

Syllabus for
GBIB 556—Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels
3.0 Credit Hours
Spring 2001

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the Synoptic Gospels designed to enhance understanding of the person, message, and mission of Jesus in his historical milieu. Includes the distinctive aspects of each evangelist's portrayal of Jesus.

Prerequisites: None.

II. COURSE GOALS

The purpose of this course is to enable student to do the following:

- A. Become more familiar with the content of the Synoptic Gospels.
- B. Understand various hermeneutical perspectives used in interpreting the Synoptic Gospels and identify his or her own perspective.
- C. Know various interpretations of Gospel passages and to defend his or her own interpretation.
- D. State and appreciate the identity, mission, and message of Jesus in His ministry and in the contexts of the author-evangelists of the Synoptic Gospels.
- E. Relate Jesus and the Gospels to the life of the student, church, and society today.

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

- A. List the central events and themes in Jesus' teachings contained in the Synoptic Gospels.
- B. Describe the geography and culture of the area in which Jesus lived.
- C. Explain the major hermeneutical perspectives and methods used to interpret the Gospels and identify one's own approach.
- D. State various interpretations of pericopes and decide one's own interpretation.
- E. Discern the identity, mission, and message of Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels.
- F. Explain the relevance of Jesus for the contemporary life of the student, church, and society.

IV. TEXTBOOKS

Required Texts

Aland, Kurt, ed. *Synopsis of the Four Gospels*. (English only edition) Berlin: ABS, 1985; or (Greek-English edition, ABS, 1987.)

Blomberg, Craig. *Jesus and the Gospels*. Nashville: Broadman—Holman, 1996.

Mansfield, M. Robert. *Synoptic Gospels: Class Study Guide*. Tulsa: ORU, 1998.

Wright, N.T. The Challenge of Jesus. Downer's Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1999.

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University.
2. Double cuts will be assessed for absences immediately preceding or following holidays.
3. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
4. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence will be charged a late exam fee.
5. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, video, multimedia, or computer software.
6. 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.

B. School of Theology 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 will be received but will be 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 School of Theology and Missions. 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 **\$10 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 Official Attendance Policy for the School of Theology and Missions is as follows:

- a. If the class meets three times a week, the missing of **6** class sessions results in a grade reduction of **one letter** grade. Missing **8** class sessions results in a grade reduction of **two letter** grades. Missing **12** class sessions will automatically results in a **grade of F**. If a class meets twice a week, the missing of **4** class sessions results in a grade reduction of **one letter** grade. Missing **6** class sessions results in a grade reduction of **two letter** grades. Missing **8** class sessions automatically results in a **grade of F**. If the class meets once a week, then the missing of **3** class sessions results in a grade reduction of **one letter** grade. Missing **4** class sessions results in a grade reduction of **two letter** grades. Missing **5** class sessions automatically results in a **grade of F**.
- b. **The absences allowed prior to a grade reduction are designed to allow for emergencies and illnesses and are not designed for indiscriminate use.**
- c. Administrative excuses are granted only when a student is on official University business and has received approval in advance from the University administration.
- d. Students are expected to be prompt for classes.
- e. Students are expected to remain for the entire class session.
- f. Leaving early without permission constitutes an absence.

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Course Assignments

- a. Daily class assignments and reading
- b. Class attendance and participation
- c. Term paper: Book Review and Research Paper—12pp. excluding notes and bibliography. Due April 6th
students need to do the following:
 - (1) Summarize the chapters in Wright, The Challenge of Jesus, focusing on the author's thesis and central points in each chapter (8pp.)
 - (2) Select one chapter and theological topic for critique based on the student's information and understanding derived from his or her study and additional research (10 sources minimum). The student should include exegetical support for the points in his or her critique. (4pp.)
 - (3) Notes and Bibliography
- d. Mid-Term Examination
- e. Final Examination

2. Grades Scale

Term paper	30%
Midterm exam	30%
Final examination	40%
Scale: 90%+=A; 80%+=B; 70%+=C; 60%+=D	

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

A. Background of the Gospels

Session 1 Introduction to Jesus in the Synoptics

	O. T. Background: History and Theology Blomberg, Introduction Class Study Guide, 1-6
Session 2	Political and Religious Background Blomberg, Ch. 1,2
Session 3	Socioeconomic Background Blomberg, Ch. 3 Class Study Guide, 7-8
Session 4	Principles of Interpretation (Exegesis): Historical and Literary Methods Blomberg, Ch. 4,5
B. Introduction to the Gospels	
Session 5	The Gospel of Mark The Gospel of Matthew Blomberg, Ch. 6,7
Session 6	The Gospel of Luke The Gospel of John Blomberg, Ch. 8,9
Session 7	The Infancy Narratives Parallels, pp. 1-7; SQE 3-9 Class Study Guide, 4 Blomberg, Ch. 11 Class Study Guide, 9-10
Session 8	John the Baptist Parallels, 1-5, 111: SQE 1, 13-17 The Baptism of Jesus Parallels, 6, 64-65; SQE 18 The Temptation (Testing) Parallels, 8; SQE 20 Blomberg, Ch. 12
Session 9	The Galilean Ministry: Call to Discipleship and Early Preaching Parallels, 9, 11, 53, 58; 12-17, 45-51; SQE 30-42, 44 Blomberg, Ch. 13 Class Study Guide: Jesus' Concept of Kingdom of God, 16-17
Session 10	The Galilean Ministry: Growing Opposition Parallels, 52-54, 69-70; SQE 43-47 Blomberg, Ch. 13
Session 11	The Galilean Ministry: Feeding and Withdrawal Parallels, 112 & 118, 120-121, 139-140; SQE 145-146, 153, 155-156 Blomberg, Ch. 14

Session 12	<p>The Confession at Caesarea Philippi and Passion Predictions Parallels, 122, 123, 127, 192; SQE 158-160, 164, 262-263 Class Study Guide: Christology, 11-12</p> <p>The Transfiguration Parallels, 124-125; SQE 161-162 Blomberg, Ch. 14, pp. 278-283</p>
Session 13	<p>The Parables: Significance and Purpose Parallels, 90-94, 99; SQE 122-125, 130 Course Study Guide: Parables, 26-27 Blomberg, Ch. 14, pp. 257-267</p>
Session 14	<p>The Parables: The Kingdom: Gift, Newness, Inevitability, Nearness Parallels, 190, 181, 97, 98, 95, 156, 195, 222; SQE 256, 232, 128, 129, 126, 199-200, 266</p>
Session 15	<p>The Parables: The Kingdom-Inclusiveness and Value Parallels, 203-205, 172-173, 185, 186, 147, 101; SQE 276-278, 219-221, 236-237, 186, 132</p>
Session 16	<p>The Parables: The Kingdom-Cost, Challenge, Climax Parallels, 171, 143-144, 136, 174, 177, 227-229, 96, 100, 102; SQE 217, 182-183, 173, 222, 228, 298-300, 127, 131, 133</p>
Session 17	Midterm Exam
Session 18	<p>The Sermon on the Mount: The Eschatological Ethic Parallels, 18-27; SQE 50-59 Blomberg, Ch. 13, pp. 247-255 Course Study Guide: The Beatitudes; Matthew 5:17-18, pp. 20-23 : Ethics of Kingdom; Matthew - Sermon on Mount, pp. 24-25</p>
Session 19	<p>The Sermon on the Mount: The Application Parallels, 28-39, SQE 60-71 The Sermon on the Mount: The Consequences Parallels, 40-44; SQE 72-76</p>
Session 20	<p>The Miracles: Nature, Cosmic Parallels, 105, 113, (cf. 112, 199); SQE 136, 147 (ct. 146, 272) Blomberg, Ch. 14, p. 267ff</p>
Session 21	<p>The Miracles: Exorcisms, Healings, Resuscitations Parallels, 12, 13, 45, 52, 57, 70, 106, 116-117, 121, 126, 182, 193, 163, 168, 80, 107; SQE, 36, 37, 42, 43, 47, 92, 137, 151-152, 156, 208, 233, 264, 86, 138</p>
Session 22	<p>The Journey to Jerusalem Parallels, 187-198; SQE 251-271 Blomberg, Ch. 15</p>
Session 23	<p>The Jerusalem Ministry: Cursing, Cleansing, Conflict Parallels, 200, 202, 206, 207, 208, 210 SQE 273, 276, 208-284</p>

Blomberg, Ch. 16

- Session 24 The Jerusalem Ministry: Apocalypse and Judgment
Parallels, 213-223; SQE 287-294
Blomberg, Ch. 16, pp. 322-324
Course Study Guide: Synoptic Gospels - Future Eschatology, 18-19
- Session 25 The Passion Narrative: Conspiracy and Last Supper
Parallels, 231-237; SQE 305-316
Blomberg, Ch. 17
- Session 26 The Passion Narrative: Arrest and Trial
Parallels, 238-247; SQE 330-342
- Session 27 The Passion Narrative: Crucifixion
Parallels, 248-250; SQE 343-348
Class Study Guide: Soteriology, 14-15
- Session 28 The Resurrection Narrative: Burial and Empty Tomb
Parallels, 251, 252, A 1; 253; SQE 350-354
Course Supplement Sheet 7
Class Study Guide: Major Theology Positions Concerning the Resurrection, 28-29
- The Resurrection Narrative: Appearances
Parallels, A 2, B, C (pp. 189-191)
SQE 355-356, 363-365; Connick, pp. 404-413
Blomberg, Ch. 18
- Session 29 The Historical Jesus and the Risen Christ
Course Supplement Sheet 6
Blomberg, Ch. 10, 18
- Session 30 The Theology of Jesus
Blomberg, Ch. 19

VII. ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

**ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MISSIONS**

GBIB 556
Course #

Jesus & the Synoptic Gospels (Eng.)
Title of Course

Dr. Mansfield
Instructor

MISSION

The lifestyle at ORU is rooted in the word “Wholeness.” ORU seeks to educate the whole person, with balanced emphasis placed on the development of the mind, spirit, and body.

GENERAL OUTCOMES

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Spiritual Development | 6. Valuing in Decision-making |
| 2. Physical Development | 7. Social Interaction |
| 3. Communication | 8. Global Perspectives |
| 4. Analysis | 9. Effective Citizenship |
| 5. Problem | 10. Aesthetic Responsiveness |

MAJOR OUTCOMES

Spiritual formation/leadership:

Demonstrates Spirit-filled, biblically-theologically competent and historically informed church leadership.

Critical thinking/analysis/problem solving:

Understands and applies biblical/theological principles in the practice of ministry.

Communication/social interaction/global perspective:

Demonstrates the ability to communicate the Gospel in diverse social/cultural texts.

Value/ethics/decision-making:

Integrates Judeo-Christian values and ethics in personal life and ministry.

COURSE OUTCOMES

Understand the person (identity), teaching (ethics), and mission (soteriology) of Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels; comprehend each evangelist’s unique portrayal of Jesus; become aware of the historical, religious and sociological context in which Jesus lived; apply sound exegetical methods to pericopes for insightful interpretation of the Gospels; apply understanding of Jesus to the contemporary world, church, and individual.

ASSESSMENT OF COURSE OUTCOMES

Stimuli:

Theological Book Review

Mid-Term Examination

Final Examination

Criteria

Theological Book Review	30%
Mid-Term Examination	30%
Final Examination	40%