I. Course Objectives
   • Understand the facets of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection according to the Gospels.
   • Grasp the redemptive-historical significance and theological emphases of the Gospels

II. Course Description taken from the Catalogue
   • This course emphasizes the unique portraits of Christ in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Attention is given to each writer's literary art, theological teachings, and pastoral purpose.

III. Texts
   • English Bible with cross references (NIV, ESV, etc.). It is imperative that students bring a Bible with clear cross references.
   • Graeme Goldsworthy, According to Plan: The Unfolding Revelation of God in the Bible (Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2002).

IV. Procedures and Methods
   • This class will be a combination of lecture, reading, and discussions. Each class the student should be prepared to discuss what they have learned from their reading assignments and take exceptional class notes.

V. Course Requirements
   • Exams- One exam will be given at the end of the semester. Questions will mainly cover the lectures and assigned reading.

   • Class Participation- Each student is expected to engage the material during the lectures, which comprises 10% of the total grade.
• **Weekly Assignments**- Nearly every week, students will be assigned a particular aspect of synoptic interpretation (synoptic comparison). Late assignments will result in a loss of one letter grade per class.

• **Quizzes**- Students will take online quizzes based on the reading. The quizzes are a combination of true/false and multiple choice.

• **In-Class Electronics Use**- In light of recent studies and my own classroom experience, students are prohibited from using computers, phones, and tablets during class. Prohibiting electronic use forces the students to focus on the lecture and take better notes. Exceptions are permitted for those with disabilities.

• **Papers**- One paper will be given to provide the student with hands-on experience in interpreting the Synoptics. Late papers will result in a loss of one letter grade.

  • This should be a serious research paper of at least several serious commentaries.
  • 10-12 typed pages (double spaced).
  • The paper is to focus on the OT background of the passage and how it’s used in the passage under discussion.
  • The professor will hand out a detailed list of paper requirements and expectations.

• **Grading:**
  
  1. Weekly Assignments 20%
  2. Exam 20%
  3. Reading 15%
  4. Paper 25%
  5. Classroom Participation 10%
  6. Quizzes 10%

• **Grading Scale**: The grading scale for this course is the seminary’s grading scale. You may find it listed at the *RTS Catalog*, p.44.

• **Plagiarism**: Any cheating (quiz, exam, paper, etc.) will result in a failure of the course.

• **Reading**: In addition to the weekly reading, students must read through the entire Gospels before exam and Graeme Goldsworthy, *According to Plan* (pgs. 81-234). It is recommended that students use a modern translation such as the ESV or NIV.
VI. Assigned Reading/Lecture Topic

**February 7 (7:00pm-9:00pm)**  
Lecture Overview: Introduction to the Course/Introduction to the Synoptics  
(Genre and Redaction Criticism)

**February 8 (8:00am-11:30am)**  
Lecture Overview: Eyewitness Testimony/Synoptic Comparison/Introduction to Mark and  
**JESUS, GOD INCARNATE AND THE LAST ADAM** (Mark 1:1-8; 1:9-12)  
Reading: Strauss, *Four Portraits*, 24-148  
Online Quiz: On Strauss, *Four Portraits*, 23-34, 171-207

**February 8 (12:30pm-4:00pm)**  
Lecture Overview: **JESUS, THE PROPHET** (Mark 3:20-34; 4:10-12; 6:7-13)

**March 7 (7:00pm-9pm)**  
Reading: Strauss, *Four Portraits*, 214-253  
Online Quiz: On Strauss, *Four Portraits*, 214-253

**March 8 (8:00am-11:30am)**  
Lecture Overview: **JESUS, THE CREATOR** (Matt 8:23-27; 8:28-34; 9:9-12)  
Weekly Assignment #1: Synoptic Comparison of Matt 8:23-27  
(The Stilling of the Storm #136; Matt 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25)  
**Synoptic Comparison questions:** 1) In 12 sentences, compare Matthew and Mark’s telling of the  
stilling of the storm. 2) In 10 sentences explain how Luke 11:1-4 relates to Matthew’s overall  
purpose of his gospel.

**March 8 (12:30pm-4:00pm)**  

**April 11 (7-9pm)**  

**April 12 (8:00am-11:30am)**  
Reading: Strauss, *Four Portraits*, 260-291  

**April 12 (12:30pm-4:00pm)**  


May 9 (7:00pm-9pm)

May 10 (8:00am-11:30am)
Weekly Assignment #3:
Reading: Strauss, *Four Gospels*, 297-340
Online Quiz: Strauss, *Four Gospels*, 297-340

May 10 (12:30pm-4:00pm)
## Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

**Course:** The Gospels (NT508)  
**Professor:** Ben Gladd  
**Campus:** Houston  
**Date:** Spring 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>The course strongly engages Scripture and the Jewish milieu of the first century, furnishing students with knowledge of a variety of topics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scripture</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>With their nose in the text, students will spend a significant amount of time studying and mediating upon Scripture. The class requires students to research and write on topics pertaining to the Synoptics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reformed Theology</strong></td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Central to this class is the exaltation of Christ and his role in redemptive history.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sanctification</strong></td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Since students are exposed to the various facets of the Synoptics and Acts, a love for Christ will inevitably grow as they continually look upon his character.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Key to this course is living in light of Jesus’ kingdom message. Jesus taught that his kingdom inverts the world’s ideals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Winsomely Reformed</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Though most Synoptic scholars are not evangelicals, there is much to be gained by their insights.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preach</strong></td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Throughout the course, attention will be given to how students are to preach the Synoptics. We will often seek to answer “what difference does it make?”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Worship</strong></td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>As a result of this course, students will be wiser in how they worship Jesus by having a more concrete picture of who...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shepherd</strong></td>
<td>Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Church/World</strong></td>
<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
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