

Jesus & the Gospels

(BENT-3110) Fall, 2007

Professor: Dr. Chris Miller
Office Hours: Mon - Fri, 2:00–4:00 by appointment

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DEPARTMENT MISSION

Bible Minor Mission: We exist to equip every Cedarville University student with Biblical knowledge, a theological framework, and skills for a lifetime of continuing study; to encourage students to embrace a process of spiritual formation characterized by intentional growth within the context of a Christian community; and to equip students to engage the world in a culturally sensitive, Christ-like manner.

Bible Major Mission: We also exist to equip Bible Department majors for ministry or graduate studies by further *deepening their biblical, theological and philosophical knowledge*, developing a theoretical framework for life and ministry, and sharpening their ministry skills.

Objectives 1. Knows the facts, theories and languages that are necessary for entrance into graduate/seminary programs, and evaluates scholarly materials from a Biblical worldview (all majors).

1A Course Purpose

The purpose of this course is to equip the student to think critically through the cultural context and message of the Gospels and also to compare this with the chronological flow of the life of Jesus on earth. Hopefully this will contribute to a fuller understanding of the Gospels and of Jesus and his ministry so that each student will become a more faithful worshiper and disciple of Jesus.

2A Course Objectives

1B Recall and interact with the historical backdrop and culture of the Gospels in the first century.

2B Identify the introductory material, content and unique message of each Gospel (e.g., who wrote it, when, where, why, to accomplish what purpose in the lives of its readers).

3B Describe and explain the life of Christ, with an understanding of the movements of Jesus geographically, strategically and spiritually. Also describe the primary teachings and practices of Jesus.

4B Recognize and evaluate the various critical methods that scholars use to study the Gospels.

5B Become a committed disciple of Jesus.

3A Textbooks

Required

Bock, D. L. *Studying the Historical Jesus: A Guide to Sources and Methods*, Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002.

Set of Class notes

Suggested

Green, J. B., S. McKnight, and I. H. Marshall, eds. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*, Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1992.

4A Course Requirements and Evaluation

1B *Quizzes:* will be given over the previous day's homework assignment. These simply provide a little extra motivation to be prepared for class.

2B *Homework questions:* At various times throughout the quarter, homework assignments will be assigned that encourage interaction with material outside of class in order to facilitate better class discussion.

3B *Research projects:* One major research group project and presentation will be made at the end of the semester over one of the following topics:

1. Possession of the Temple, Monday–Wednesday: The events, the significance, the teaching
2. Passover: The event, the significance, the “transformation” and new teaching
3. The Trials of Jesus: The events, illegalities, and the significance
4. The crucifixion of Jesus: The event, the sayings and the significance
5. The burial & resurrection: The events, the defense, and the significance
6. The post-resurrection appearances of Jesus: The events, the teaching and significance.

Description: 25 minute class presentation with additional time for questions, including a Powerpoint file & class handouts. Thorough research should be done and a bibliography of sources consulted and utilized. You will become the experts in your topic so that you can adequately summarize and explain all the relevant information and significance to the class, as well as be a resource for further questions. A grading rubric will be handed out later in the course before the groups are formed.

Each presentation should begin with an introduction that includes the thesis statement, i.e. the statement that gives your answer to the problem you are addressing or question you are posing, and an overview of the presentation.

4B

Scoring:

| | | | |
|----|---|------------|----|
| 1. | Exams (3) | 15pts each | 45 |
| 2. | Quizzes over reading and class discussion | 15 | 15 |
| 3. | Homework over textbook reading | 15 | 15 |
| 4. | Class Presentation | 20 | 20 |
| 5. | Class participation | 5 | 5 |

Major research project: Class Presentation

| Pd | Date | Topic | Homework Due |
|----------------------------|-------|--|----------------------------------|
| 1 | 8/23 | Syllabus, introduction | |
| Background to Jesus' Times | | | |
| 2 | 8/28 | Intro to the Gospels | Bock Introduction, 13-41 |
| 3 | 8/30 | Non-biblical literary sources | Bock 1, top 10; 2 simply read |
| 4 | 9/4 | Political backgrounds | Bock 3, top 10 |
| 5 | 9/6 | Sociocultural backgrounds | Bock 4, top 10 |
| Methods for Gospel Study | | | |
| 6 | 9/11 | Historical, source & form criticism | Bock 5, simply read; 6-8, top 10 |
| 7 | 9/13 | Redaction criticism | Bock 9-11; Chap 3 from Moreland |
| 8 | 9/18 | Christology | |
| 9 | 9/20 | Exam review | |
| 10 | 9/25 | First exam | |
| The Life of Jesus on Earth | | | |
| 11 | 9/27 | Overview of the Life of Christ | |
| 12 | 10/2 | Jesus early life, baptism & temptation | |
| 13 | 10/4 | Excursus: The miracles of Jesus | |
| 14 | 10/9 | The early ministry of Jesus in Judea & Samaria | |
| 15 | 10/11 | The great Galilean ministry, part 1 | |
| 16 | 10/16 | The great Galilean ministry, part 2 | |
| | 10/18 | Fall Break | |
| 17 | 10/23 | The training of the twelve | |
| 18 | 10/25 | Travels in and around Jerusalem, part 1 | |
| 19 | 10/30 | Travels in and around Jerusalem, part 2 | |
| 20 | 11/1 | Exam review | |
| 21 | 11/6 | Second exam | |
| 22 | 11/8 | Final trip & Triumphal entry | |
| 23 | 11/13 | Reading day | |
| 24 | 11/15 | Reading day | |
| 25 | 11/20 | *Monday–Wednesday | |
| | 11/22 | Thanksgiving break | |
| 26 | 11/27 | *Passover & Arrest | |
| 27 | 11/29 | *Trials | |
| 28 | 12/4 | *Crucifixion | |
| 29 | 12/6 | *Burial, Resurrection & *Appearances | |
| 30 | 12/13 | 1:00 pm Final exam | |