

Canadian Bible College
Gospels and Acts (BST 101)

Fall 2002
Instructor: Dr Paul Spilsbury
TA: Sherri Trautwein

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on the first five books of the New Testament in their historical, literary and theological contexts. Students will be introduced to the following aspects of the study of the Gospels and Acts:

1. The history of the interpretation of these books in modern times.
2. The literary genres of the Gospels and Acts.
3. The synoptic problem.
4. Some of the major methodologies of Gospel study.
5. The use of the Gospels and Acts for understanding the life of Jesus and his earliest followers.
6. The unique contribution of each of these books to the theology of the New Testament.
7. The ongoing relevance of these books for the life of faith today.

COURSE OBJECTIVE

The primary aim of this course is a greater understanding of the nature and message of the Gospels and Acts, and thereby, a deeper understanding of the person of Jesus Christ and what it means to be his followers today.

REQUIRED TEXT

J.B. Green, S. McKnight and I.H. Marshall (eds.), *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*.
InterVarsity Press, 1992.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. READING AND QUIZZES

Read all of the following articles from the *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*:

- “Kingdom of God/Kingdom of Heaven” (C. C. Caragounis)
- “Demons, Devil, Satan” (G. H. Twelftree)
- “Clean and Unclean” (S. Westerholm)
- “Christ” (L. W. Hurtado)
- “Discipleship” (M. J. Wilkins)
- “Law” (D. J. Moo)
- “Miracles and Miracle Stories” (B. L. Blackburn)
- “Temple” (M. O. Wise) and “Temple Cleansing” (W. R. Herzog)
- “Death of Jesus” (J. B. Green)
- “Resurrection” (G. R. Osborne)

Comprehension of this reading will be assessed by **weekly quizzes** (on Thursdays). Quizzes will be based on 1 article per week in the order given here.

2. SYNOPTIC ASSIGNMENT

Prepare a synoptic analysis of the “Triumphal Entry” scene in the Gospels. Using the synopsis provided in class, colour code Matthew, Mark, and Luke according to the following scheme:

- Agreement between Matthew, Mark, and Luke: Blue underline
- Agreement between Matthew and Mark only: Yellow underline
- Agreement between Matthew and Luke only: Red underline
- Agreement between Mark and Luke only: Green underline

Be accurate down to the individual word. Sometimes a difference of one word is significant. Also remember to look carefully at the bits that remain without any underline at all.

On one page summarize what you think are significant differences and similarities among the Gospels and what these might say about the emphasis or purpose of the authors. Questions you should address in your summary might be: Are there any larger sections which one synoptic gospel has which another doesn't have and what is significant about it? Are there any subtle word differences among the three synoptics which might tell you something about the emphasis or purpose of that gospel? What are the most surprising differences between the three synoptics?

Due Date: 3rd October

3. PARABLE ASSIGNMENT

Write a short analysis (750 words) on a Gospel parable in three sections:

1. The first section should summarize the parable.
2. The second section should offer any historical, cultural, or social background from ancient Palestine necessary for the modern reader to fully understand this parable.
3. The third section should summarize what you believe to be the central point(s) of the parable within its context in the gospel in which it is found.

Choose **one** of the following parables:

- Matthew 20:1-16 (The Workers in the Vineyard)
- Matthew 22:1-14 (The Wedding Banquet and the Guests)
- Mark 12:1-9 (The Wicked Tenants)
- Luke 15:11-32 (The Prodigal Son)
- Luke 16:1-8 (The Dishonest Manager)
- Luke 19:11-27 (The King, the servants and the ten minas)

Besides commentaries and Bible dictionaries, the following may be also helpful (on reserve in the library):

Bailey, Kenneth E., *Poet and Peasant*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1976.

Bailey, Kenneth E. *Poet and Peasant and Through Peasant Eyes: A Literary-Cultural Approach to the Parables of Luke*. Combined Edition, Two Volumes in One. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1976 and 1980.

Blomberg, Craig L. *Interpreting the Parables*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1990.

Due Date: 7th November

4. FINAL EXAM

This is a multiple-choice exam covering all lectures and required reading. It will take place **during exam week**.

GRADING

1. Reading Quizzes	20 %
2. Synoptic Assignment	25 %
3. Parable Assignment	25 %
4. Final Exam	30 %

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Assignments are due at the **beginning** of class on the date specified.
- Extensions beyond the published due dates will be allowed only in exceptional circumstances.
- If you feel you qualify for an extension, you must make a request **before the due date** to the instructor **in writing**.
- Assignments submitted late without permission will be penalized by 5% per day, or part thereof.
- All written assignments **must be proof-read** by a second reader (Don't just rely on your computer's spell-checker). Include this person's name on the title page.
- All written work must conform to the guidelines given in the University of Regina Style Sheet (available in the Bookstop).

Matthew 21:1-11	Mark 1:1-11	Luke 19:29-40	John 12:12-19
<p>When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately."</p>	<p>When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'"</p>	<p>When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'"</p>	<p>The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem.</p>
<p>This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."</p>	<p>They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it.</p>	<p>So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it."</p>	<p>So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,</p>
<p>The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them;</p>	<p>Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it.</p>	<p>Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it.</p>	
<p>they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them.</p>	<p>Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,</p>	<p>As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,</p>	
<p>A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,</p>			

<p>Hosanna to the Son of David!</p> <p>Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!</p> <p>Hosanna in the highest heaven!"</p> <p>When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."</p>	<p>Hosanna!</p> <p>Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!</p> <p>Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!</p> <p>Hosanna in the highest heaven!"</p> <p>Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.</p>	<p>"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!</p> <p>Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!"</p> <p>Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."</p>	<p>"Hosanna!</p> <p>Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—the King of Israel!"</p> <p>Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written: "Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him. So the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify. It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him.</p> <p>The Pharisees then said to one another, "You see, you can do nothing. Look, the world has gone after him!"</p>
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ACCESS InterSession

3 credits

CEA 28-289 Devotional Life Modules

3 credits—offered on select weeks throughout both semesters

A prescribed number of Devotional Life courses are required, and are designed to stimulate spiritual development through exposure to a variety of topics and processes. Although offerings change each year, the following list indicates the scope from which students may choose: Forgiveness in Christian Life and Growth, Dynamics of Discipleship, The Practice of Prayer, Evaluating my Relationship with God, Personality and Spiritual Journey, The Holy Spirit in Practical Christian Living, The Spirituality of Evangelism and Outreach.

*DEV 310 Women of Spirit

3 credits

See CED.310

GST 100 Introduction to Psychology

3 credits

An overview of psychological theories including such topics as perception, learning, motivation, development, personality, and counselling.

GST 101 Introduction to Sociology

3 credits

An overview of sociological perspectives, as they relate to various aspects of Canadian society such as work, religion, ethnicity, family, education, crime and inequality.

GST 102 Public Speaking

3 credits

An introduction to the principles of effective public oral communication for the major types of speeches. Students will be expected to demonstrate principles in speeches delivered in class.

GST 103 Foundations of Western Civilization

3 credits

This course examines the roots of Western civilization in the literature, history, and philosophy of the classical world. It pays particular attention to those ideas that have contributed most to the development of the modern world.

GST 104 Introduction to the Theatre

3 credits

An introduction to the fundamental aspects of theatre such as stagecraft, playwriting, directing and acting. Highlights of theatre history and theory will also be covered along with the nature of "the play" in its major forms.

Devotional
Life

(DEV)

General

Studies

(GST)

of the Bible. This course is designed to help students understand the Bible in its historical and cultural context. This method is also applied to a number of important contemporary moral issues.

CHT 403 Apologetics

3 credits—offered alternate years

Giving a reason for the hope that is in us has been a central concern of evangelical Christianity. This course attempts to think carefully about how this can be done in the present context. Attention is paid to popular attitudes in contemporary society regarding faith and post-modern approaches to religion and truth. These are used as the basis for giving a reason for our hope that responds to the spiritual as well as intellectual questions raised by modern culture. Prerequisite: GST 205 or CHT 204

CHT 404 Theology IV

3 credits—offered in select semesters only

Themes and contemporary issues in Christian theology. The questions addressed will be viewed from the perspective of the interaction between Christian faith and other dimensions of human culture—society, other religious groups, education and ethics. Class format will be a combination of lectures, student presentations and planned discussions.

CHT 490-499 Specialized Study

Variable credit

Based on the interest and abilities of the student and faculty, or available resource person, supervised study may be arranged in the classroom or in the form of individual research in an area of specialization in Christian history or thought. Prerequisite: permission of Registrar, instructor and Dean.

*DEV 101 Introduction to Christian Life—ACCESS

3 credits

See CHT 101

This course is a study of the normal Christian life—normal from a biblical perspective. Through our efforts together we will examine the basic yet vital issue of Christian conversion in terms of its nature and critical implications. Major portions of the course will be devoted to the study of what it means to live a holy, Spirit-filled life. Consideration will also be given to some of the spiritual disciplines mentioned in scripture which are necessary to one's spiritual growth. The format of the class will include lecture, discussion, small group activity and individual work.