

Syllabus for
GEN-365
Introduction to the Parables of Jesus
 3.0 Credit Hours
 Spring 2022

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A specialized course of research and development of knowledge and skills in the parables of Jesus with applications to the contemporary world.

This course examines the genre of parable in the ancient world. It also describes the parabolic method of Jesus. The class will examine the meaning of the parables for the original hearers in their ancient Near Eastern culture, which was, in effect, a developing nation or “third world” culture. His parables demand 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. In addition to viewing all the parables of Jesus, the students will learn to affirm, redeem, confront and correct contemporary issues and world-views.

Prerequisites: BLIT 1222 or BIB 261

II. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

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

- A. Understand and assess the major schools of interpretation for parables.
- B. Learn to use significant tools and resources for interpretation of the parables of Jesus.
- C. Identify the meanings of the parables.
- D. Understand the messages of Jesus’ parables and apply them to contemporary, local, global situations, and one’s personal life.
- E. Assess the values of Jesus and critique twenty-first century axiologies.
- F. Adjust the contemporary, “first world” values to conform to the first century, Near Eastern Jesus.
- G. Apply the message of the parables of Jesus to one’s personal life and to global concerns.

IV. ASSOCIATED PROGRAMS

This course meets degree completion requirements for the following program.

- A. Biblical Literature

- a. Outcome 1 Use critical thinking and writing skills in the exegetical field of biblical studies.
 - b. Outcome 2 Apply working knowledge of appropriate hermeneutical and language skills to biblical studies.
 - c. Outcome 3 Demonstrate an understanding of Christian theology and life application in the global Christian community.
- B. General Education
- a. GEN 14A: Biblical Literacy.
 - b. GEN 1B7: Spiritual Formation.
 - c. GEN 2A4: Critical Thinking.
 - d. GEN 2B6: Historical and Global Perspectives.
 - e. GEN 4B4: Intercultural Engagement.
 - f. GEN 4C3: Written and Oral Communication
 - g. GEN 4C4: Correct Mechanics and Grammar

V. UNIVERSITY OUTCOMES

This course aligns with the following University Outcomes as indicated on the last page

- A. Spiritual Integrity
- B. Personal Resilience
- C. Intellectual Pursuit
- D. Global Engagement
- E. Bold Vision

IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

A. Required Materials

1. Textbooks

Aland, Kurt, ed. *Synopsis of the Four Gospels*. New York: UBS, 2004. 9781585169429

Bailey, Kenneth, *Jesus Through Middle-Eastern Eyes: Cultural Studies in the Gospels*. Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP, 2008. 978-0-8308-2568-4

Snodgrass, Klyne R. *Stories with Intent: A Comprehensive Guide to the Parables of Jesus*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2018. (Tenth Anniversary Edition) 978-0802875693

Bible. Translation of student's choice

2. Other

None

B. Recommended Materials: None

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. Department Policies and Procedures

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.
 - 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 or the last day of final examinations. **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. Self-Plagiarism Policy
- Students cannot reuse part or all of an assignment from another course without written permission from the current instructor/faculty member.

This is considered self-plagiarism and therefore goes against ORU's policies against plagiarism.

B. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures

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|---------------------------------|-----|
| a. Reading Reports/Outlines | 15% |
| b. Discussion Participation | 07% |
| c. Parable Studies Documents | 35% |
| d. <i>Lectio Divina</i> Reports | 06% |
| e. Mid-Term Examination | 17% |
| f. Final Examination | 20% |

ePortfolio Requirements: None

2. Whole Person Assessment Requirements – *Lectio Divina* report.

- a. To complete the Whole Person Assessment segment of the course, the student must also submit an electronic copy of the *Lectio Divina* report in the D2L WPA dropbox.
- b. Artifacts not submitted electronically or incorrectly receive a zero for the assignment.

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

**Introduction to the Parables
of Jesus
Reading Schedule**

Wk	Bailey Chs.	Snodgrass Pages	Scripture Pericope Synopsis	Study Topics
1	Intro.	1-17	Jdg 9.1-21, 56-57	Introduction
2	21,32		#173,114	Old Test. Gospel themes.
3	24	17-31	#122-24	The Sower Mt 13:1-9; Mk 4:1-9; Lk 8: 4-8*
4	25	31-46	#126,127,128	Old Test.
5	14	46-59	#129, 132,256	Wheat and Tares Mt 13: 24-30*
6	20		# 277-79	Matthean Parables
7	22		#75, 133,297	Matthean Parables
8	31		#298-300, 133	Matthean Parables
9	23, 26		#182-3,207,217	Good Samaritan Lk 10:25-37*
10	30		#200,222-3,228	Lukan Parables
11	19		#186,236-7	Lukan Parables
12	27		#219-221	The Prodigal Son Lk 15: 11-32*
13	29		#279	Lukan Parables
14				
15				Application and Review
Final Examination				Student's choice of Parable Study*

Passages with an asterisk (*) will be the subject of a Bible Study.

refers to pericope numbers in the Synopsis of the Four Gospels

Primary Program: Biblical Literature
GEN 365 Introduction to the Parables of Jesus
Spring 2022

This course contributes to the University and program 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.

OUTCOMES	Significant	Moderate	Minimal
Spiritual Integrity			
GEN 365- Outcome D: Understand the messages of Jesus' parables and apply them to contemporary, local, global situations, and one's personal life.	X		
Biblical Literature Program – Outcome 3: Demonstrate an understanding of Christian theology and life application in the global Christian community.	X		

Personal Resilience			
GEN 365- Outcome D: Understand the messages of Jesus' parables and apply them to contemporary, local, global situations, and one's personal life.		X	
GEN 365 – Outcome E: Assess the values of Jesus and critique twenty-first century axiologies		X	
Biblical Literature Program – Outcome 2: Apply working knowledge of appropriate hermeneutical and language skills to biblical studies.		X	

Intellectual Pursuit			
GEN 365 – Outcome A: Understand and assess the major schools of interpretation for parables.	X		
GEN 365 – Outcome B: Learn to use significant tools and resources for interpretation of the parables of Jesus.	X		
GEN 365 – Outcome C: Identify and apply the meanings of the parables	X		
Biblical Literature Program – Outcome 1: Use critical thinking and writing skills in the exegetical field of biblical studies.	X		

Global Engagement			
GEN 365 – Outcome D: Understand the messages of Jesus' parables and apply them to contemporary, local, and global situations.		X	
GEN 365 – Outcome F: Adjust the contemporary, “first world” values to conform to the first century, Near Eastern Jesus.		X	
Biblical Literature Program – Outcome 3: Demonstrate an understanding of Christian theology and life application in the global Christian community.		X	

Bold Vision			
GEN 365- Outcome E: Assess the values of Jesus and critique twenty-first century axiologies.		X	
GEN 365 – Outcome F: Adjust the contemporary, “first world” values to conform to the first century, Near Eastern Jesus.			X
Biblical Literature Program – Outcome 3: Demonstrate an understanding of Christian theology and life application in the global Christian community.		X	