

Course ID:	Course Title:	Winter 2019
NT 645	Parables and Miracles: Stories of Jesus and Stories About Jesus.	Prerequisite:
		Credits: 3

Class Information		Instructor Information		Important Dates	
Days:	Tuesday	Instructor:	Gordon King (D.Min. Th.M; M. Div.) Dayle Medgett (D.Min. M.Th. M. Div.)	First day of classes:	Thu, Jan 3
Time:	6:30-9:30 pm	Email:	gwking49@gmail.com dayle@westviewbaptistchurch.ca	Last day to add/drop, or change to audit:	Sun, Jan 13
Room:		Phone:	403 970 3391 403 239 1114	Last day to request revised exam:	Mon, Mar 11
Lab/ Tutorial:		Office:	Westview Baptist Church, 1313 Ranchlands Way, NW, Calgary T3G 2A1	Last day to withdraw from course:	Fri, Mar 22
		Office Hours:		Last day to apply for coursework extension:	Fri, Mar 29
Final Exam:	N/A			Last day of classes:	Fri, Apr 5

Course Description

Parables and miracles are integral components of the mission and message of Jesus in the synoptic tradition. This course will explore the meaning of parables and miracles for the audiences gathered around Jesus, for the early Christian communities of the evangelists, and for congregational settings in our own time. Classes will use discussion of assigned reading and participatory lectures. The use of Greek is helpful but not required.

Expected Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to discuss a range of scholarly approaches to the gospel parables and miracle accounts.
2. Students will be able to situate gospel parables and miracles in the first century context in Palestine and the broader Mediterranean world.
3. Students will be able to articulate and defend their personal approach to gospel parables and miracle accounts with reference to recent New Testament scholarship.
4. Students will be confident about using gospel parables and miracle accounts in the life of the church in their ministry context.

Textbooks

No text book is assigned. Students are expected to carefully review the assigned reading for each session beginning with the second class on 15 January 2019. Electronic copies of the readings will be provided. Students enrolled for credit will be required to lead a class discussion of a reading. This leadership role will be assigned on a random basis.

Course Schedule

8 January 2019	<p>1.1 Introduction and Syllabus</p> <p>1.2 Stories and Narratives</p> <p>1.3 Sower Parable (Mk. 4.1-20 and parallels)</p>
15 January 2019	<p>2.1 Discussion of Klyne R. Snodgrass. "From Allegorizing to Allegorizing: A History of the Interpretation of the Parables of Jesus." in Richard N. Longenecker. The Challenge of Jesus' Parables. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. 2000. Pages 3-29</p> <p>2.2 Palestine in the Time of Jesus</p> <p>2.3 The Coming and Growth of the Kingdom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridegroom, patch, wineskins • Strong man bound • Seed growing secretly
22 January 2019	<p>3.1 Discussion of Arland J. Hultgren. The Parables of Jesus: A Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. 2000. Pages 1-5, 12-19, 332-341.</p> <p>3.2 Coming and Growth of the Kingdom Continued</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mustard Seed • Leaven • Wheat and weeds, dragnet <p>3.3 Grace of the Kingdom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luke 15 – Three Parables of Lostness
29 January 2019	<p>4.1 Discussion of Klyne R. Snodgrass. Stories with Intent: A comprehensive guide to the Parables of Jesus. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. 2008. Pages 1-9, 17-31, 299-323.</p> <p>4.2 Grace of the Kingdom Continued</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two debtors (Luke 7) • Workers in the vineyard • Wedding banquet (Matthew) <p>4.3 Crisis of the Kingdom (A Call to Decision)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buried treasure and pearl of great price • Two ways; two doors • Wise and foolish builders • Two sons • Tower builder and warring kings
5 February 2019	<p>5.1 Discussion of Luise Schottroff. The Parables of Jesus. Minneapolis: Fortress. 2006. Pages 103-105, 106-107, 209-217.</p> <p>5.2 Discipleship – Prayer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friend at midnight • Good father

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widow and judge • Tax Collector and pharisee <p>5.3 Discipleship – Money</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rich fool • Unjust steward • Rich man and Lazarus
12 February 2019	<p>6.1 Discussion of Gordon King. Seed Falling on Good Soil. Rooting Our Lives in the Parables of Jesus. Eugene: Cascade Books, 2016. Pages 9-36, 67-84.</p> <p>6.2 Discipleship – Model of the Slave</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luke 12 • Luke 17 <p>6.3 Discipleship - Bearing Fruit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good and bad tree • Great banquet (Luke 14) • Pounds (Luke 19)
19 February 2019	No Class. Reading Week.
26 February 2019	<p>7.1 Discussion of Clarence Jordan and Bill Lane Doulos. Cotton Patch Parables of Liberation. Scottsdale: Herald Press, 1976. Pages 9-20, 130-154.</p> <p>7.2 Discipleship – Bearing Fruit Continued</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samaritan • Unmerciful slave (Matthew 18) <p>7.3 Crisis of the Kingdom (Israel)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wicked tenants • Barren fig tree • Wedding banquet (see 4.2)
5 March 2019	<p>8.1 Discussion of Kenneth E. Bailey. Poet and Peasant and Through Peasant Eyes. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983. Pages 27-43; 86-118.</p> <p>8.2 Crisis of the Kingdom (Disciples)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wise and foolish maidens • Sheep and goats • Talents (Matthew) <p>8.3 Introduction to the Miracles – Issues & Dimensions of Healing</p>
12 March 2019	<p>9.1 Discussion of Audrey Dawson, Healing, Weakness, and Power: Perspectives on Healing in the Writings of Mark, Luke, and Paul. Milton Keynes: Paternoster, 2008, pages 19 – 60.</p> <p>9.2 Lepers and leprosy; Paralytic and forgiveness</p> <p>9.3 Ruler’s daughter and woman with hemorrhage</p>
19 March 2019	<p>10.1 Discussion of John Pilch. Healing in the New Testament: Insights from Medical and Mediterranean Anthropology. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Publishers, 2000, pages 1-17, 19-36.</p> <p>10.2 Possession by Unclean Spirits</p> <p>10.3 Legion and Epileptic Boy</p>
26 March 2019	<p>11.1 Discussion of Luke Timothy Johnson. Miracles: God's Presence and Power in Creation. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2018, pages 21-43.</p> <p>11.2 Nature Miracles – Sea Stories</p> <p>11.3 Nature Miracles – Accounts of Feeding</p>

2 April 2019	12.1 Discussion of Lee Strobel. The Case for Miracles. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2018. Pages 235 -253. 12.2 Blindness – Physical and spiritual; Syro-phoenician woman’s daughter and mission of the church. 12.3 Evaluation of Course
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Requirements:

Student Assignments

Description of Assignment	Value
In Class Participation and Discussion of Assigned Readings	20%
Book Review Parables	15%
Book Review Miracles	15%
Paper: Personal Approach to Interpreting and Using the Gospel Parables	25%
Paper: Personal Approach to Interpreting and Using the Gospel Miracle Accounts	25%

Critical Readings

1. Assigned Readings for Classes: Students will be chosen randomly to summarize key aspects of the reading for their colleagues and guide discussion. All students will be expected to participate in the discussion of the reading.
2. Read 100 pages of a book on the parables of Jesus selected from the bibliography. Summarize the approach of the author and offer critical reflections on the methodology. Indicate what you appreciated and the limitations you perceived? Provide a summary of the author’s treatment of one of the parables. The due date for this assignment will be determined at the first class.
3. Read 100 pages of a book on the miracles of Jesus selected from the bibliography. Summarize the approach of the author and offer critical reflections on the methodology. Indicate what you appreciated and the limitations you perceived. Provide a summary of the author’s treatment of one of the miracle accounts. The due date for this assignment will be determined at the first class.

Essays

Your Approach to Interpreting and Using the Parables of Jesus: Write a twelve-page double spaced paper with three sections. The first part will express your approach to reading and interpreting the parables of Jesus. Describe your methodology in dialogue with some of the scholars and approaches that have been considered in the class. The second

part of the paper will offer principles that you consider to be important for communicating the message parables through preaching, teaching and pastoral work in the life of the church. How will you take these stories from Jesus' movement in first century Palestine and apply them to your ministry context? The third part of the paper requires you work with a selected parable. You will consider its meaning in in the context of the mission of Jesus and the early church. You will suggest how it may be used in the life and mission of the church today. You will need to be concise in order to complete all three sections in twelve pages. The bibliography of books and articles utilized is not part of the 12-page limit. The due date for this assignment will be determined at the first class.

Your Approach to Interpreting and Using the Miracle Accounts of Jesus: Write a twelve-page double spaced paper with three sections. The first part will express your approach to reading and interpreting the miracles stories of Jesus. Describe your methodology in dialogue with some of the scholars and approaches that have been considered in the class. The second part of the paper will offer principles that you consider to be important in communicating the meaning of the miracles through preaching, teaching, and pastoral work in the life of the church. How will you take miracle stories from Jesus' movement in first century Palestine and apply them to your ministry context? The third part of the paper requires you to work with a selected miracle account. Youi will consider its meaning in the context of Jesus' mission and that of the early church. You will suggest how it may be used in the life of the church today. You will need to be concise to write all three sections in twelve pages. The bibliography of books and articles utilized is not part of the 12-page limit. The due date for this assignment will be determined at the first class.

Attendance:

Students are expected to attend all classes. We ask for prior permission for any absences and medical certificates for unanticipated absences. The participation grade will be affected by absences from class.

Grade Summary:

The available letters for course grades are as follows:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>
A+	
A	Excellent
A-	
B+	
B	Good
B-	
C+	
C	Satisfactory
C-	
D+	
D	Minimal Pass
F	Failure

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.

Ambrose University Academic Policies:

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. If students do not wish to use their Ambrose accounts, they will need to forward all messages from the Ambrose account to another personal account.

Registration

During the **Registration Revision Period** students may enter a course without permission, change the designation of any class from credit to audit and /or voluntary withdraw from a course without financial or academic penalty or record. Courses should be added or dropped on the student portal by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees.

Students intending to withdraw from a course after the Registration Revision Period must apply to the Office of the Registrar by submitting a "Request to Withdraw from a Course" form or by sending an email to the Registrar's Office by the **Withdrawal Deadline**; please consult the List of Important Dates on the my.ambrose.edu website. Students will not receive a tuition refund for courses from which they withdraw after the Registration Revision period. A grade of "W" will appear on their transcript.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

Exam Scheduling

Students, who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a Revised Examination Request form to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; 2) the student has three final exams within three consecutive exam time blocks; 3) the scheduled final exam slot conflicts with an exam at another institution; 4) extenuating circumstances. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

Electronic Etiquette

Students are expected to treat their instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students with respect. It is disruptive to the learning goals of a course or seminar and disrespectful to fellow students and the instructor to use electronics for purposes unrelated to the course during a class session. Turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. Do not use iPods, MP3 players, or headphones. Do not text, read, or send personal emails, go on Facebook or other social networks, search the internet, or play computer games during class.

Some professors will not allow the use of any electronic devices in class. The professor has the right to disallow the student to use a laptop in future lectures and/or to ask a student to withdraw from the session if s/he does not comply with this policy. Repeat offenders will be directed to the Dean. If you are expecting communication due to an emergency, please speak with the professor before the class begins.

Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Academic Calendar. 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.

Extensions

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a course Extension from the Registrar's Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

Appeal of Grade

An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Registrar's Office in writing and providing the basis for appeal within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

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.

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