

Syllabus for
BIB 362—Jesus and the Gospels
3.0 Credit Hours
Fall 2019

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, as presented in the Gospels and early Christian literature.

Prerequisites: BIB 261, 306, THE 217 or permission from the professor.

II. COURSE GOALS

This course is designed to enable the student to do the following:

- A. Study and understand the biblical account of the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.
- B. Use basic tools for gospel studies.
- C. Learn the major academic issues in Gospel studies.
- D. Promote spiritual ecumenicity.
ORU exists to serve the whole Body of Christ, worldwide. It is not concerned with changing the church allegiance of its students; rather, it seeks to bring all students into a more personal, vital relationship with Christ, to assist them in receiving Christ as their personal Savior, to acquaint them more fully with the charismatic power of the Holy Spirit, to encourage them to release their prayer language of the Spirit (private devotional tongues with interpretation), and to acquaint them with the operation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit through their personal witness for Christ. ORU also seeks to give them a clearer understanding of the unlimited Christ and the principles of IN THE NOW Christian living and to send them back to their own church as more committed and understanding disciples of Jesus Christ, our Lord. (ORU Catalog 1995-97, p27)
- E. Provide opportunities for spiritual discipleship, growth, and accountability.
Only those who wish to love the Lord with all their heart, soul, strength, and mind should take this course. Spiritual growth is work. "And he answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with an your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.'" Jesus said, "You have answered well; do this and you will live." (Luke 10:27-28)

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. List the major events of Christ's life in chronological order.
- B. Identify the main characters who appear in the Gospel narratives.
- C. Identify the places where significant events happened either by:

1. Listing the name in answer to a given event.
 2. Locating the place on a map.
- D. Enumerate and explain the teaching methods of Jesus.
- E. Discuss the crucial issues concerning the miracles of Jesus.
- F. Explain the major themes in the teachings of Jesus, such as God, the Kingdom of God, man, sin, the Law, etc.
- G. Explain Jesus' conflict with the Pharisees.
- H. Discuss in some detail the historical-cultural-religious milieu into which Jesus was born.
- I. Discuss the birth of Jesus and related events.
- J. Present the significance of the death of Jesus (including the trial and related events).
- K. Discuss the significance of the resurrection of Jesus.
- L. Note the distinctive contributions of each gospel writer.
- M. Describe the synoptic problem and explain the strengths and weaknesses of various solutions.
- N. Develop a strong devotional, spiritual relationship with the Gospels and the Lord.

IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

- A. Required Materials
1. Textbooks

Aland, K. *Synopsis of the Four Gospels*. New York, UBS, 1983. Green, J., McKnight, S., Marshall, I. H. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. Downer's Grove, IL, IVP, 1992 ISBN 978-0-8308-2456-4.

Shelton, J. *Jesus and Gospels: Study Guide*. ORU, Tulsa, OK.

Strauss, Mark. *Four Portraits one Jesus*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2007 ISBN 9780310226970
 2. Other Required Materials – None
- B. Optional Materials
1. Textbooks

Aland, K. *Synopsis of the Four Gospels*. (Greek-English) New York, UBS, 1993. ISBN 9783438054050

Stein, R. *The Method and Message of the Teachings of Jesus*. Louisville, KY: Westminster, 1994. ISBN 9780310226970

Green, J. et al. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels* Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP, 2013. ISBN 978-0830824564.
 2. Other Optional Materials - None
- C. Materials for the Extra Credit Assignment
- Textbooks

Stein, Robert H. *Studying the Synoptic Gospels*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker, 1994.
ISBN 97808010226970

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is essential at Oral Roberts University. The professor often imparts information in the class that is not covered in the reading. The Lectures add information and not merely parrot the text books. Questions and discussions help synthesize information and address higher levels of learning such as evaluation and living out the message of Jesus. 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, electronic 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.
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 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.
 - c. The professor may require a physical copy be submitted as well as an electronic one.

B. Department Policies and Procedures

Note: Attendance policy is enforced. Excessive absences affect the student's grade. See syllabus attendance policy.

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Attendance
 - 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.

C. Course Policies & Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures

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| a. | Weekly reading quizzes | 15% |
| b. | Synopsis coding assignments | 10% |
| c. | Devotional exercises or term paper | 25% |
| d. | Midterm | 25% |
| e. | Final exam | 25% |
| f. | Book critique (optional) | 10% |
| g. | Scripture memory (optional) | 04% |

D. Course Requirements

- 1. A midterm and final exam will be given during the semester covering the lectures and reading materials. Dates and venue to be announced.
- 2. The student will be expected to discuss intelligently in class the content and significance of the four gospels.
- 3. Late penalty on written assignments: ½ letter grade per day.
- 4. Reading quizzes: At the end of every week a quiz will be taken on the assigned Strauss readings and a reading affidavit will be submitted on the other readings. (The lowest grade will be dropped)
- 5. Writing exercise options: There is **a ten-typed page minimum of quality work**. Use the following **subheadings** in your analysis of an assigned Bible Study passage.

- (a) Christ in my eyes. Who was there? What happened? Note the significance of the context. This should be a verse-by-verse analysis of the passage. **Consult approved commentaries for insights. This should be the largest part of the exercise**
- (b) Christ in my heart. What does the Holy Spirit intend for you to learn from the passage? How do the questions relate to you?
- (c) Christ in my hands. What is your living answer to the questions? What will you do to live out the lesson? Be specific. Also say when you will do it. (Clearly label each day's response)

OR

- (2.) Paper
- (a) The student will present a double-spaced typed report with appropriate style sheet and documentation on a Gospel pericope or alternative assignments as listed below. These should briefly recount what happened including the references to the event in all of the gospels. He should note any significant differences in the various gospels' accounts and, if possible, detect the motives for the evangelists including this account in their work. The significance(s) of the event in the ministry of Jesus should be identified. Pay special attention to redactional issues. Next give a verse-by-verse explanation of the passage using good resources and sound hermeneutical principles. Note practical and spiritual applications where appropriate.
- (b) Procedures
- i) Look at the passages on your own. Use your Synopsis.
 - ii) Note context. Compare and contrast the Parallels.
 - iii) Consult commentaries, bible dictionaries, and historical resources.
 - iv) Students with Greek should employ lexicons, grammars, and other helps.
 - v) Appropriate documentation should appear in your work.
 - vi) This section should consist primarily of a verse-by-verse- analysis of the target passage. Do not use the topic format presented in the Hermeneutics course.
 - vii) Late papers will be penalized a letter grade per day. No papers will be accepted after the third day. This policy will only be set aside because of drastic extended medical emergencies or by request by the University administration.
- (c) Paper Topics
- i) Pick one of the following sets of passages. Analyze the texts. Compare and contrast the synoptic accounts. Pay particular attention to redactional motives. Identify the significance of the event in each gospel. Comment on the content of the passage using all tools available and apply the passage to your life. **(Ten pages minimum of quality work)**
 - a) The Birth of Jesus—Matt. 2:1-12; Luke 2:1-20
 - b) The Baptism of Jesus—Matt. 3:13-

- 17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22
- c) Jesus and the Temptation Matt. 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13
- d) The Beginning of Jesus' Public Ministry Matt. 4:12-17; Mark 1:14-15; Luke 4:14-21
- e) The Triumphal Entry--Matt. 21:1-9; Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:28-40
- f) A passage of your choice approved by the professor. (Note: "Jesus wept." is too short of a passage, though it speaks volumes.)

OR

- ii) Write an exposition on each of the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12). Note any Lucan parallels and their significance. Note how the characteristic ("poor in spirit," mourn, etc.) is described elsewhere in the Bible. Use all tools available and apply the passage to your life.

OR

- iii) Write an exposition on the Preexistence and Incarnation of Jesus (John 1:1-14; Phil. 2:4-11 and related passages). Analyze the texts and pay special attention to the significance of the incarnation, and its effects on cosmology, soteriology and the divine-human nature of Jesus Christ.

Note: All of the above exercises should be at least six pages of quality work for an average grade.

OR

- iv) Write a report on and assessment of R. Stein's The Method and Message of the Teaching of Jesus. Make applications to your life. Minimum 15 pages for this book report. Book reviews should also be consulted.

- d. An optional 10-page typed book critique may be done by the student. Consult professor for approved titles.
- e. A final examination covering the most salient point of the life and teachings of Christ will be given at the assigned time. It will be comprehensive essay questions and listing of salient issues will be included. The following events will be summarized noting their significance (a detailed synoptic comparison would be too lengthy):
 - (1) The Death of Jesus
 - (2) Resurrection of Jesus
 - (3) Ascension of Jesus
 Finally the student will be asked to analyze selected scripture passages.

3. Whole Person Assessment Requirements – None

VII. COURSE CALENDAR

A. Readings

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>SHELTON</u>	<u>STRAUSS</u>	<u>NT READING</u>	<u>GREEN (Rec)</u>	<u>TOPICS</u>
1	11-17	1		Gospel	Source Criticism
2	80-81	2		Synoptic Problem	Form Criticism
3	18-20; 38-39; 51-54; 64-69	3,11	Matt. 1-3; Mark 1:10	Form Criticism	Redaction Criticism
4	70-73	12, 4	Luke 1-3; John 1:1-38	Redaction Criticism	Sources and backgrounds
5	21-22; 55-56; 88-90; 85	5-6	Phil.2:5-11; Isaiah 42:8	Gospels: Historical Reliability, Mark	Origin and Nature
6	86-87; 22-24; 56	7-8	Matt. 4; Mark 1:11-45	Matthew, Luke	Beginnings
7	40-42; 56-58	9-10	Mark 2-10	John, Birth of Jesus	
8	25-42-23; 61; 67-68	13	John 2-13; Luke 5-9	Baptism, Temptation	Healing
9	25-30 46-47; 61-62	14	Matt. 4-20	Healings, Miracles	Teaching
10	30-32; 43-45	15	Luke 9-19:27	Teacher	
11	47-48	16	Luke 19:27-22:38; 14:31; Matt. 21-26:35	Passion Narrative	Confrontation in Jerusalem
12	32-33; 48	17	Matt. 26:36-28:20	Death of Jesus	Arrest
13	49	18	Mark 14:32-16:13; Luke 22:39-24:35	Resurrection	The Cross

14	33-34; 49-50; 62	19	John 18-21	Eschatology	He Is Risen
15	62-63	20	Luke 24:36-52; Acts 1-2; Mark 16:14-20		"I Am with You Always"

The professor reserves the right to adjust lecture schedule as material and interests of students warrants. The Synopsis of Four Gospels and texts will be referred to throughout the course.

B. Lectures and Scripture Memory

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>LECTURES/DISCUSSIONS</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE MEMORY</u>	<u>(OPTIONAL)</u>
1	Background	Galatians 4:4	
2	Witnesses; Synoptic Problem	Acts 10:34-35	
3	Form and Redaction Criticism	II Peter 1:16	
4	Quest for Historical Jesus	John 1:1-3, 14	
5	Preexistence; Luke 1:35 Infancy Narratives and Mary	Matthew 1:21-22	
6	Nature of Jesus; John the Baptist	Acts 19:4-6	
7	Inauguration of Jesus' Ministry	Acts 10:36-38	
8	Jesus the Healer: Miracles?!	Matthew 5:2-6	
9	Jesus the Teacher	Matthew 5:7-12	
10	Toward Jerusalem	Matthew 6:9-15	
11	Final Week; Lord's Supper	John 6:53-56	
12	Arrest and Trial	Isaiah 53:4-6	
13	Significance of Death of Jesus	I Peter 3:18	
14	Resurrection!	I Corinthians 15:3-6, 14	
15	Ascension; Second Coming	I Thessalonians 4:16-18	

Course Inventory for ORU's Student Learning Outcomes