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NT 614 Exegesis of the Gospel of Mark

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TEXTS:

1. Greek New Testament (preferably, a Nestle/Aland 26th or 27th or a UBS 3rd or 4th edition)

Recommended Studies


Suggested Studies


CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

An exegetical study of the Gospel of Mark, with careful attention given to social, rhetorical, literary and theological dimensions and implications of the text. Prerequisite: NT(IBS) 510 or 511; NT 520; and NT 500 or 501/502 or equivalent. (May be taken by students in M.A. programs not requiring Greek by special arrangement with the professor.)

I. COURSE OBJECTIVES

*This course seeks to:*
1. Acquaint the student with the central concerns of the Gospel of Mark.
2. Enhance the student’s exegetical skills.
3. Discuss the relationship of key theological ideas in the Gospel of Mark with other books within the NT.
4. Apply a variety of 20th century methodological approaches to the Gospel.
5. Understand the Gospel of Mark within its socio-historical, literary, and canonical contexts.
7. Articulate the importance of one’s own presuppositions in the task of interpretation.
8. Differentiate between critical and homiletical/devotional commentaries and studies of the Gospel of Mark.
10. Use Greek-based language tools to identify grammatical constructions (i.e., with regard to sentence structure and use of clauses).
11. Use Greek-based language tools to engage in syntactical analyses (i.e., with regard to verbal aspect, mood, and voice; use of the genitive and dative cases).
12. Apply close-reading skills and socio-cultural sensitivities to the text of Mark.
13. Evaluate the faithfulness of one’s own interpretations, as well as those of others.
14. Propose meaningful ways in which the Gospel of Mark may be read within the horizons of the contemporary church and world.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENTS

A. Attendance     D. Seminar Paper
B. Reading         E. Class Presentation(s)
C. Translations (in and out of class) F. Examinations

III. EVALUATION

A. Evaluation Activities
1. Research Paper (10-12 pages) 30% (150pts.)
2. Final Examination 30% (150pts.)
3. Seminar Presentation 20% (100pts.)
4. Seminar Response 10% (50pts.)
5. Attendance, Participation, and Discussion 10% (50pts.)
   (Class assignments, translations, etc.)

B. Grading Scale
   A= 500-450
   B= 449-400
   C= 399-350

C. Assignments
1. Research Paper: the paper is an exegetical essay, due May 12th, on a topic to be chosen in consultation with the instructor. It may, but need not be, a development of the seminar presentation.
2. Seminar Presentations: each student will be responsible for one seminar presentation, related to the secondary reading selections for the course, which are designed to stimulate and foster class discussion of a specific topic related to the interpretation of the Gospel of Mark. E.g., What is the major thesis of the reading? What supporting evidence does the author use to substantiate his/her claims? Is the thesis supported by the evidence in the
Gospel of Mark? Why or why not? Are there other related directions this project could have taken?

Such presentations should be typed (4-5 pages) and must be distributed to respondents no later than two days before the presentation. Attach a copy to me on the Monday prior to your presentation date. Presenters should also provide copies for other members of the seminar on the day of the presentation.

3. **Seminar Responses:** each student will be responsible for one seminar response, which is designed to offer critical reflections on the presentation and generate questions to initiate the discussion. E.g., What of significance did the presenter omit from the secondary reading? Did the presenter grasp the essential thesis of the assignment? What would you like for the presenter to explain further? **It should not be a presentation on the topic at hand, but a response to the presentation.**

VI. **TOPICS TO BE COVERED**

A. Introduction to the Course
B. Verse by verse grammatical and exegetical study of the Gospel of Mark. We will attempt to translate more than 400 of the 678 verses in the Gospel of Mark. To accomplish that goal, we will need to prepare approximately 35 verses per week.
C. In-class discussions on recent scholarly research into topics relevant to Mark.
D. Exegetical Papers Due: May 12th
E. Final Exam: May 20th
F. TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (see below)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Translation</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
<th>Other Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/11</td>
<td>Mark 1:1-15</td>
<td>Witherington, 65-82</td>
<td>Read the Whole Gospel [300-500 word essay]</td>
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<td>2/18</td>
<td>Mark 1:16-2:12</td>
<td>Witherington, 83-117</td>
<td>Essay Due</td>
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<td>2/25</td>
<td>Mark 2:13-3:19</td>
<td>Witherington, 118-152</td>
<td>Presentation #1</td>
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<td>Horsley, 27-52</td>
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<td>3/3</td>
<td>Mark 3:20-4:20</td>
<td>Witherington, 153-177</td>
<td>Presentation #2</td>
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<td>Mark 4:35-41</td>
<td>Mark 4:21-34</td>
<td>Horsley, 53-78</td>
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<td>[English]</td>
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<td>3/10</td>
<td>Mark 5:1-34</td>
<td>Witherington, 178-190</td>
<td>Presentation #3</td>
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<td>Horsley, 79-98</td>
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*March 4-5, Theta Phi Lectures, Dr. Luke Timothy Johnson*
3/17  Mark 5:35-6:6
      Mark 7:1-30  Witherington, 191-237
      Mark 6:7-56; 7:31-8:21
      [English]  Presentation #4
      Horsley, 99-120
      P:________________
      R:________________

3/24  Mark 8:22-9:10  Witherington, 238-300
      [English]  Presentation #5
      Horsley, 177-202
      P:________________
      R:________________

3/31  Spring Reading Week at Asbury

4/7   Mark 11:1-25  Witherington, 301-317
      Mark 11:26-33
      [English]  Presentation #6
      Horsley, 121-148
      P:________________
      R:________________

4/14  Mark 12:1-37  Witherington, 318-335
      Mark 12:38-44
      [English]  Presentation #7
      Horsley, 149-176
      P:________________
      R:________________

      Presentation #8
      Powery’s “The Spirit and Political Dissent”
      P:________________
      R:________________

4/28  Mark 14:12-31  Witherington, 359-410
      Mark 15:1-15  Mark 14:1-11, 32-72
      Mark 15:16-32, 42-47
      [English]  Presentation #9
      Horsley, 203-230
      P:________________
      R:________________

5/5   Mark 15:33-41  Witherington, 411-442
      Mark 16:1-8; 9-20
      Presentation #10
      Horsley, 231-253
      P:________________
      R:________________

5/12  Papers Due; Summarize Projects

Exegetical Papers Due:  May 12th

Final Examination:  Thursday, May 20th, 1-3 p.m.
VIII. **OFFICE HOURS:**

*By Appointment* (set up via e-mail: Emerson_Powery@asburyseminary.edu)

IX. **READING LIST**


“Reading the Whole Gospel” Assignment

This assignment requires an imaginative effort on your part. Try to imagine that you know nothing about Jesus. This is difficult, but crucial for this assignment. Begin at Mark 1 and, in one sitting, read through the entire Gospel. [It should take between 1½ to 2 hours.] As you read, note what impressions you form of its central character, Jesus. What is he like? What does he spend his time doing? How does he speak? How do others, in the story, react to him? How do you react to him? What is the author attempting to convey to readers? Now, in a 300-500 word paper, choose a few specific aspects of Mark’s Jesus that you deem either surprising or central. Support your points with specific citations from Mark.