

**Birmingham Theological Seminary  
2200 Briarwood Way  
Birmingham, Alabama 35243  
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**Fall 2019  
NT 2022 New Testament Studies  
Professor: Matthew Aernie Ph.D.  
Class Hours: 2**

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### **COURSE PURPOSE**

The content and general character of the New Testament books and their interrelation. This course specifically focuses on the Gospels and Acts and takes into account literary techniques employed by each author to communicate the theological message of each book.

**Class Content Policy:** Class content is the intellectual property of the instructor. As such, all recordings must be approved by the instructor. Approved class recordings are permitted in good faith and intended for individual use. Due to the potential for a misunderstanding of tone, content, or context, please do not share or post recordings without the prior explicit approval of the instructor. Recordings are to be destroyed when they are no longer needed for the specific course.

### **Course Objectives**

1. Students will be able to think through the arguments of the four Gospels and Acts.
2. Students will learn the themes, purpose, and message, and outline for each Gospel and the book of Acts
3. Students will learn some of the literary techniques necessary for a proper interpretation of the Gospels and Acts.
4. Students will increase in their proficiency at interpreting the Gospels and Acts.
5. Students will learn and understand the role and significance of knowing the historical cultural background information necessary for proper interpretation of the Gospels and Acts.
6. Students will apply Christ's teaching about gleaned from the Gospels and Acts to their present and future ministry settings.

## Required Textbooks

Blomberg, Craig L. *Jesus and the Gospels: An Introduction and Survey*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2009.

Martin, Ralph P and Peter H. Davids, eds. *Dictionary of the Later New Testament and Its Developments*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1997. (Various articles)

McKnight, Scot. *The King Jesus Gospel*. Revised edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2016.

An English translation of the Bible

## Course Requirements

### 1. Class attendance and participation:

In the absence of professor permission, more than two unexcused absences will drop the final grade one letter grade.

### 2. Textbook Readings

Students are expected to read all of the assigned readings for the course. At the end of the semester students will be required to submit in writing the percentage of reading accomplished.

### 2. Reading the Gospels and Acts

Students are expected to read all four Gospels and the book of Acts one time in the translation of their choice. At the end of the semester students will be required to submit in writing the percentage of the Gospel and Acts readings accomplished.

### 3. Tests:

There will be a midterm and final exam given during the semester.

### 4. Book Critique:

A book critique is to be a **critique** of the book. Do not merely summarize the contents; rather evaluate the book's strengths and weaknesses. The book you will critique is: Scot McKnight *The King Jesus Gospel*, Revised edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2016. As you read, ask yourself and answer these questions, read **critically**:

- ☞ Begin your critique with **the bibliographic information** (Title, author, publisher, place and date of publication) of the book you have chosen to critique.
- ☞ Write a **brief summary** of the **main** theme and any **major secondary themes** of the author. I do not want a book review. I already know the content. Just give me enough to show you have read and digested the material.

- ☞ Include your **analysis** of the arguments the author sets forth. Your analysis should be focused primarily upon **how faithfully you think the author has interpreted and applied the Scripture.**
- ☞ Evaluate how they have either **succeeded or failed** in taking into account **all** of Scripture (in other words, is it a systematic argument or simply a use of some isolated proof texts?) **citing instances** from the book to support your evaluation.
- ☞ Tell me **why you agree or disagree** with their conclusion(s), using the Scriptures to support any differing views you may hold.
- ☞ Conclude with a paragraph that states **what you have gained personally and professionally** from reading this book.

The book critique is **due November 19** (preferably sooner).

***Please be aware that any form of plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the book critique.***

Please refer to the BTS Student Handbook section on plagiarism for guidance.

### **BTS FORMAT AND STYLE STANDARDS**

Note:

BTS uses the Turabian style of formatting as a standard for papers. Professors retain discretion in determining how “formal” a paper must be. In this technological age, information is readily available; make sure that you understand about giving reference sources the proper recognition. Please see the supplemental writing guide given in class.

### **Grading**

|                          |           |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Textbook Readings        | 10 points |
| Gospel and Acts Readings | 10 points |
| Midterm                  | 30 points |
| Final                    | 30 points |
| Book Critique            | 20 points |

**There are a total of 100 points for this class.**

Semester grades will be based upon the scale adopted by BTS:

- A 96-100 (4.0)
- A- 90-95 (3.5)
- B 85-89 (3.0)
- B- 80-84 (2.5)
- C 75-79 (2.0)
- C- 70-74 (1.5)
- D 65-69 (1.0)
- D- 60-64 (.5)
- F Below 60 (0)

## Course Schedule (Tentative)

|         |  |   |
|---------|--|---|
| Sept 3  | Syllabus, Introduction                                     |   |
| Sept 10 | Historical & Political<br>Background of the Gospels & Acts | Blomberg, 7-28                                |
| Sept 17 | Religious & Cultural<br>Background of the Gospels          | Blomberg, 29-81                               |
| Sept 24 | Critical Methods<br>Jesus & The Synoptics                  | Blomberg, 83-126                              |
| Oct 1   | Jesus & The Synoptics                                      | Blomberg, 127-203                             |
| Oct 15  | <b>FALL BREAK: NO CLASS</b>                                |   |
| Oct 22  | Jesus & The Synoptics                                      | Blomberg, 205-269                             |
| Oct 29  | Jesus & The Synoptics<br>Midterm Exam                      | Blomberg, 270-355                             |
| Nov 5   | The Gospel of John   | Blomberg, 356-382                             |
| Nov 12  | The Gospel of John   | Blomberg, 383-446                             |
| Nov 19  | The Gospel of John   | Blomberg, 447-482<br><b>Book Critique Due</b> |
| Nov 26  | The Book of Acts   | <i>DLNT</i> , 7-24                            |
| Dec 3   | The Book of Acts<br>Final Exam                             | <i>DLNT</i> , 489-499                         |

## Recommended Reading

- Aland, Kurt, ed. *Synopsis of the Four Gospels*. Stuttgart: United Bible Society, 1979.
- Blomberg, Craig L. *Interpreting the Parables*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2012.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Historical Reliability of the Gospels*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1987.
- Brown, Raymond E. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. New York: Doubleday, 1997.
- Bock, Darrell L. *Jesus According to the Scripture: Restoring the Portrait from the Gospels*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002.
- Black, David A. *Rethinking the Synoptic Problem*. Grand Rapids, 2001.
- Carson, D.A. and Douglas J. Moo. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.
- Elwell, Walter A. and Robert W. Yarbrough. *Encountering the New Testament: A Historical and Theological Survey*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998.
- Ferguson, Everett. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993.
- Green, Joel B, ed. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2013.
- Gundry, Robert H. *Survey of the New Testament*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.
- Guthrie, Donald. *New Testament Introduction*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1995.
- Helyer, Larry R. *Exploring Jewish Literature of the Second Temple Period*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2002.
- Ladd, George E. *A Theology of the New Testament*. Revised edition. Grand Rapids: 1993.
- Metzger, Bruce. *The New Testament: Its Background, Growth, and Content*. 2d ed. Nashville: Abingdon, 1983.
- Porter, Stanley E. and Lee Martin McDonald. *New Testament Introduction*. IBR Bibliographies. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1995.
- Scott, Julius J. *Jewish Backgrounds of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1995.