

Course ID:	Course Title:	Winter 2019
NT 502	Synoptic Gospels	Prerequisite: none
		Credits: 3

Class Information		Instructor Information		Important Dates	
Days:	Wednesday	Instructor:	Jo-Ann Badley, Ph.D.	First day of classes:	Thu, Jan. 3
Time:	1:00 – 3:45	Email:	jbadley@ambrose.edu	Last day to add/drop, or change to audit:	Sun, Jan. 13
Room:	L2100	Phone:	403-410-2000 ext.3994	Last day to request revised exam:	Mon, Mar. 4
Lab/ Tutorial:	none	Office:	L2043	Last day to withdraw from course:	Fri, Mar. 15
		Office Hours:	By appointment with Diane Quapp DQuapp@Ambrose.edu	Last day to apply for coursework extension:	Mon, Mar. 25
Final Exam:	Thursday Apr.11 at 1:00 in L2210			Last day of classes:	Wed, Apr. 10

Course Description: An introduction to New Testament studies and exegetical skills through the study of the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

The church, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, chose four gospels as witnesses to the life and ministry of Jesus. As scripture, these gospels bear witness to the identity of God and shape the character and identity of the church. In this course, we will study three of the four gospels (John is not included) in order to understand what it means to read these gospels as scripture and how to use the results of the study of the gospels by others for our own purposes. At the centre of the course is the question: how are the gospels truth about God?

Expected Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to

- identify major themes (content) and literary characteristics (form) of the three synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke);
- understand the important questions of modern critical study of the gospels and their significance for pastoral work;
- apply basic exegetical skills and resources to narrative texts;
- understand how these three gospels contribute to knowing and loving God in the 21st century.

Textbooks:

Carroll, John T. *Jesus and the Gospels: An Introduction*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2016.

Occasionally other reading is required and it is listed on the schedule (below) and available as indicated. Recommended reading is listed in a separate document on the Moodle site.

Course Schedule:

Date	Class Topics	Reading and Assignments
Jan.9	Introduction: What are the Issues? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Synoptic Study • Introducing Hermeneutics • Exegetical focus: Mk.10:46-52 Jesus outside Jericho 	Reading in Carroll: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 1: Contexts for Reading the Gospels • Chapter 2: Jesus and the Emergence of the Gospels
Jan.16	Mark I: Jesus' Ministry in Galilee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Macro structure of the gospel(s) • Literary characteristics of Mark • Exegetical focus: Mk.1:1-15 Beginning of the Gospel 	Bible: Mark 1:1 to 8:29 Reading in Carroll: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 3: The Gospel according to Mark Weekly Assignment #1 due (10%)
Jan.23	Mark II: Jesus on the Way to Jerusalem <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theological themes • Exegetical focus: Mk.3:19b-35 Conflict Story: Jesus and the scribes 	Bible: Mark 8:30 to 10:52 Reading: Ahearne-Kroll, Stephen P. "'Who Are My Mother and My Brothers?' Family Relations and Family Language in the Gospel of Mark." <i>Journal of Religion</i> 81 (2001): 1-25. Available on EBSCO Weekly Assignment #2 due (10%)
Jan.30	Mark III: Jesus in Jerusalem <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text criticism • Exegetical focus: Mk.16:1-8 Ending of the Gospel 	Bible: Mark 11:1 to 16:8 Reading: Boring, M. Eugene. "Markan Christology: God-Language for Jesus?". <i>New Testament Studies</i> 45 (1999): 451-71. Available on Course Moodle or in Library (Bound Journals) Weekly Assignment #3 due (10%)
Feb.6	Matthew I: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Macro structure of the gospel • Literary characteristics of Matthew • Exegetical focus: Mt.5-7 Discourse: Sermon on the Mount 	Bible: Matthew 1:1-10:42 Reading in Carroll: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 4: The Gospel according to Matthew Weekly Assignment #4 due (10%)
Feb.13	Matthew II: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-genre: Parables • Exegetical focus: Mt.18:10-14 Parable of the Lost Sheep 	Bible: Matthew 11:1-23:39 Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gospel of Thomas http://gnosis.org/naghamm/gosthom.html Weekly Assignment #5 due (10%)
Feb.20	Reading Week: no class	
Feb.27	Matthew III: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theological themes • Exegetical focus: Mt.27:3-10 Death of Judas Narrative 	Bible: Matthew 24:1-28:20 Reading: Allison, Dale C., Jr. "Anticipating the Passion: The Literary Reach of Matthew 26:47-27:56."

		<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i> 56 (1994): 701-14. Available on EBSCO Weekly Assignment #6 due (10%)
March 6	Luke I: Jesus in Galilee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genre: Gospel of Luke in Luke-Acts • Exegetical focus: Lk.4:14-37 Jesus' Inaugural Address 	Bible: Luke 1:1-9:50 Reading in Carroll: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 5: The Gospel according to Luke Weekly Assignment #7 due (10%)
March 13	Luke II: Jesus on the Way to Jerusalem <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Macro structure of the gospel • Literary characteristics of Luke • Exegetical focus: Lk.13:10-17 Healing of the Bent Woman 	Bible: Luke 9:51-19:28 Reading Kinman, Brent. "Parousia, Jesus' 'a-Triumphal' Entry, and the Fate of Jerusalem (Luke 19:28-44)." <i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i> 118 (1999): 279-94. Available on EBSCO Weekly Assignment #8 due (10%)
March 20	Luke III: Jesus in Jerusalem <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theological themes • Text criticism • Exegetical focus: Lk.23:32-43 Jesus between Two Criminals 	Bible: Luke 19:29-24:53 Reading: Jipp, Joshua W. "Luke's Scriptural Suffering Messiah: A Search for Precedent, a Search for Identity." <i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i> 72 (2010): 255-74. Available on EBSCO Weekly Assignment #9 due (10%)
March 27	Ambrose Research Conference: no class	
April 3	Conclusion: The Truth about Jesus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical Jesus Debate • Preaching the Gospels 	Reading in Carroll: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 7: From Ancient Gospels to the Twenty-First Century Major assignment due (30%)
Exam April 11	Synoptic Content Quiz (20%)	Time and location as assigned by the Registrar: Thursday April 11 at 1:00 in L2210 Note: This is a Thursday not Wednesday

Requirements:

1. Weekly assignments (5 @ 10%): There are nine different weekly assignments outlined on the Moodle site. **Each student must do at least five of them**; each assignment is worth 10% of the final grade (total of 50%). The assignments teach various exegetical skills and introduce the student to different resources and ways of looking at the text. All resources required for the weekly assignments are either on the Moodle site or on Reserve in the Library; no independent research sources are required although additional work will be recognized. Assignments must be handed in on the date indicated; **no late assignments will be accepted**. Assignments will be submitted electronically.

2. The major assignment (30%): The final assignment in this course is a study of a biblical text using narrative exegetical methods as practiced during the term.

Students will choose one these three texts for study:

- Matt.13:24-35 Parable of the weeds among the wheat
- Mark 9:14-29 Healing of the boy with seizures
- Luke 19:1-10 Narrative of Jesus' meeting with Zacchaeus

The results of your study can be presented as a research paper, a sermon, or a creative project. The major assignment is worth 30% of the final grade and is **due on April 3**. Late assignments will be accepted but the final grade will be reduced by 5% for every day used beyond the due date. All major assignments must be submitted in hard copy.

Regardless of form of the major assignment (paper, sermon or creative project), the synthesis must demonstrate an awareness of modern critical questions associated with the passage and must demonstrate how the text assists us to know and love God better. There are three rubrics on the Moodle site which clarify expectations for the three kinds of projects.

Use Humanities style (endnotes or footnotes) in Chicago (Turabian) style to document academic sources. Helpful websites for understanding Chicago style are:

<https://www.lib.sfu.ca/help/cite-write/citation-style-guides/chicago>

<http://www.citationmachine.net/chicago>

3. Final quiz (20%): On **Thursday April 11 at 1:00** there will be a final quiz to test student knowledge of the content and form of the three synoptic gospels. The quiz will be worth 20% of the final grade. It will be a list of 20 quotations from the synoptic gospels and students will be asked to identify which gospel the quotation is from and where it is found in the gospel. We will choose a translation and develop broad outlines of the three gospels in class which will be used for this final quiz.

Attendance: Attendance in class is an important part of course learning and attendance will be monitored. Unexcused absences will be considered in calculating the final grade.

Grade Summary:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>
A+	
A	Excellent
A-	
B+	
B	Good
B-	
C+	
C	Satisfactory
C-	
D+	
D	Minimal Pass
F	Failure

Because of the nature of the Alpha 4.00 system, there can be no uniform University-wide conversion scale. The relationship between raw scores (e.g. percentages) and the resultant letter grade will depend on the nature of the course and the instructor's assessment of the level of each class, compared to similar classes taught previously.

Please note that final grades will be available on student registration system. Printed grade sheets are not mailed out.

Ambrose University Academic Policies:

Communication

All students have received an Ambrose e-mail account upon registration. It is the student's responsibility to check this account regularly as the Ambrose email system will be the professor's instrument for notifying students of important matters (cancelled class sessions, extensions, requested appointments, etc.) between class sessions. If students do not wish to use their Ambrose accounts, they will need to forward all messages from the Ambrose account to another personal account.

Registration

During the **Registration Revision Period** students may enter a course without permission, change the designation of any class from credit to audit and /or voluntary withdraw from a course without financial or academic penalty or record. Courses should be added or dropped on the student portal by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees.

Students intending to withdraw from a course after the Registration Revision Period must apply to the Office of the Registrar by submitting a "Request to Withdraw from a Course" form or by sending an email to the Registrar's Office by the **Withdrawal Deadline**; please consult the List of Important Dates on the my.ambrose.edu website. Students will not receive a tuition refund for courses from which they withdraw after the Registration Revision period. A grade of "W" will appear on their transcript.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

Exam Scheduling

Students, who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a Revised Examination Request form to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; 2) the student has three final exams within three consecutive exam time blocks; 3) the scheduled final exam slot conflicts with an exam at another institution; 4) extenuating circumstances. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

Electronic Etiquette

Students are expected to treat their instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students with respect. It is disruptive to the learning goals of a course or seminar and disrespectful to fellow students and the instructor to use electronics for purposes unrelated to the course during a class session. Turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. Do not use iPods, MP3 players, or headphones. Do not text, read, or send personal emails, go on Facebook or other social networks, search the internet, or play computer games during class. Some professors will not allow the use of any electronic devices in class. The professor has the right to disallow the student to use a

laptop in future lectures and/or to ask a student to withdraw from the session if s/he does not comply with this policy. Repeat offenders will be directed to the Dean. If you are expecting communication due to an emergency, please speak with the professor before the class begins.

Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Academic Calendar. Personal information (information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual) may be required as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.

Extensions

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a course Extension from the Registrar's Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

Appeal of Grade

An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Registrar's Office in writing and providing the basis for appeal within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

Academic Integrity

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's ideas, words, or work as one's own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to acknowledge to another person's ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student's permanent record.

Note: Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.