



Course Syllabus
LBIB 455 Intensive Studies:
Parables of Jesus
3.0 Credit hours

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course first describes the parabolic method of Jesus. Next the class will examine the meaning of the Parables for the original hearers and their application to contemporary problems such as helping the poor, the beginning and ending of life issues, use of resources, and economic issues. A major part of the course will examine and interpret selected parables of Jesus.

Pre-requisites: BIB 222, BIB 261

II. ACADEMIC MISSION

Oral Roberts University's academic mission is to transform students by the power of the Holy Spirit into whole, competent servant-leaders through liberal arts and professional education that is fully Christian. Within a Spirit-filled healing community, administration, faculty, and staff love and serve students by helping them grow in knowledge, skills, wisdom, character, and spirit.

Student transformation is measured through the evaluation of student expression of University learning outcomes as demonstrated through accompanying proficiencies and capacities.

Spiritually alive Biblical knowledge; sensitivity to the Holy Spirit; evangelistic capability; ethical behavior

Intellectually alert critical thinking; information literacy; global and historical perspectives; aesthetic appreciation; intellectual creativity

Physically disciplined healthy lifestyle; physically active lifestyle

Socially adept communication skills; interpersonal skills; appreciation of cultural and linguistic differences; responsible citizenship; leadership capacity

Professionally competent ... discipline-specific proficiencies listed under Program Outcomes.

The last page of this syllabus, "COURSE INVENTORY for ORU's Student Learning Outcomes," indicates how this course supports ORU's academic mission and ORU's whole- person approach to learning outcomes through its [ePortfolio system](#).

III. PROGRAM OUTCOMES

This course supports the program outcomes of all Undergraduate theology majors that require an Old Testament or an New Testament Elective, marked below with an asterisk (*).

- 1.*Students will develop and demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the Bible that is based on a sound hermeneutic, illumined by the Holy Spirit, and leads to relevant applications in contemporary life.
2. Students will develop and demonstrate an understanding of a charismatic Christian worldview that is biblically, philosophically, and theologically sound.
3. Students will develop and demonstrate competencies necessary to communicate the gospel in every person's world and to make them effective participants in the professional/ministerial callings.
4. Students will integrate scriptural, philosophical, and theological knowledge with professional/ministerial communications skills appropriate to their discipline.
5. Student will develop essential competencies which will enable them to engage the contemporary multi-cultural, multi-ethnic world.

IV. COURSE GOALS

The goals of this course are to enable the student to recognize and assess major schools of interpretation for parables. This course will equip the student to study the meaning of parables through proper use of tools and resources for interpretation of the parables. The student will understand the messages of Jesus' parables and be able to apply them to contemporary situations. Lastly, this course will help students identify the Hebraic and Jewish roots of *mashal*.

V. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

As a result of taking this course a student will be able to do the following:

1. Identify the central concepts related to the parables
2. Assess the approaches to parable.
3. Interpret the meaning of the parables through detailed exegesis.
4. Explain why Jesus taught in parables.
5. Categorize the Parables.
6. Compile the theology of Jesus in parables.
7. Evaluate and apply the meaning of parables to the Christian life.

VI. TEXTBOOK AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

A. Required Materials

Textbooks

Snodgrass, Klyne R. *Stories with Intent: A Comprehensive Guide to the Parables of Jesus*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008. [ISBN: 9780802842411]

Other: None

LeMon, Joel M. and Brennan W. Breed, eds. *Student Supplement for The SBL Handbook of Style*, 2nd ed. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2015. Available free here: <https://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/pubs/SBLHSupp2015-02.pdf>

B. Optional Materials

Textbooks

Aland, Kurt., ed. *Synopsis of the Four Gospels*. New York: UBS, 2004.

Hultgren, Arland J. *The Parables of Jesus: A Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002. ISBN 978-0-8028-4241-1

Longanecker, Richard N., ed. *The Challenge of Jesus' Parables*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000. ISBN 0-8028-4638-6

Stein, Robert H. *An Introduction to the Parables of Jesus*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1981. ISBN 0-664-24390-8

Young, Brad H. *Jesus and His Jewish Parables: Rediscovering the Roots of Jesus' Teaching*. New York: Paulist, 1989. ISBN 0-8091-3031-9

Other: None

VII. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policy and Procedures

1. Participation in each online class through discussion forums, assignments, and all other course activities is mandatory at Oral Roberts University. This counts as your attendance in the course. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
2. 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, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating involve both lying and stealing and are violations of ORU's Honor Code: "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments." Plagiarism is usually defined as copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structure and submitting them as one's own. Other forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following:
 - a. Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;
 - b. Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while claiming to have done so;
 - c. Failing to cite sources used in a paper;
 - d. Creating results for experiments, observations, interviews, or projects that were not done;
 - e. Receiving or giving unauthorized help on assignments.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. Penalties for any of the above infractions may result in disciplinary action including failing the assignment or failing the course or expulsion

from the University, as determined by department and University guidelines.

2. Final exams cannot be given before their scheduled times.
3. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.
4. Students are to be in compliance with University, school, and departmental policies regarding the Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the Whole Person Assessment handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.
 - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an artifact is a zero for that assignment.
 - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.

School and/or Department Policies and Procedures

3. Completion of a Course
 - a. Late work will not be accepted. Assignments are due on or before the deadline given.
 - b. Under rare circumstances, exceptions may be made in consultation with the faculty member for the course. However, except in extreme emergencies, students must contact faculty members before the assigned due date and request an exception to the policy.
4. Incompletes
 - a. An incomplete is given only after the student establishes with the instructor and the department chair by written petition that his or her 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 will be 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 at least 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 appropriate academic committee of the Undergraduate Theology Department.
5. Examinations and Other Assignments
 - a. Early examinations are not allowed.
 - b. Late examinations are administered only when extenuating circumstances are present (such as a death in the family the week before exams, sudden and major illness the week of exams that is documented by a physician). In fairness to all students, some persons should not have more time to prepare for an examination than others. The granting of a late examination request is rare.
 - c. A Petition for Late Examination without penalty must be signed by the professor and the chair. Proper documentation must accompany the petition and must be submitted to the Undergraduate Theology Department. The student must schedule the makeup exam with the professor of the course. The exam must be taken no later than five (5) calendar days after the approval of the petition. Grade penalties may be applied as indicated by the Academic Affairs Committee.
 - d. All exams will be given as scheduled. It is the student's responsibility when purchasing airline tickets, for example, to take this schedule into consideration. Not being present for the final examination automatically results in failure of the course.

- e. These requirements apply to all quizzes, tests, and examinations administered by the Undergraduate Theology Department.
- 6. Attendance Policy
 - a. The Official Attendance Policy for the Undergraduate Theology Department is as follows:
 - (1.) If class meets three times a week, 3 unexcused absences will result in 1 grade letter reduction; 6 unexcused absences will automatically result in an "F" for the course.
 - (2.) If class meets two times a week, 2 unexcused absences will result in 1 grade letter reduction; 4 unexcused absences will automatically result in an "F" for the course.
 - (3.) If class meets one time a week, 1 unexcused absence will result in 1 grade letter reduction; 2 unexcused absences will automatically result in an "F" for the course.
 - b. The absences allowed prior to grade reduction are designed to allow for emergencies and illnesses, only. (Faculty may require documentation.) Administrative excuses are granted only when a student is on official University business and has received approval in advance from the University administration.
 - c. The penalty for tardies is at the discretion of the instructor.

B. Online Programs Policies and Procedures

- 7. Learning Community: Online learning community is established through active participation in the threaded weekly discussions. The mutual exchange of ideas, information, and experiences is an essential part of the learning process, and students are encouraged to use the discussion forum as virtual classroom platform.
- 8. Netiquette and Online Discussions: Online etiquette (netiquette) expectations include the following: (1) Be polite in your answers. Always address each other by name and sign your own name. Always be kind, even when you disagree. Do NOT type in all caps or use exclamation points!!!! (2) Do not use one-word answers or say "I agree" when responding. Always give meaningful responses. (3) Be professional. Proofread for correct spelling and grammar when posting answers. Write in full sentences. (4) Answer questions and complete assignments on-time. Remember that your classmates are dependent on your timely response(s).
- 9. ADA and Students with Disabilities:
Click here (<http://www.brightspace.com/about/accessibility/>) to view Desire2Learn's "Accessibility Resources for Students with Disabilities."
Students requiring Disability Services from ORU, please click here (http://www.oru.edu/current_students/my_services/student_resources/disability-services/)
- 10. Useful Links for Online Students:
[Student Learning Glossary](#)
Library: <http://library.oru.edu>. D2L
Helpdesk: d2lhelp@oru.edu
I.T. Student Helpdesk: studenthelpdesk@oru.edu
Contact the University: please [fill out this online form](#). Please first contact your instructor for assistance with any matter specific to the course.

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures

a. Performance on participation in threaded discussions and performance on papers.

b. Assessment Procedures:

Quiz	4%
Forums	19%
14 Forums (even distribution)	
Written Assignments	15 %
Assignment 1: OT parables 3%	
Assignment 2 Coloring Exercise 3 %	
Assignment 3 Coloring Exercise 3 %	
Assignment 4 Jewish Tradition and Parables 3%	
Assignment 5 Coloring Exercise 3%	
Parable Report 1	20%
Parable Report 2	20%
Parable Presentation	10%
Video Essay	10%
Weekly Guiding Questions	2%
<u>6 Guiding Questions (even distribution)</u>	
Total	100%

2. Whole Person Assessment

Requirements: None

VIII. COURSE CALENDAR

The Course Calendar shows the specific learning activities and assessments for this course, along with their respective grade weights. The far right column lists the Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) that are tied to the corresponding Assessment in column 2. All activities and assessments are fully described online in D2L under their respective Week.

Week	Assessments	Hours	Weight	SLO*
1	Introduction to Parables	--	--	--
	View/Listen/Read	3	--	--
	Topic 1 Define Parable	4	1.36	1
	Topic 2 Interpreting Parables	4	1.36	3
	Written assignment: Old Testament Parables	2	3	1
	Guiding Question Assignment	2	.33	1
	Choose a parable for Parable Report (Parable Report is due Week 3)	1		7
2	Parable of the Soils & the Purpose of Parables			

	View/Listen/Read	2	--	--
	Topic 1 Parable of the What?	4	1.36	2
	Topic 2 Parables: Veiled Truth?	4	1.36	4
	Coloring exercise	2	3	3
	Quiz	1	4	1
	Guiding Question Assignment	2	.33	5
	Research time	2		
3	Parables and the Kingdom			
	View/Listen/Read	3	--	--
	Topic 1 Sitz im Leben	4	1.36	3
	Topic 2 The Real Meaning of Wheat and Tares	4	1.36	7
	Coloring exercise	2	3	5
	Guiding Question	2	.33	2,3
	Parable Report 1	2	20	7
4	Parables about Money and Forgiveness			
	View/Listen/Read	2	--	--
	Topic 1 The Rich Man and Lazarus	4	1.36	6
	Topic 2 The Unjust Steward	4	1.36	6
	Jewish Tradition and Parables	3	3	3
	Week 4 Guiding Question	2	.33	4
	Choose a Parable from Luke for Parable Report 2 (the Report is Due Week 6)	1		7
5	Parables of Future Eschatology			
	View/Listen/Read	2	--	--
	Topic 1 Sheep and Goats	4	1.36	6
	Topic 2 Comparing Matthew and Luke	4	1.36	6
	Coloring exercise	2	3	5
	Week 5 Guiding Question	2	.33	6
	Parable Report 2	2	20	7
6	Parables of Lostness			
	View/Listen/Read	2	--	--
	Topic 1 Links of Lostness	4	1.36	6
	Topic 2 Prodigal Son	4	1.36	2
	Week 6 Guiding Question	2	.33	7
	Parable Presentation	5	10	7
7	Parables about Discipleship			
	View/Listen/Read	2	--	--
	Topic 1 Today's Good Samaritan	4	1.4%	7
	Topic 2 Presentations	3	1.4%	7
	Submit Video Essay	5	10%	5,1,2,4,7
Course Total	Total estimated hours based upon 16 hours per week for 7 weeks	113	100%	

* SLO: The last column indicates which Student Learning Outcome is met by the Assessment in Column 2.

† Indicates this is a Whole Person Assessment item that is also submitted to the E-Portfolio system.

IX. COURSE INVENTORY

For ORU's Student Learning Outcomes

LBIB 455 Intensive Studies: Parables of Jesus

This course contributes to the ORU student learning outcomes 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.

The Student Learning Glossary at <http://ir.oru.edu/doc/glossary.pdf> defines each outcome and proficiencies/capacities.

OUTCOMES & Proficiencies/Capacities		Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
1	Outcome #1 – Spiritually Alive				
1A	Biblical knowledge	X			
1B	Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit	X			
1C	Evangelistic capability		X		
1D	Ethical behavior		X		
2	Outcome #2 – Intellectually Alert				
2A	Critical thinking	X			
2B	Information literacy	X			
2C	Global & historical perspectives			X	
2D	Aesthetic appreciation			X	
2E	Intellectual creativity	X			
3	Outcome #3 – Physically Disciplined				
3A	Healthy lifestyle				X
3B	Physically disciplined lifestyle				X
4	Outcome #4 – Socially Adept				
4A	Communication skills	X			
4B	Interpersonal skills			X	
4C	Appreciation of cultural & linguistic			X	
4D	Responsible citizenship			X	
4E	Leadership capacity			X	

(Revised 2/1/10)

Last updated: January, 2017

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