

SCR 154/154i Synoptic Gospels

Winter Term - 2018-2019 Academic Year

Initial Course Outline

Class Start Date & End Date

On-campus section:

First day of class: Wednesday 9th January 2019

Reading Break: 18-22 February 2019

Last day of class: Wednesday 3rd April 2019

Online section:

Course starts: Thursday 3rd January 2019

Reading Break: 18-22 February 2019

Course ends: Friday 12th April 2019

Class Meeting Time, Location, and Room

On-campus section will meet on Wednesdays, 8.30 to 11.20 am, St Francis Room.

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Course Description

This course focuses on the Canonical Gospels of the Synoptic tradition. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke are introduced, with particular attention given to their structure, their specific characteristics and historical circumstances, as well as their presentation of Jesus the Christ and their teaching on Christian discipleship. This course also includes a seminar, during which students will investigate, at a level pertinent to their program of study, questions arising from a consideration of the interrelationship between the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke.

Prerequisite: SCR 100 Introduction to Sacred Scripture and their Interpretation.

Course Objectives

This undergraduate level course (C.Th.; Dip.Th.; B.Th.) aims to introduce students to the study of the biblical text through an apprenticeship of the critical and analytical skills necessary for the study of Scriptures, in the present case the material traditionally known as the Synoptic Gospels.

The course will focus in particular on the history, genre, themes and theology encountered in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. The course is text-based, and therefore a *significant* amount of time should be spent reading and digesting the primary sources.

Academic Learning Outcomes:

In terms of intended learning outcomes, by the end of the course each student should be able to demonstrate:

- An acquaintance with the Good News as proclaimed in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, and the methods and tools pertaining to its interpretation with the mind of the Church.
- An understanding of the issues raised in these canonical Gospels and their relation to the entirety of Sacred Scripture.
- An ability to engage critically and analytically with textual, historical and theological issues raised by the material.
- An ability to communicate in a sophisticated manner, both orally and in writing, the results of their research and enquiries.
- An ability to develop further the skills already developed in earlier scripture courses in the programme.
- An ability to apply further their knowledge and understanding of these ancient texts to the Church today.

Human and spiritual outcomes:

By the end of the course each student should be able to identify areas and articulate ways in which the course has contributed to their overall human and spiritual development, possibly including and likely not limited to the following:

- A contemplative, spiritual, liturgical formation that will gain an additional dimension resulting from a greater acquaintance with Sacred Scripture.
- A greater awareness of their human maturing in light of their self-immersion in the text of Scripture.
- An ability to identify ways in which the course has contributed to equip them to embrace the pastoral role that will be theirs in the Church, as lay people or ordained ministers.
- An ability to identify ways in which the course content has nurtured a self-awareness of their role in the social aspect of their chosen ministries.

Course Assignments and Evaluation

The *2018-2019 NTC Academic Calendar*, stipulates that in order to obtain credit for an under graduate course, a student must have completed all prescribed course requirements by the end of the given semester or session period. Generally this entails the following:

All graduate courses, including Intersession and Summer Session courses, shall require the following:

- One 10-12 page research paper OR the equivalent in the form of student presentations, book reports and/or short reflection papers. The total amount of written work including exams cannot exceed 25 pages.
- One final examination OR two term examinations. The final examination may be oral, written in class or 'take-home'. Oral exam should be 10 minutes in length.

Written material submitted for assessment *in this course* will amount to **25 pages** and may include such assignments as book reviews, exegetical papers, and reflection papers.

All students	Two exegetical papers: (five pages each) First one from Mark; second one from Matthew or Luke).	Total Pages:
	Contributions to weekly online Forum discussions (one page each)	10
	One Take-Home exam: (five pages).	10
		5
		Total = 25

Final Grade calculation:

Exegetical papers (40%) + Forum discussions (40%) + Take-Home exam (20%)

Textbooks

Benedict XVI, *Jesus of Nazareth: From the Baptism in the Jordan to the Transfiguration* (Doubleday: 2007)

Benedict XVI, *Jesus of Nazareth: Holy Week. From the Entrance into Jerusalem to the Resurrection* (Ignatius Press: 2011).

M. Healy, *The Gospel of Mark* (Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture; Baker Academic: 2008)

Recommended books:

K. Aland (ed.), *Synopsis of the Four Gospels: Completely Revised on the Basis of the Greek Text of the Nestle-Aland* (26th ed.; United Bible Societies; 1982).¹

C. Mitch and E. Sri, *The Gospel of Matthew* (Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture; Baker Academic: 2010)

P. Gadenz, *The Gospel of Luke* (Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture; Baker Academic: 2018)

Recommended Reading

R. Bauckham, *Jesus and the Eyewitnesses – The Gospels as Eyewitness Testimony* (Eerdmans: 2017)

Benedict XVI, *Jesus of Nazareth – The Infancy Narratives* (Libreria Editrice Vaticana: 2012).

Benedict XVI – Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Verbum Domini* (Libreria Editrice Vaticana: 2010).

R. E. Brown, *An Introduction to the New Testament* (Doubleday: 1997).

R. E. Brown et. al. *The New Jerome Biblical Commentary* (Prentice Hall: 1990).

Pontifical Biblical Commission, *The Jewish People and Their Sacred Scriptures in the Christian Bible* (Libreria Editrice Vaticana: 2002).

Pontifical Biblical Commission, *The Inspiration and truth of Sacred Scripture* (Liturgical Press: 2014)

International Theological Commission – *Theology Today: Perspectives, Principles and Criteria* (2011).²

M. Goodacre, *The Case against Q* (Trinity Press International: 2002).

M. Goodacre, *The Synoptic Problem - A Way Through the Maze* (Continuum: 2001).³

In addition you are encouraged to consult the following for your exegetical work:

- Modern commentaries:

As well as the mandated *Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture* series commentaries, students will have to consult the relevant commentaries in the *Sacra Pagina* series. These will be on three-hour loan at the NTC library circulation desk.

¹ Or any other Synopsis of the Gospels.

² See http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/cti_documents/rc_cti_doc_20111129_teologia-oggi_en.html

³ Free download available here: <https://archive.org/details/synopticproblemw00good>

• Ancient commentaries:

J.T. Leinhard, *Origen – Homilies on Luke* (The Fathers of the Church 94; CUA Press, 1996).

T.P. Scheck, *St Jerome – Commentary on Matthew* (The Fathers of the Church 117; CUA Press, 2008).

P. Schaff, *St Chrysostom – Homilies on the Gospel of St Matthew* (Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers X; Eerdmans, 1975).

A. Just, *Luke* (Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture, New Testament 3; InterVarsity Press; 2003).

J.A. Kellerman and T.C. Oden, *Incomplete Commentary on Matthew, vol. 1* (Ancient Christian Texts; InterVarsity Press, 2010)

T. Oden and C. Hall, *Mark* (Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture, New Testament 2; InterVarsity Press; 2005).

M. Simonetti, *Matthew 1-13* (Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture, New Testament 1a; InterVarsity Press; 2001).

M. Simonetti, *Matthew 14-28* (Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture, New Testament 1b; InterVarsity Press; 2002).

Course Requirements

- **Attendance and participation** to ALL sessions is expected. College policy - as expounded the *Student Handbook 2018-19* - will be implemented.
- **Class Preparation:** this must be done thoroughly and carefully.
- **Moodle Forum discussions:** In addition to the exegetical work, each student will contribute to weekly forum discussions.
- **Individual Tutorials:** Each student will attend two tutorials (30 minutes each). Tutorial 1 will be scheduled in week 4 or 5; Tutorial 2 will be scheduled in week 8 or 9. Tutorials can be online OR on-campus.

Course Schedule

The schedule may identify the major sections of the course material and the method of study where applicable. List of weekly readings and topics to be covered, key concepts to be mastered if applicable.

Tentative Course schedule:⁴

Session 1 [09 Jan.] Introduction to the course – methodological considerations

Session 2 [16 Jan.] The Baptism and Temptations of Jesus

Session 3 [23 Jan.] The Gospel of the Kingdom of God

Session 4 [30 Jan] The Sermon on the Mount; the Lord’s Prayer

Session 5 [06 Feb.] The Message of the Parables

⁴ A finalized Course Schedule will be distributed on the first day of class. The professor reserves the right to amend the present Tentative Course Schedule.

Session 6: [13 Feb.] Peter's Confession; Jesus' identity revealed

[18-22 Feb] READING WEEK

Session 7: [27 Feb.] Entrance into Jerusalem, the cleansing of the Temple; Eschatological Discourse

Session 8: [06 March] The Last Supper and Gethsemane

Session 9: [13 March] The trial, crucifixion and burial of Jesus

Session 10: [20 March] Jesus' resurrection and ascension

Session 11: [27 March] The Infancy Narratives: Matthew, Luke, and the Proto-gospel of James

Session 12: [03 April] Course conclusion

Final Exam:

The final examination will be a Take-Home exam.

General Academic Information

Late Submission Policy.

Please do not ask for extensions. Late submissions *are accepted*. There is, however, a hefty PENALTY for this service: 10% off the grade per day late, up to a maximum of five days, after which an automatic Fail grade will be allocated. This is non-negotiable, although there is room for manoeuvre in case of genuine emergency.

For Incomplete courses regulations (see *NTC Student Handbook 2018-19*).

Course Attendance

No credit will be given for a course if the student has been absent, for any reason whatever, from one-third or more of the lectures and/or seminars scheduled for the term. Likewise, no credit will be given if term assignments or other assignments are or remain incomplete.

Leave of Absence and Policy for Incompletes

Extensions to an incomplete grade may be granted in extenuating circumstances, but may not exceed 16 weeks following the end of the course. Students who fail to complete course work by the agreed deadline will have a grade assigned which is based on work completed.

Academic Integrity

Acts of academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, etc.) are subject to an appropriate penalty. The grade “F” may be assigned to a student guilty of such acts by the professor of the course in which the infraction occurred. A second offense against academic integrity renders the student liable to automatic dismissal from NTC. Further details are available in the Student Handbook in the Academic Misconduct Policy.

Academic Grievances

Students may appeal grades received; the procedure is outlined in the Student Handbook in the Grade Appeal Policy. For other grievances, students will refer to the Student Grievances Policy also outlined in the Student Handbook.

NOTE: The GPA is computed on the basis of cumulative grade point (letter) values, not percentage values. All courses are included in this calculation except those exceeding degree requirements and/or received as transfer credits from other recognized institutions.

Grading System

Undergraduate Studies C.Th., Dip.Th., B.Th.			Graduate Studies M.T.S., M.Div., M.Th., G.C.C.S.A., M.R.E.		
Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point	Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point
Excellent	A+	4.0	Excellent	A+	4.0
	A	4.0		A	4.0
	A-	3.7		A-	3.7
Good	B+	3.3	Good	B+	3.3
	B	3.0		B	3.0
	B-	2.7		B-	2.7
Adequate	C+	2.3	Adequate	C+	2.3
	C	2.0		C	2.0
	C-	1.7		C-	1.7
Marginal	D+	1.3			
	D	1.0			
Fail	F	0.0	Fail	D+	1.3
				D	1.0
				F	0.0

Written Assignments - Style and Format

Newman Theological College requires that all written work be submitted in acceptable academic format and style. Please note the following regulations:

Regulations

Research papers, book reports, article summaries, reflection papers, and essays should be double-spaced, printed on one side only, and submitted on white, 8.5" x 11" paper.

A standard type style, such as Times New Roman, with a 12-point font size, must be used. The instructor will specify the most recent edition of the style manual to be used:

1. Kate Turabian, "A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations" (Chicago: University of Chicago Press).
2. Joseph Gibaldi & William Ahters, eds., "MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers" (New York: Modern Language Association of America).
3. American Psychological Association "Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association" (Washington: APA Publications).

Copies of these standard references may be purchased in the NTC bookstore.

Ignorance of standard form is not considered an acceptable excuse for deviation from required standards of format and style.

Academic Regulations

The following Academic Regulations are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Changes in Registration: Add/Drop/Withdraw Notice
- Course Work
- Final Examination Schedule
- Incomplete Grade Policy
- Inclusive Language

Related Academic Matters

The following Related Academic Matters are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Grade Reports & Posting
- Glossary of Academic Terms

Other Related Policies

The following policies are located in the Student Handbook for your reference:

- Academic Misconduct Policy
- Grade Appeal Policy

Recording of Lectures

Audio or video recording of lectures, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior consent of the instructor. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Student Accessibility Services:

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already

registered with Student Services, contact Doreen Bloos at 780-392-2450 ext. 2212; Email doreen.bloos@newman.edu .

Bibliography

Gospel of Mark

- R.A. Guelich and C.A. Evans, *Mark* (WBC 34A; Word Books, 1989)
 R.A. Guelich and C.A. Evans, *Mark* (WBC 34B; Word Books, 2001).
 R.H. Gundry, *Mark. A Commentary on His Apology for the Cross* (Eerdmans, 1993).
 M.D. Hooker, *The Gospel According to Saint Mark* (BNTC; Hendrickson, 1991).
 B.M.F. van Iersel, *Mark. A Reader-Response Commentary* (JSNTS 164; Sheffield Academic Press, 1998);
 D.E. Nineham, *Saint Mark* (PNTC 7/6; Penguin Books, 1963).
 V.Taylor, *The Gospel According to St. Mark. The Greek Text with Introduction, Notes and Indexes* (Macmillan, 1966)

Gospel of Matthew

- W.D. Davies – D. C. Allison, *The Gospel According to Saint Matthew. A Critical and Exegetical Commentary* (ICC; Clark, 1988, 1991, 1997) I-III
 R.H. Gundry, *Matthew. A Commentary on His Handbook for a Mixed Church under Persecution* (Eerdmans, 1994).
 D.A. Hagner, *Matthew vol. 1* (WBC 33A; Word Books, 1993); *Matthew vol. 2* (WBC 33B; Word Books, 1995).
 U. Luz, *Matthew 1-7. A Commentary* (Hermeneia; Fortress Press, 1989)
 U. Luz, *Matthew 8-20. A Commentary* (Hermeneia; Fortress Press, 2001)
 U. Luz, *Matthew 21-28. A Commentary* (Hermeneia; Fortress Press, 2005)

Gospel of Luke

- D.L. Bock, *Luke vol. 1* (Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament; Baker, 1994)
 D.L. Bock, *Luke vol. 2* (Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament; Baker, 1996)
 F. Bovon, *Luke 1. A Commentary on the Gospel of Luke 1:1–9:50* (Hermeneia; Fortress Press, 2002)
 J.A. Fitzmyer, *The Gospel According to Luke* (AB 28; Doubleday, 1970)
 J.A. Fitzmyer, *The Gospel according to Luke* (AB 28A; Doubleday, 1985)
 J.B. Green, *The Gospel of Luke* (NICNT; Eerdmans, 1997)
 I.H. Marshall, *The Gospel of Luke* (Paternoster, 1978)
 J. Nolland, *Luke* (WBC 35A; Word Books, 1989)
 J. Nolland, *Luke* (WBC 35B; Word Books, 1993)
 R.C. Tannehill, *Luke* (ANTC; Abingdon, 1996)
 C.M. Tuckett, *Luke* (New Testament Guides; Sheffield Academic Press, 1996)

Synoptic Problem

- J.W. Deardorff, *The Problems of New Testament Gospel Origins* (Mellen, 1992)
 D.L. Dungan, *A History of the Synoptic Problem* (ABRL; Doubleday, 1998)
 D.L. Dungan (ed.), *The Interrelations of the Gospels* (BETHL 95; Peeters, 1990)
 W.R. Farmer, *The Synoptic Problem. A Critical Analysis* (Western North Carolina Press, 1976)
 M. Goodacre, *The Synoptic Problem. A Way through the Maze* (BiSe 80; Sheffield Academic Press, 2001)
 S.E. Johnson, *The Griesbach Hypothesis and Redaction Criticism* (SBLMS 41; Scholars Press, 1991)
 F. Neiryck, *The Minor Agreements of Matthew and Luke against Mark* (Duculot, 1974)
 D.J. Neville, *Arguments from Order in Synoptic Source Criticism* (Mercer, 1994)

- B. Orchard and H. Riley, *The Order of the Synoptics. Why Three Synoptic Gospels?* (Mercer, 1987)
H. Riley, *The Making of Mark* (Mercer, 1989)
R.H. Stein, *The Synoptic Problem. An Introduction* (Baker, 1987)
H.-H. Stoldt, *History and Criticism of the Markan Hypothesis* (Mercer University, 1980)
B.H. Streeter, *The Four Gospels. A Study of Origins, Sources, Authorship & Dates* (Macmillan, 1925)
V. Taylor, *The Formation of the Gospel Tradition* (Macmillan, 1953)
G. Theißen, *The Gospels in Context. Social and Political History in the Synoptic Tradition* (Clark, 1992)
C.M. Tuckett, *The Revival of the Griesbach Hypothesis* (MSSNTS 44; Cambridge University Press, 1982)
J. Wenham, *Redating Matthew, Mark & Luke* (InterVarsity Press, 1992)

Gospel Synopsis

You will need to consult a synopsis of the Gospels, so the following is also on short term loan in the library:

- K. Aland. *Synopsis of the Four Gospels* (New York: American Bible Society; 1982).