Apr 5</td>
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<td>Luke quiz</td>
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*Mar 29*  
**Spring Break – No Class Meeting**
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<td>Apr 19</td>
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<td>May 18</td>
<td>Term paper deadline – 11:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>Research paper due</td>
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**Bibliography.**


------------------------. “The Kingdom of God” in *Redemptive History and Biblical Interpretation.*


------------------------. “The Emotional Life of Our Lord.”


*The Messianic Self-Consciousness of Jesus.*

Kummel.


Ridderbos, Herman. *The Coming of the Kingdom.*


History of Interpretation of the Sermon on the Mount.


Kistemaker, Simon. Miracles.

Stein. Parables.

Backgrounds – Bill Arnold.

Stonehouse, Ned B. The Witness of the Synoptic Gospels to Christ.

------------------------. Origins of the Synoptic Gospels: Some Basic Questions.


Commentaries of note:
Lincoln, Andrew. The Gospel according to Saint John.


Carson, D. A. The Gospel according to John.


Lane, William L. The Gospel according to John.


---------------. Matthew: Evangelist and Teacher.

Stott, John R. W. The Message of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7).


Topics.

Olivet Discourse, preterism.

Synoptic problem, harmonization.

History of interp.