Syllabus for

GBIB 583—The Parables of Jesus in Their Jewish Context

3 Credit Hours

Spring 2014

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An examination of the parables of Jesus in light of their Jewish background. Studies rabbinic parables to understand the teaching methods of Jesus. Includes cultural, historical, and theological settings of the Gospel parables in light of the teachings of the Jewish people during the period.

Prerequisites: None.

II. COURSE GOALS

The purpose of this course is to enable the student to understand the message of each Gospel parable in its authentic setting and make practical application.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the following:

A. Explain the genre of the parabolic teachings of Jesus by careful study and analyzing of the gospel texts and parallels.

B. Discuss the inter-relationships between the Synoptic Gospels, early Jewish sources and the cultural milieu in which Jesus lived and carried out His mission.

C. Explain the parables of Jesus in light of Jewish counterparts and understand parabolic teaching as a didactic method employed within a specific cultural milieu.

D. Explain the parables of Jesus and the original message by examination of the cultural context, the historical setting, and relevant parallel sources that illuminate the teachings of Jesus.

E. Interpret, either orally or in writing, the parables of Jesus within their historical context and convey how the message of the Gospel teachings relate to the present.

F. Apply the results of the critical study of Scripture in its cultural context to selected contemporary contexts.

IV. TEXTBOOKS

A. Required Materials

1. Textbooks

2. Other

   None

B. Optional Materials

1. Textbooks


V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University. Excessive absences can reduce a student’s grade or deny credit for the course.

2. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence are charged a late exam fee.

3. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others’ materials, whether it is in the form of print, video, multimedia, or computer software. By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means.

4. Final exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.

5. Students are to be in compliance with university, school, and departmental policies regarding Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the WPA handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students’ majors.

   a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an ePortfolio artifact is a zero for that assignment.

   b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.
B. Graduate School of Theology and Ministry Policies and Procedures

1. Completion of Assignments
   Assignments are due on the dates established in the course calendar, which is published in the syllabus. Any assignments turned in after the scheduled due date are penalized five percent (5%) of the original value per day including weekends, breaks, and holidays. All work turned in two weeks after the assignment deadline is received but is granted a grade of zero for that assignment. No work is accepted after the final date of regular classes.

2. Incompletes
   a. An incomplete is given only after the student establishes with the academic committee by written petition that student’s work is incomplete for good cause (i.e., lengthy illness, death in the family). Incompletes are rarely granted. Only those absences that are incurred within the time period of the extenuating circumstances prompting an incomplete are excused. The student is still accountable for any other absences and will be penalized for them according to the attendance policy.
   b. A Petition for Incomplete Grade with all supporting documentation must be submitted for approval one week prior to the end of normal classes. The submitting of a petition does not automatically ensure the granting of an incomplete. The petition must be approved by the academic committee of the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry. Students are expected to continue all course work until an incomplete is granted.

3. Examinations
   a. Early examinations are not allowed. Late examinations without grade penalty are administered only when extenuating circumstances are present (such as a death in the family the week before exams or a sudden and major illness the week of exams that is documented by a physician).
   b. A Petition for Late Examination must be submitted to the academic dean’s office. A $15 fee, plus proper documentation, must accompany the petition. The academic committee reviews each petition and grade penalties are assessed. (Late exam fee is not a grade penalty.)
   c. Students taking late exams should expect alternate versions of the original exams.
   d. Not being present for the final examination automatically results in failure of the course.

4. Attendance
   The administration and faculty of the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry believe that class attendance is crucial in order for students to receive impartation, spiritual formation, and a community experience. Therefore, the Official Attendance Policy for the GSTM is as follows:
   a. Students will receive one letter grade reduction after missing more than two weeks of classes.
   b. Students who miss more than one month of classes will fail the course.
   c. The absences allowed prior to a grade reduction are designed to allow for emergencies and illnesses and are not designed for indiscriminate use.
   d. Administrative excuses are granted only when a student is on official university business and has received approval in advance from the university administration.
   e. Students are expected to be prompt for classes.
f. Students are expected to remain for the entire class session.
g. Leaving early without permission constitutes an absence.

5. Leaving early without permission constitutes an absence.
The Disability Service Center, in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, assures that no qualified individual with a disability will be denied reasonable accommodations based upon the individual’s needs. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the Disability Service Center and properly register for these services. For more information, call 918.495.7018 or go to www.studentresources.oru.edu.

B. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures
   a. Class Participation and Unannounced Quizzes 10%
   b. Research Paper 40%
   c. Book Review 15%
   d. Midterm 15%
   e. Final examination 20%
   Grading scale:
   A=100-90%
   B=89-80%
   C=79-70%
   D=69-60%
   F=59-0%

2. Whole Person Assessment Requirements
   a. All students entering the seminary are required to enroll in PRF 059—ePortfolio: Whole Person Assessment, which provides specific training to develop the skills needed to create an ePortfolio.
   b. WPA requirements for this course:
      i. All students, regardless of degree program, must submit the research paper for GBIB 583 to the course professor on ePortfolio, on the same date the assignment is also due in class.
      ii. Failure to correctly submit designated artifact assignments on time to the course professor on ePortfolio will result in an Incomplete grade for the course. When a student submits the missing artifact to the professor on ePortfolio, he or she may fill out a Change of Grade Request with all relevant information and submit it to the course professor for approval and final grade change.

3. Other Policies and/or Procedures
   a. Students are responsible for all the material in the readings of class assignments.
   b. Class attendance and participation in seminar discussions are required in accordance with ORU policy.
   c. Students submit a book review of R. Stein, *An Introduction to the Parables of Jesus*, or another book subject to the approval of the professor, consisting of two to four typewritten pages according to the approved ORU format.
   d. A research paper on an approved subject is required that deals with the issues raised in the readings, lectures, or discussion of the course. The paper must adequately deal with the theme and should be eight to ten
pages in length, excluding the notes and the bibliography. The approved ORU format is required with documentation and bibliography.

e. Periodical unannounced quizzes over the material.
f. A midterm exam and a final examination
g. To receive a passing grade in any course, all work must be completed as assigned. **Failure to complete even one of the “lesser” assignments, i.e., a devotional paper or a reading report, results in a failing grade for the course.**

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

A. Course Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Purpose of Parables</td>
<td>Book Critique</td>
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<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>The Parables in Their Jewish Context</td>
<td>Midterm</td>
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<td>III</td>
<td>The Parables of Jesus and the Message of the Kingdom</td>
<td>Final Paper</td>
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B. Course Outline

1. The Historical Context of the Gospels and the Parables of Jesus
2. The Synoptic Problem and the Parables of Jesus
3. The Structure of Gospel Parabolic Teachings in Light of Jewish Parables
4. The Jewish Halachah and the Parables
This course contributes to student learning outcomes for the Master of Arts in Biblical Literature degree as indicated below:

**Significant Contribution**—Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

**Moderate Contribution**—Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

**Minimal Contribution**—Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

**No Contribution**—Does not address the outcome.

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<tr>
<th>Degree Program Outcomes</th>
<th>Significant Contribution</th>
<th>Moderate Contribution</th>
<th>Minimal Contribution</th>
<th>No Contribution</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 Translation, Biblical Language</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Display ability to employ critical methods of exegesis from an informed theological/hermeneutical perspective.</td>
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<td>Correlate the major Old Testament themes, and formulate a coherent Old Testament theology.</td>
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<td>Apply the results of the critical study of Scripture in its cultural contexts to selected contemporary contexts.</td>
<td>X</td>
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