



Nipawin Bible College
BI1113 Synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke
Fall 2022
3 Credit Hours
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Matthew, Mark, and Luke—three of the most influential letters ever written. Within those letters are captured the very words and deeds of Jesus, the only begotten Son of the Father. This course looks to examine these three letters both corporately and individually, for the express purpose of coming to know this Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on a deeper more complete level. Who was He? Where did He come from? What was His purpose? How should we respond? These questions are answered by these three letters. The Gospel writers record the LORD Jesus' first coming in the flesh to announce the Gospel of His Kingdom to Israel, and to establish the prophesied New Covenant for Israel and all nations with His blood. The culmination of all this is His triumphant resurrection that still transforms lives around the globe.

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

The Holy Bible (a translation, not a paraphrase). Suggested translations are HCSB, CSB, ESV, NIV, NKJV, NLT, NASB...

Strauss, Mark L. *Four Portraits One Jesus: A Survey of Jesus and the Gospels*. Second Edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2020.

THE BIG QUESTION

Why did Jesus come to earth and what is my response to His mission?

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Throughout the Synoptic Gospels course the student will:

1. Develop an understanding of the place and purpose of Matthew, Mark, and Luke in God's plan for the ages.
2. Build a working knowledge of the content of the Synoptic Gospels.
3. Come to an understanding of the literary and historical contexts of these Gospel accounts.
4. Be equipped to apply the teachings gained from these Gospel accounts to the students personal and public life, ministry, and church body.

5. See God's plan for those separated from God and the student's position in communicating the gospel message with those who are so separated.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Mid-Term Exam - 10%

- The exam will include the following elements:
 - Multiple choice questions.
 - True/False questions.
 - Short answer questions.
 - Two memory verses written word-for-word, chosen from the supplied list:
 - ♦ Matthew 28:18-20, Matthew 7:21, Luke 4:18, Mark 16:16, Mark 1:15, Mark 8:34, Luke 10:26-27, Luke 12:15, Luke 11:13

DUE: November 3

Final Exam - 13%

- The exam will be a scheduled personal exam time booked with the instructor. Plan for a 15-minute exam. This will be an oral exam and will consist of the following elements:
 - Several questions relating to the Synoptic Gospels.
 - Quoting a memory verse from the supplied list above. It must be a different verse from one you had previously memorized for the mid-term exam.
 - Responding orally to a question supplied to the student a week prior to the final exam.

DUE: Exam Week (December 14-16)

Cumulative Exegetical Bible Study Project - 5 stages, total 30%

- Each student will turn in a 5-page exegetical Bible study of a passage in Matthew, Mark, or Luke. The student should follow the guidelines listed below:
 1. Pick a passage of Scripture from one of the biblical books being studied as part of this course. I suggest that the passage be about 4-7 verses in length.
 2. Read it carefully.
 3. Read what at least six commentaries, or other relevant books have to say about the passage. Make notes on what these sources say. List these sources in your paper using Turabian style bibliographic form.

4. Prepare a double-spaced typewritten paper consisting of three sections: Background, Interpretation, and Application. The paper should answer the following questions:

- *Background* - Who wrote this passage of Scripture? When did he write it? To whom did he write it?
- *Interpretation* - What did this passage of Scripture say to its original audience?
- *Application* - What truths does it contain that relate to my life? How will this passage of Scripture and the teachings in it affect my life?

NOTE: Failure to have three separately titled sections reflecting these three divisions will result in the loss of half a letter grade.

5. Prepare a sermon or Bible study outline dealing with the passage.
6. The body of the paper must be at least five pages in length. A bibliography listing the books you used in the study must be present at the end of the paper.

- The following Grading Rubric will be used in determining a student's grade:

Overall %	General Section/Aspect	Specific Feature	%
15	Background	Discussion of authorship, date, original audience	15
35	Exposition	Thorough Verse-by-verse/unit-by-unit analysis	25
		Use of interpretive tools—translations, commentaries, lexical studies	10
15	Application	Discussion of personalized implications of text for student's life	15
10	Bible Study/Sermon	Outline/Manuscript of Bible study or sermon based on passage being studied	10
10	Bibliography	At least 6 sources	10
15	Form	Proper documentation format	5
		Good organization, neatness	5
		Conformity to Turabian style sheet	5

DUE:

Bible study topic selected – Oct 6 (1%)

Six source Background of Passage – Oct 20 (3%)

Exegetical conclusions – Oct 27 (3%)

Homiletical conclusions – Nov 17 (3%)

Final draft – Dec 1 (20%)

Total = 30%

NOTE: As this is a cumulative assignment all percentages accumulate to form the final mark on this assignment. All five sections must be received to receive a final score on this assignment.

Map Projects - 2 maps worth 7.5% each (15% total)

- Each student will be responsible to reproduce two maps covering the ministry of Jesus. Both maps are to include the following:
 - Use a single 8 1/2" x 11" piece of cardstock paper (one per map).
 - Incorporate colour and be as close to scale as the student can manage.
 - Include an appropriate title at the top of the map and above the legend.
 - Have a title page reflecting proper Turabian guidelines and stapled to your map.
 - If the student used a resource to help produce the map, a bibliography must be included.

- **Map 1 - 7.5%**

- This map will encompass the areas of Judea, Samaria, Decapolis, and Galilee. An example will be shown in class a week before the assignment is due and at any class time that the student requests prior to the due date. It will include:
 1. The geographical features of the land of Israel in Jesus day.
 2. The major locations Jesus traveled to in His ministries. This includes: rivers, seas, cities, towns, mountains, and any other relevant locations. These locations must be labeled with correct spelling.
 3. A coloured line highlighting Jesus' various travels and labeled in a legend in the bottom left corner of the map.
 4. A scale ruler in the top left corner.

Map 1 DUE: October 6

- **Map 2 - 7.5%**

- This map will encompass the city of Jerusalem in the days of Jesus. An example will be shown in class a week before the assignment is due and at any class time that the student requests prior to the due date. This map will include the following elements:
 1. The walls/fortifications of Jerusalem including the labeled gates.
 2. City locations that are mentioned in the Synoptic Gospels.
 3. Any other relevant locations.
 4. A legend and any colour-coded identification features in the bottom left corner.
 5. A scale ruler and north arrow in the top left corner.

- The following Grading Rubric will be used in determining a student's grade as it relates to each map:

Overall %	General Section/Aspect	Specific Feature	%
70	Map accuracy	Scale	15
		Geography	15
		Correct locations	20
		Proper labeling	20
15	Map appearance	Use of colour and neatness	15
15	Jesus' Journeys	Journeys included, Map and Legend.	15

Map 2 DUE: November 17

Quiz - 4 quizzes, each worth 5% (20% total)

- Each student should be prepared for a quiz covering the assigned reading for the assigned class. The quiz will consist of true/false or multiple-choice questions and will be given at the start of the appropriate class.

DUE: See class schedule

Neo Student Response - 4 responses, each worth 3% (12% total)

- Each student will be required to respond to four questions spread out over the semester:
 - Each response should be between 200-300 words.
 - Student must use course material, scriptural references, and extra-course material to substantiate the thesis of his/her response.
 - The response must include a title page and use Turabian format and appropriate footnotes. A minimum of 1 original source must be properly credited using Turabian guidelines.
- The following grading rubric will apply to the reading response:

Overall %	General Section/Aspect	Specific Feature	%
85	Content	Answered the question	50
		Use of scripture support	35
15	Form	Spelling/Grammar	5
		Organization	5
		Turabian	5

DUE: See class schedule

NOTE: All written assignments are to be typed in accordance with the guidelines in Kate L. Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 9th ed. (Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press, 2018) for papers. **(See NBC Sample Paper - 2022.)** Assignments will be graded on the basis of content, clarity, grammar, and spelling.

Assignments will be due at the **beginning of class** on the date assigned.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2021-2022

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY:

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2021-2022

Reading: 235 pages

Writing: 7 Pages

COURSE SCHEDULE

***Please Note:

- Each day's reading is to be completed prior to each day of class. That is, the reading for class 2 should be done prior to that second class;
- While Strauss discusses John's Gospel, the student is expected neither to read John's Gospel, nor Strauss' discussion of it. The book of John is taught in a separate course.

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT	ASSIGNMENT DUE
Sept. 22	Introduction, Background, Matthew 1:1-2:23, Mark 1:1, Luke 1:1-2:52, 3:23-38.		
Oct. 6	Matthew 3:1- 4:23, Mark 1:2-3:19, Luke 3:1- 6:16.	Strauss p. 25-65, 73-75, 80-86	- Map 1 Due - Quiz - Bible Study Topic Selected
Oct. 13	Matthew 4:24-7:29, Luke 6:17-49.	Strauss p. 211-239	- Reading Response 1
Oct. 20	Matthew 8:1-13:58, Mark 3:20-6:13, Luke 7:1-9:6.	Strauss p. 240-260	- Quiz - Six source Background of Passage
Oct. 27	Matthew 14:1-18:35, Mark 6:14-9:50, Luke 9:7-50.	Strauss p. 261-288	- Reading Response 2 - Exegetical Conclusions
Nov. 3	Matthew 16:13-18:35, Mark 8:27-9:50, Luke 9:18-18:14.	Strauss p. 289-312	- Mid Term Exam
Nov. 17	Matthew 19:1-23:39, Mark 10:1-12:44, Luke 18:15-21:4.	Strauss p. 313-338	- Quiz - Map 2 - Homiletical Conclusions
Nov. 24	Matthew 24:1-27:66, Mark 13:1-15:47, Luke 21:5-23:56.	Strauss p. 339-353	- Reading Response 3
Dec. 1	Matthew 28:1-15, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-43.	Strauss p. 525-547	- Quiz - Bible Study Due
Dec. 8	Matthew 28:16-20, Mark 16:9-20, Luke 24:44-53.	Strauss p. 611-629	- Reading Response 4
Dec. 14-16 (Exam Week)			- Final Exam