



NT 601 Jesus and the Synoptic Gospels (3)
Winter module 2007
Instructor: Dr. Kenneth A. Fox

Contacting the Instructor

Class Times: Thursday, January 18, 6:15 – 10:00 PM
 Friday, January 19, 6:15 – 10:00 PM
 Saturday, January 20, 9 AM – 5 PM

 Thursday, February 15, 6:15 – 10:00 PM
 Friday, February 16, 6:15 – 10:00 PM
 Saturday, February 17, 9 AM – 5 PM

Class Location: TBA
Email Address: kfox@auc-nuc.ca

Course Description

This course considers the life of Jesus of Nazareth according to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke (the 'Synoptic Gospels').

Key subjects include the Parables of Jesus, the Kingdom of God, the common and distinctive features of the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, introduction to the contemporary debate on the historical Jesus, introduction to the Synoptic Problem (how the Gospels relate to each other), Jesus' ethical teaching as it comes to expression in the Sermon on the Mount and other passages, various methods employed in interpreting the Gospels, and the role of the Gospel story of Jesus in the ongoing life and ministry of the Church today.

Prerequisite: NT 501 New Testament Foundations (or equivalent)

Course Objectives

At the successful completion of this intermediate course in New Testament, students are expected to have achieved competence in the following areas:

- 1 Insight into ways in which they can know and appreciate their vocation and identity in Christ
- 2 Understanding of the current debate about Jesus in the academic world and popular media
- 3 Knowledge of (1) the reasons why each of the Synoptic Gospels was written, (2) the major theological ideas found in each Gospel, and (3) the literary and argumentative structure of each Gospel
- 4 Ability to exegete and interpret the Synoptic Gospels according to a clearly articulated hermeneutic
 - Word study using Greek-language tools
 - Use of a synopsis
 - Redaction-critical & literary study
- 5 Facility to apply the teaching of the Gospels in solving problems faced in Christian life and the world today

Required Texts

Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. *The Craft of Research*. Second Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

Hultgren, Arland J. *The Parables of Jesus: A Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002.

Throckmorton, B. H. *Gospel Parallels: A Comparison of the Synoptic Gospels/New Revised Standard Version*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1992.

Course Requirements

Parables and redaction criticism paper (40%)

Students are required to write an exegetical paper (double-spaced, max. sixteen pages) examining four parables in the Synoptic Gospels. At least two of the parables must be found in all three Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke). For those two parables, students are required to do a redactional study of those parables. The method will be explained in class. Students are required to enter into close dialogue with the course textbook, *The Parables*

of *Jesus: A Commentary*, as well as at least two other secondary sources (commentaries, journal articles).

Due date: Thursday, February 15

Thematic or exegetical paper (30%)

Students are to write a (nine-ten page, double-spaced) thematic or exegetical paper on a topic or passage of the student's choice from the subject matter covered in the course. Guidelines for researching and writing papers will be distributed in class. In addition, students are required to read and apply principles learned in *The Craft of Research*.

Due date: Friday, March 16

Final Examination (30%)

The final examination covers key content in the course.

Due date: Thursday, April 5 (or TBA)

Course Grade

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| Parables and redaction criticism paper | 40% |
| Thematic or exegetical paper | 30% |
| Final Examination | 30% |

Full attendance is expected. Absenteeism will be calculated into the final grade.

Important Notes

Registration and payment in full is due for this modular class by 6:15 PM on the first day of class, Thursday, January 18

Students may withdraw from this modular class and receive a full refund only prior to the second class session (i.e., before 6:15 PM on Friday, January 19). No tuition refund will be issued after this deadline

Students may voluntarily withdraw or change their registration from credit to audit, without academic penalty, only prior to completing 70% of the course (i.e., before 6:15 PM on Thursday, February 26, the fourth day of class). Students who withdraw from a course after this deadline will receive a grade of "F"

All Registration changes must be made through the Registrar's Office by completing a Registration Revision Form. Forms are available in the Registrar's Office or can be downloaded from www.auc-nuc.ca.

Policy on extensions. All coursework requirements and due dates are clearly stated in the course syllabus. Coursework submitted after the due date, without prior approval by the Registrar and Academic Dean of a formal "Request for an Extension to coursework" will receive a grade of "F." Requests for an extension will be considered only in the following circumstances:

- the quality of prior coursework has been satisfactory; AND
- circumstances beyond the student's control, such as an extended illness or death of a family member, make it impossible for the student to complete the coursework on time; AND
- the student submits a "Request for an Extension to coursework" application to the Registrar on or before April 25

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty Policy. The seminary maintains a zero tolerance policy on plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Plagiarism and academic dishonesty can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the seminary. Even unintentional plagiarism is to be avoided at all costs. Students are expected to be familiar with the policy statements in the current academic calendar and the student handbook that deal with plagiarism, academic dishonesty (cheating), and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean

Protection of Personal Information: Personal information, that is information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as a requirement 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@auc-nuc.ca