



Course ID:	Course Title:	Fall 2022
NT502-CL	Synoptic Gospels	Prerequisite:
		Credits: 3

Class Information		Instructor Information		Important Dates	
Delivery:	Online	Instructor:	Sam Tsang PhD University of Sheffield, author of over 50 books	First Day of Classes:	Sep 14
Days:	Sep 14-Oct 14	Email:	Sam.tsang@ambrose.edu	Last Day to Add/Drop:	Sep 14, end of class
Time:	Weekdays 6.30-9.30 pm	Phone:	NA	Last Day to Withdraw:	Oct 14
Room:	NA	Office:	NA		
Lab/Tutorial:	NA	Office Hours:	Contact if needed	Last Day to Apply for Extension:	Oct 14
Final Exam:	None				

Important Dates and Information

For a list of all important dates and information regarding participating in classes at Ambrose University, please refer to the Academic Calendar at <https://ambrose.edu/academic-calendar>.

Course Description

An introduction to New Testament studies and exegetical skills through the study of Matthew, Mark and Luke

Expected Learning Outcomes

1. Students should be able to distinguish the structural messages of the three Gospels.
2. Student should learn about how the view of Gospel sources would impact their interpretations.
3. Students should understand the authorial background of each Gospel and its impact on meaning.
4. Students should grasp Roman history during the time of Jesus and the authorship of the three Gospels.
5. Students should understand applications of the original readers in distinction to modern implications.
6. Students should share the pastoral concerns of the Synoptic writers and for today.

Required Textbooks and Readings (See below for other recommended reading.)

Sun, Poling, *An Introduction to the New Testament* (Taiwan: Campus, 2018).

Tsang, Sam, *Handbook of New Testament Criticism* (Taiwan: Campus, 2021).

Other Alternative Required Textbooks

DeSilva, David, *An Introduction to the New Testament* (Downers Grove, IVP 2018) OR the Chinese edition by Campus

Wenham, David, Steve Walton, *Exploring the New Testament* (Downers Grove: IVP, 2021).

Course Schedule

Sep 14 – Syllabus and Intro

Sep 15 – Historical and Literary Methods

Sep 16 – Formation of the Gospels and Sources

Sep 21 – Mark

Sep 22 – Matthew

Sep 23 – Matthew

Sep 28 – Matthew, Luke

Sep 29 – Luke

Sep 30 – Luke

Oct 14 - Gospel Studies and Ministries, Gospel Studies and Future Research

Requirements:

1. Course participation – Since this is an intensive, students are expected to attend all sessions.
2. Reading – Read all three Gospels twice before coming to class and one more times to the progress of lectures. Read the entire required textbook and submit the percentage read with the final assignment. (10%)
3. Students will complete two reports (5-7 pages each) for the structural study of Matthew and characterization study of Luke on either Jesus or the disciples or the underprivileged. (2x25%) I will discuss thoroughly in the first class on how to do such papers. The alternate second paper can be the study of the word “kingdom” in Luke and compare it with Roman usage of such imperial vocabulary (or related issues like social class etc.). Make use of Suetonius’ *Twelve Caesars*, Tacitus’ *Annals of Imperial Rome*, Cassius Dio’ *History*, Vergil’s *Aeneid*, Petronius’ *Satyricon*, Juvenal’s *Satires*, etc. along with secondary sources as commentary.
4. In lieu of a final exam, students will write a research paper (10 pages) with footnotes and bibliography on the topic of “the Impact of original readership on the interpretation of either Matthew or Luke” or the “Comparative study between the works of Michael Bird and Bart Ehrman and the historical problem of

Jesus” or “Comparison between Augustus (in Suetonius’ *Twelve Caesars* or in Tacitus’ *Annals*) and Jesus in (Matthew, Mark or Luke) in the portrait of a king (40%) **ALL PAPERS ARE DUE December 1.**

Attendance:

Since it’s an intensive class, attendance is compulsory.

Grade Summary:

Grade	Interpretation	Grade Points
A+	Mastery: Complete Understanding of Subject Matter	4.00
A		4.00
A-		3.70
B+	Proficient: Well-Developed Understanding of Subject Matter	3.30
B		3.00
B-		2.70
C+	Basic: Developing Understanding of Subject Matter	2.30
C		2.00
C-		1.70
D+	Minimal Pass: Limited Understanding of Subject	1.30
D		1.0
F	Failure: Failure to Meet Course Requirements	0.00
P	Pass	No Grade Points

Because of the nature of the Alpha 4.00 system, there can be no uniform University-wide conversion scale. The relationship between raw scores (e.g. percentages) and the resultant letter grade will depend on the nature of the course and the instructor’s assessment of the level of each class, compared to similar classes taught previously.

Please note that final grades will be available on student registration system. Printed grade sheets are not mailed out.

Recommended Readings/Select Bibliography

Alexander, Loveday, *Acts in the Ancient Literary Context* (London: T & T Clark, 2005).

___, *The Preface to Luke’s Gospel* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005).

Bauckham, Richard, *Jesus and the Eyewitnesses* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2017).

Barclay, John, *Jews in the Mediterranean Diaspora* (London: T & T Clark, 2020).

Beard, Mary, John North, Simon Price, *Religions of Rome* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998).

Bernier, Jonathan, Chris Keith, *The Quest for the Historical Jesus after the Demise of Authenticity* (London: T & T Clark, 2018).

Bird, Michael (ed.), *How God Became Jesus* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014).

Bock, Darrell, *Luke* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996).

Burkett, Delbert, Andrew Lincoln, *Rethinking the Gospel Sources* (2 volumes; Atlanta: SBL, 2009).

Carr, David, *Writing on the Tablets of the Hearts* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005).

Cooley, Alison, (ed.), *Res gestae divi Augusti* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009).

Collins, John, *The Apocalyptic Imagination* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016).

___, *The Dead Sea Scrolls* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2019).

___, *The Invention of Judaism* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2017).

Dench, Emma, *Romulus' Asylum* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005).

Ehrman, Bart, *How Jesus Became God* (San Francisco: Harper, 2014).

France, R. T., *The Gospel of Mark* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002).

___, *The Gospel of Matthew* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007).

Galinsky, Karl, *Augustan Culture* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1998).

Grabbe, Lester, *A History of the Jews and Judaism in the Second Temple Period* (London: T & T Clark, 2004).

Green, Joel, *The Gospel of Luke* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998).

Gruen, Erich, *The Construct of Identity in Hellenistic Judaism* (Berlin: DeGruyter, 2018).

Hagner, Donald, *The New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2012).

Harrington, Daniel. *The Gospel of Matthew* (Collegeville: Liturgical, 2007).

Heschel, Susannah, *The Aryan Jesus* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2008).

Horsley, Richard (ed.), *Hidden Transcripts and the Arts of Resistance* (Atlanta: SBL, 2005).

Hurtado, Larry, *How on Earth Did Jesus Become a God?* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005).

Keener, Craig, *The Gospel of Matthew* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009).

Keith, Chris, *Jesus against the Scribal Elite* (London: Bloomsbury, 2014).

___, *Jesus, Criteria and the Demise of Authenticity* (London: T & T Clark, 2012).

Levine, A-J., *The Gospel of Luke* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018).

Lewis, Naphtali, Meyer Reinhold, *Roman Civilization* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1990).

Lim, Timothy, *The Formation of the Jewish Canon* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2013).

Nolland, John, *The Gospel of Matthew* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005).

Nickelsburg, George, *Jewish Literature between the Bible and the Mishnah* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2005).

Perdue, Leo, Warren Carter, *Israel and Empire* (London: T & T Clark, 2015).

Popovic, Mladen (ed.), *The Jewish Revolt against Rome* (Leiden: Brill, 2011).

Portier-Young, Anthea, *Apocalypse against Empire* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014).

Porter, Stanley, Bryan Dyer (eds.), *The Synoptic Problem* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2016).

Martin, Ralph, Carol Toney, *New Testament Foundations* (Eugene: Wipf and Stock, 2019).

McKay, Jacob, *Belief and Cult* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2022).

Moloney, Francis, *The Gospel of Mark* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2012).

Novenson, Matthew, *The Grammar of Messianism* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019).

Powell, Mark Allan, *A Fortress Introduction to the Gospels* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2019).

Reid, Barbara, *Choosing the Better Part?* (Collegeville: Liturgical, 1996).

Rhoads, David, *Mark as Story* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2011).

Riches, John, David Sim, *The Gospel of Matthew in its Roman Imperial Context* (London: T & T Clark, 2005).

Runesson, Anders, *Divine Wrath and Salvation in Matthew* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2016).

Schafer, Peter, Allison Brown, *The Jewish Jesus* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2014).

_____, *Two Gods in Heaven* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2020).

Stark, Rodney, *The Triumph of Christianity* (San Francisco: Harper, 2012).

Stills, Todd (ed.), *The First Urban Christians* (London: T & T Clark, 2009).

Vanderkam, James, *An Introduction to Early Judaism* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2022).

_____, *The Meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls* (San Francisco: Harper, 2013).

Van Voorst, Robert, *Jesus Outside of the New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000).

Walton, Steve, Paul Trebilco, David Gill, *The Urban World of the First Christians* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2017).

Witherington, Ben, *The Gospel of Mark* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001).

Wolf, Greg, *Becoming Roman* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998).

Wright, N. T., Michael Bird, *The New Testament in Its World* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2019).

PS: Feel free to consult my books on Mark and Luke if you need to read Chinese. See them on my public Facebook.
https://www.facebook.com/drsamtsang/photos_albums

Ambrose University Important Policies & Procedures:

Communication

All students have received an Ambrose e-mail account upon registration. It is the student's responsibility to check this account regularly as the Ambrose email system will be the professor's instrument for notifying students of important matters (cancelled class sessions, extensions, requested appointments, etc.) between class sessions.

Exam Scheduling

Students who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a *Revised Final Exam Time Application* to the Office of the Registrar by the deadline noted in the Academic Calendar. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; or 2) the scheduled final examination slot results in three consecutive examination periods. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

Standards of Behaviour in the Classroom Setting

Learning is an active and interactive process, a joint venture between student and instructor and between student and student. Some topics covered within a class may lead to strong reactions and opinions. It is important that Students understand that they are entitled to hold contradictory beliefs and that they should be encouraged to engage with these topics in a critical manner. Committing to this type of "active learning" significantly increases the learning experience for both teacher and student, and reflects the Christian imperative to pursue truth, which lies at the heart of the Ambrose educational experience. However, active discussion of controversial topics will be undertaken with respect and empathy, which are the foundations of civil discourse in the Classroom Setting. Primary responsibility for managing the classroom rests with the instructor. The instructor may direct a student to leave the class if the student engages in any behaviour that disrupts the classroom setting. If necessary, Ambrose security will be contacted to escort the student from class. Please refer to your professor regarding their electronic etiquette expectations.

Academic Integrity

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's ideas, words, or work as one's own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to acknowledge to another person's ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student's permanent record.

Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Academic Calendar. The academic calendar can be found at <https://ambrose.edu/academics/academic-calendar>

Privacy

Personal information (information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual) may be required as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.

Coursework Extensions

Should a request for a time extension on coursework exceed the end of the term, a *Coursework Extension Application* must be completed and submitted to the Office of the Registrar. The extension (if granted) will be recorded on the student record. Extensions are granted at the discretion of the instructor and registrar. Normally, Course Extension Applications will be considered only when all of the following conditions are met:

- the quality of prior course work has been satisfactory;
- circumstances beyond your control, such as an extended illness or death of a family member, make it impossible for you to complete the course work on time; and
- you submit *Coursework Extension Application* to the Office of the Registrar on or before the deadline specified in the Academic Schedule.

If granted, time extensions do not excuse you from a final examination where one has been scheduled for the course. A temporary grade of TX will be assigned until a final grade is submitted in accordance with the new deadline. A final grade of F will apply to:

- all course work submitted after the end of the semester unless a coursework extension has been granted; and all course work submitted after the revised due date provided by an approved extension to coursework.

Academic Success and Supports

Accessibility Services

Academic accommodation is provided to Ambrose students with disabilities in accordance with the Alberta Human Rights Act and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Provision of academic accommodation does not lower the academic standards of the university nor remove the need for evaluation and the need to meet essential learning outcomes. Reasonable accommodations are tailored to the individual student, are flexible, and are determined by considering the barriers within the unique environment of a postsecondary institution. It can take time to organize academic accommodations and funding for disability-related services. Students with a disability who wish to have an academic accommodation are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services as

early as possible to ensure appropriate planning for any needs that may include accommodations. Staff can then meet with students to determine areas to facilitate success, and if accommodations are required, ensure those accommodations are put in place by working with faculty.

Note: Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.

Ambrose Writing Services

Ambrose Writing services provides academic support in the four foundational literacy skills—listening, speaking, reading, and writing. It also assists students with critical thinking and the research process. Throughout the academic year, students can meet with a writing tutor for personalized support, or they can attend a variety of workshops offered by Academic Success. These services are free to students enrolled at Ambrose University. Academic Success serves all students in all disciplines and at all levels, from history to biology and from theatre to theology. To learn more, please visit <https://ambrose.edu/sas/writing-services>

Ambrose Tutoring Services

Ambrose Tutoring Services provides support in specific disciplinary knowledge, especially in high-demand areas such as chemistry, philosophy, math and statistics, and religious studies. These tutors also coach students in general study skills, including listening and note-taking. During the academic year, Ambrose Tutoring Services offers drop-in tutoring for courses with high demand; for other courses, students can book a one-to-one appointment with a tutor in their discipline. These services are free to students enrolled at Ambrose University. To learn more, please visit <https://ambrose.edu/tutoring>.

Mental Health Support

All of us need a support system. We encourage students to build mental health supports and to reach out when help is needed.

On Campus:

- Counselling Services: ambrose.edu/counselling
- Peer Supportive Listening: One-to-one support in Student Life office. Hours posted at ambrose.edu/wellness.
- For immediate crisis support, there are staff on campus who are trained in Suicide Intervention and Mental Health First Aid. See <https://ambrose.edu/student-life/crisissupport> for a list of staff members.

Off Campus:

- Distress Centre - 403-266-4357
- Sheldon Chumir Health Care Centre - 403-955-6200
- Emergency - 911

Sexual Violence Support

All staff, faculty, and Residence student leaders have received *Sexual Violence Response to Disclosure* training. We will support you and help you find the resources you need. There is a website with on and off campus supports – ambrose.edu/sexual-violence-response-and-awareness.

Off Campus:

- Clinic: Sheldon Chumir Health Centre - 403-955-6200
- Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse - 403-237-5888