

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
Evangel University

**BGR 624 Studies in the Synoptic Gospels/Acts: Mark**  
Monday, 6:00-8:45 pm

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**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An exegetical and doctrinal study of the Gospel of Mark. The primary focus will be on how Mark's content and narrative structure reveals his contribution to NT Christology and the doctrine of Christian discipleship. Special attention will be given to the "Son of Man" sayings and so-called "Messianic Secret" motif as it relates to Mark's apology for the crucifixion of Christ.

**EVANGEL UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT**

Evangel University is a comprehensive Christian university committed to excellence in educating and equipping students to become Spirit-empowered servants of God who impact the church and society globally.

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary is to equip servant leaders with knowledge, skill, and passion to revitalize the Church and evangelize the world in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**OBJECTIVES**

At the successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

Knowledge

1. Discuss the major questions of introduction related to the Gospel of Mark (author, date, provenance, destination etc.), outline various scholarly positions, and evaluate their strengths and weaknesses.
2. Construct an "occasion" (*Sitz im Leben*) for the Gospel and support it with an appeal to the structure of the Mark and its internal evidence.
3. Outline and discuss the contribution of Mark to NT Christology. Use and refer to Mark's use of the "Son of Man" sayings and/or the "Messianic Secret" motif in your answer.
4. Write an essay on "What it means to be a follower of Christ" from a Markan perspective, using the internal evidence of his gospel.

Skills

1. Read a NT gospel as a literary work, appreciating its distinctive style, form and structure.
2. Critically evaluate conflicting ways of interpreting the content of a NT gospel, by identifying hermeneutical, historical and theological presuppositions operating in the handling of the text.
3. Develop a set of exegetical-type questions that need be asked and answered when interpreting a given text.
4. Identify the practical spiritual value that can be derived from the doctrinal teaching of a given text, or an entire gospel.

### Attitudes

1. Recognize the *kerygmatic* nature of the Gospels and their contemporary value for preaching.
2. Appreciate the centrality of the cross of Christ and its theological implications to our understanding of "the Gospel" and what it means to be his disciples.
3. Understand more clearly that what we believe about Jesus is crucial to our identity and life as his disciples.

### **TEXTBOOKS**

For information on textbook pricing, go to <http://www.bkstr.com/evangelstore/home>.

### ***Required:***

Witherington, Ben. *The Gospel of Mark: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 2001. ISBN 978-0802845030.

Green, Joel B. and Scot McKnight, eds, *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1992. ISBN 978-0830817771.

### ***Recommended:***

Gundry, Robert H. *Mark: A Commentary on His Apology for the Cross*. 2 Vols. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1993.

Wessell, Walter W. *Mark*. In the *Expositor's Bible Commentary*. Edited by Frank E. Gaebelin. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Pub. Co., 1984.

### **BASIC OUTLINE**

- I. Prolegomena: Introductory Issues
  - A. Background Reading Reports
  - B. Introductory Lectures
- II. Structural and Content Analysis

- A. Structural Features
- A. Literary Features
- B. Thematic Features

### III. Exegetical/Doctrinal Analysis

- A. Key Christological Passages
- B. Key Discipleship Passages

## **METHODOLOGY**

In this course we will seek to meet our objectives through:

1. Classroom lecture.
2. Guided classroom discussion of issues related to assigned reading, lectures, translation and other class assignments.
3. Individual reading, research, and writing.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Attendance at all class sessions is expected. Whenever possible absences should be announced beforehand to the professor. Excessive absenteeism is defined by the AGTS catalog and can adversely effect your grade.
2. Completion of both all assigned reading before the completion of the course.
3. Translation of assigned passages in Mark. (See format instructions)<sup>1</sup>
4. Syntactical Analyses (SAs) of (5) select passages in Mark
5. Exegetical Outlines (EOs) of (5) select passages in Mark
6. 15-20 page exegesis paper on a chosen passage in Mark.
7. Final Exam

***Note: Work turned in late without the prior permission of the professor will receive a grade reduction of 1/2 letter grade for every day late.***

## **GRADING PROCEDURE**

### 1. ***Grade Weights:***

Reading	10%
Translation Assignments (5)	25%
SAs (5)	5%
EOs (5)	5%
Exegesis Paper	30%
Final Exam	<u>20%</u>
	100%

2. The total number of possible points to be earned in the semester is 1000. Point totals at the end of the semester are tabulated and a grading curve plotted relative to the collective grade profile of the class.

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<sup>1</sup> Do your own translations! Cut and paste from Bible Works won't "cut it." Greek-proficient students will be asked to translate and answer grammatical questions from the assigned passages in class..

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

It is assumed that students at AGTS will endeavor to be honest and of high integrity in all matters pertaining to Seminary life. A lack of respect and integrity is evidenced by cheating, fabricating, plagiarizing, misusing facilities, removing books and other property not one's own, and disrupting classes.

Cheating is defined as "intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise." It is assumed that whatever is submitted by a student is the work of that student and is new work for that course. Fabrication is "intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise or form." Plagiarism is "intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise." One who facilitates any of the above is equally responsible with the primary violator.

Penalties may include restitution, an "F" on an individual paper, exam, or course; loss of campus employment; disciplinary probation; removal from extracurricular activities; and suspension.—*AGTS Student Handbook*.

## **THE USE OF COMPUTERS IN THE CLASSROOM**

The use of computers for word processing in the classroom represents a privilege given to students to enhance their learning. They may only be used for purposes related to the course. It is therefore a breach of classroom etiquette, an act of rudeness, and a distraction to other students, when computers are also used to surf the web, watch videos, play games, and send messages, etc., during class time. The professor assumes that seminarians will be persons of integrity when using computers in the classroom.

## **NON-DISCRIMINATORY LANGUAGE**

Students should use non-discriminatory language in all written and spoken communication in this class. For specific guidelines, see the Student Handbook at: [http://www.agts.edu/community/student\\_handbook/2010studenthandbook.pdf](http://www.agts.edu/community/student_handbook/2010studenthandbook.pdf)

## **DISABILITY ACCOMODATION**

As defined in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary at Evangel University is committed to the provision of reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If AGTS students believe they qualify for accommodations, they should contact the AGTS Student Life Office, Room 218, telephone extension 8881.

## **SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Barclay, William. *The Gospel of Mark*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1975.

Beasley-Murray, G. R. *Jesus and the Future*. London: Macmillan, 1954.

Cranfield, C. E. B. *The Gospel According to Saint Mark*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1959.

- Cullmann, Oscar. *Christology of the New Testament*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1959
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- Hooker, Morna D. *The Gospel According to St. Mark*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1991.
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- Johnson, S. E. *The Gospel According to St. Mark*. In the *Harper's New Testament Commentary*. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1960.
- Juel, Donald. *The Gospel of Mark*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1999
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- Moule, C. F. D. *The Gospel According to Mark*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1965.

Nineham, D. E. *The Gospel of St. Mark*. In the *Pelican Gospel Commentaries*. Baltimore: Penguin, 1964.

Plummer, A. *The Gospel According to St. Mark*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1914.

Schweizer, Eduard. *The Good News According to Mark*, trans. D. H. Madvig, Richmond: John Knox Press, 1970.

Schildgen, Brenda Dean. *Crisis and Continuity: Time in the Gospel of Mark*. Sheffield, England: Sheffield Academic Press, 1998.

Stonehouse, Ned B. *The Witness of Matthew and Mark to Christ*. London: Tyndale Publishers, 1944.

Swete, H. B. *The Gospel According to St. Mark*. London: Macmillan, 1927

Taylor, Vincent. *The Gospel According to St. Mark*. London: Macmillan, 1952.

Telford, W. R. *The Theology of the Gospel of Mark*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999.

Todt, H. E. *The Son of Man in the Synoptic Tradition*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1965.

Tuckett, Christopher, ed. *The Messianic Secret*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1983.

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### **SPECIFIC DATA**

Prepared by James D. Hernando, Ph. D., April 21, 2017.