

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Evangel University

BNT 540 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:

Wessel, Walter W. *Mark: Vol. 8 Matthew, Mark, Luke in The Expositor's Bible Commentary*. Edited by Frank E. Gabelein, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984. [ISBN 0310365007]

Green, Joel B. and Scot McKnight, eds, *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1992. [ISBN 0-8308-1777-8]

Recommended:

France, R. T. *The Gospel of Mark*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1993.
Hurtado, Larry. *Mark*. In the *New International Biblical Commentary*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, Publishers, 1989.

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 source we will seek to meet our objectives through:

- 1. Classroom lecture.
- 2. Guided classroom discussion of issues related to assigned reading, lectures, and 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 affect your grade.
- 2. Completion of all assigned reading before the completion of the course.
- 3. Focused Study Questions - answers researched and written out.
- 4. Background reading report - (oral and written) on one of the topics listed. Be sure to consult the IVP Dictionary. Be sure to include:
 - a. 1-2 page outline for class distribution, a fuller version including notes to professor
 - b. A list of helpful bibliography of additional sources consulted.
- 5. (2) *Exegetical Outlines* (EOs) of key passages, AND a 3-5 page (doubled spaced) expository sermon (ES) on one of the passages chosen for the exegetical outlines. See handout.
- 6. 10-12 page *Inductive Thematic Essay* - Instructions to follow
- 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%
Focused Study Questions	30%
Background Reading Report	10%
Exegetical Outlines	5%
Expository Sermon	10%
Inductive Thematic/Theological Essay	15%
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.

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

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

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SPECIFIC DATA

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