

Course Requirements

I. Course Description

A biblical and theological study of the Gospels, emphasizing the themes, structures, and contents of these books, with a special emphasis on one of the Gospels. (3 credit hours)

MBU Institutional Outcomes supported by this course:

1. Communication Skills: Students will demonstrate competence in written, oral, and aesthetic communication.
6. Biblical Knowledge: Students will acquire skills related to biblical study methods, interpretation, and doctrine.
8. Biblical Application: Students will use discernment in moral situations by applying biblical precepts and principles to contemporary issues and lifestyle choices.

II. Course Objectives

- A. **Upon successful completion of the course the student should be able:
- B. To understand the historical context of the Gospels
- C. To understand the social context of the Gospels
- D. To understand the literary context of the Gospels
- E. To identify the theme and basic outline of each of the four Gospels
- F. To explain how each section of the Gospels supports the author's purpose for writing
- G. To interpret the Gospels accurately
- H. To critically evaluate books, articles and music written about the Gospels
- I. To apply the parables, teachings and commands in the Gospels to one's personal life and ministry
- J. To preach and/or teach the Gospels in a local church setting

III. Course Textbooks

A. Required texts:

1. D.A. Carson, Walter Wessel, and Walter Liefeld, "Matthew, Mark, Luke." Volume 8 in *Expositor's Bible Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1984. (ISBN-13: 9780310365006) **OR** the single Matthew volume.
2. Michael J. Wilkins and J.P. Moreland, eds. *Jesus Under Fire: Modern Scholarship Reinvents the Historical Jesus*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1995. (ISBN 0-310-21139-5)
3. Darrell L. Bock, *Studying the Historical Jesus: A Guide to Sources and Methods*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002. (ISBN 0-8010-2451-X)
4. Gary Cohen, *Biblical Separation Defended*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., 1966. A free .pdf version of this book can be obtained at:

B. Recommended texts (NOT required):

1. Stanley D. Toussaint, *Behold the King: A Study of Matthew*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publishing, 1995. (ISBN-10: 0825438454 ISBN-13: 978-0825438455)
2. David L. Turner, *Matthew* (Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament). Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008. (ISBN-10: 0801026849 ISBN-13: 978-0801026843)
3. John Nolland, *The Gospel Of Matthew: A Commentary On The Greek Text* (New International Greek Testament Commentary). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995 (ISBN-10: 0802823890 ISBN-13: 978-0802823892)
4. R.T. France, *The Gospel of Matthew* (New International Commentary on the New Testament). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007. (ISBN-10: 080282501X ISBN-13: 978-0802825018)
5. Alfred Edersheim, *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*
6. J. Dwight Pentecost, *The Words and Works of Jesus Christ*
7. Harold Hoehner, *Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing Co., 1977.
8. Mark Strauss, *Four Portraits, One Jesus: A Survey of Jesus and the Gospels*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 2011.

IV. Course Requirements

A. Reading

Students must complete the all assigned reading for the course. Reading must be reported via MyMaranatha by 11:55 pm (your time zone). There is a good deal of reading for this course. You will not likely be able to digest it all in eight short weeks. Try to understand the main point of each reading assignment. I expect that you will skim some of the reading. You can still answer that you completed the reading. You can go back later and think in areas which you wish to pursue further.

B. Discussion Forum and Interpretive Question Posts

Students are required to view and/or read material each week. Students are required to interact with this material, the professor, and other students several times a week by posting comments on discussion boards (for the 1st three weeks) and interpretive questions (for the last five weeks). The grade for these posts will be based on the timeliness and quality of your posts.

C. Background Worksheet

Each student must complete a worksheet explaining the cultural, social, and religious background of Matthew 26:36-46 **or** Luke 15:11-32 (whichever passage you choose for your paper and sermon—you do not need to do both). This worksheet will be posted under the “Course Materials” tab in MyMaranatha. There is no specific page number expected for this worksheet. It needs to be long enough to thoroughly answer the questions. The student should view this worksheet as background for the paper in this

class. Sources used for this assignment may be included in the paper bibliography.

D. Paper and Sermon

Students are required to prepare and write a sermon outline. Students will address either a parable (Luke 15:11-32) **OR** a narrative (Mt. 26:36-46). You may choose which of these two passages to study. This assignment must be done in three steps.

1. Write a paper explaining the correct interpretation of the assigned passage (What did the Gospel writer mean? How does the passage fit in the context of the book? What historical, cultural, or religious background is helpful in understanding the passage correctly?). Use the interpretive skills gained in this class to produce this paper. This paper must have at least 15 sources.
2. Convert your interpretation into a preaching outline. Make the main point of the passage the main point of your sermon. Then show how the rest of the material in the passage supports that main point.
3. You are not required to preach the sermon in a local church context. Just turn in your sermon outline along with your paper.

E. Devotional Meditation

The student must write a devotional using the template provided. This devotional should be written on a passage of Scripture that was particularly relevant to you during this class. Full disclosure: this devotional may be used in a future Maranatha Baptist Seminary publication. You might want to keep that in mind when writing. A template for this devotional is available in MyMaranatha.

F. Tests

There will be two tests: a midterm and a final.

V. Course Grading

A. Reading	10%
B. Discussion Posts	25%
C. Worksheet	10%
D. Paper/Sermon	20%
E. Devotional	10%
F. Tests	25%

VI. Course Policies and Expectations

- A. Late Work- All work is due midnight (your time zone) on the day for which it is assigned. All work is expected to be completed on time. Any work turned in after the due date will have its grade reduced by 4% per calendar day.

- B. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course. Consult the section in the Seminary catalog regarding Academic and Intellectual Expectations for a description of academic dishonesty and appropriate penalties for violation.
- C. Collegiality-The Seminary catalog states, “The Seminary has an expectation of collegiality in and out of the classroom. There must be an ability and willingness to talk about controversial issues in an attitude of mutual respect between students, professors and others. The classes should not degenerate into arguments, especially over issues that have been debated regularly among fundamental Baptists. You should not attempt to pit one teacher against another in your classes. We desire that there be an openness in class discussion and a transparency of both faculty and students. The class professor has the right to end a discussion which he believes has become nonproductive.”
- D. **Academic Success Center.** One source for academic help in any course is the Academic Success Center. If you require specific targeted academic help for any reason contact the Academic Success Center located in the Cedarholm Library. If you would like more information regarding targeted academic help, please contact the Academic Success Center director at academicsuccess@mbu.edu.
- E. **ADA Policy.** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, the law requires that all students with disabilities be given a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Academic Success Program Director, in the Library, (ph. 920/206-2340) or email academicsuccess@mbu.edu .
- F. Grading Scale-The grading scale given below will be followed in this class.

	B+	90-91.9	C+	81-82.9	D	64-72.9	
A	94-100	B	85-89.9	C	75-80.9	F	0-63.9
A -	92-93.9	B-	83-84.9	C-	73-74.9		

- G. Time Commitment-Since this is a 3-credit hour class, it is expected that the student will spend 8-9 hours each week to complete the requirements for this course. This class will include all the work of a 16-week semester-based course in the 8 weeks of the online schedule. Therefore, expect the workload to be fairly intense.

VIII. Course Overview

Week	Material Covered
1 Aug. 31-Sept. 4	Historical Context of the Gospels
2 September 7-11	Social Context of the Gospels
3 September 14-18	Literary Context of the Gospels
4 September 21-25	Exposition of Matthew 1-7
5 Sept. 28-October 2	Exposition of Matthew 8-13
6 October 5-9	Exposition of Matthew 14-20
7 October 12-16	Exposition of Matthew 21-25
8 October 19-23	Exposition of Matthew 26-28
Saturday, October 30	Worksheet due
Saturday, November 6	Devotional due
Saturday, November 20	Paper and Sermon due