

PHD SEMINAR: THE GOSPEL OF MARK (NTGK 9432)

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
New Testament Department, Biblical Studies Division
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NOBTS MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

COURSE PURPOSE, CORE VALUE FOCUS, AND CURRICULUM COMPETENCIES:

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. These values shape both the context and manner in which all curricula are taught, with “doctrinal integrity” and “academic excellence” especially highlighted in this course.

NOBTS has seven basic competencies guiding our Masters degree programs: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual & Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. This course addresses the “Biblical Exposition” competency by helping the student learn to interpret the Bible accurately.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This seminar is designed to acquaint the student with contemporary scholarship with regard to the background and introductory matters concerning the Gospel of Mark, exegesis of the text in relation to the other Synoptic Gospels, and theological themes in the Gospel. Also, an introduction to several methodologies for gospel studies will be overviewed and incorporated into the exegetical section of the course.

OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of this course include the following:

1. Students should understand the state of research and historical meaning related to the Gospel of Mark
2. Students should gain an increased appreciation for the relevance of the exegetical study of Mark based on the Greek text
3. Students should acquire the ability to understand the Greek text of Mark and to apply their skills in exegesis to a sound interpretation of the text

COURSE TEACHING METHODS:

This course will be taught via a combination of pedagogical methods, including but not limited to the following: lectures, student assignments, small group work, computer resources, textbook reviews, class discussions, and student presentations. Both inductive and deductive approaches to learning will be utilized.

TEXTS

Guelich and Evans, *Word Biblical Commentary: 34A and 34B, Mark*

Malina and Rohrbaugh, *Social Science Commentary on the Synoptic Gospels*

R. T. France, *The Gospel of Mark, NIGTC*

Thomas Oden, *Mark (Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture)*

Ched Myers, *Binding the Strong Man*

James Dunn, *Christianity in the Making*, vol. 1: *Jesus Remembered*

Martin Hengel, *Studies in the Gospel of Mark*

Aland, *Synopsis Quattuor Evangeliorum*

III. REQUIREMENTS

1. Translate Mark and review the parallel passages from Matthew and Luke from Aland's Synopsis. Read the five commentaries listed under "Texts": Guelich/Evans, Malina/Rohrbaugh, France, Myers, and Oden.
2. Read the books by Dunn and Hengel. Be prepared to discuss them on the designated days, bringing a list of discussion questions based upon your readings.
3. Bring annotated bibliographies of 5 journal articles or recent dissertations (1995 forward) on Mark to the seminar meeting #2, with copies for all seminar members (2 page total for all 5)
4. Write a 3 to 4 page *review* of one of the books from the list below.
5. Compile historical quotes and info on one of the background topics listed below.
6. Write a paper (Turabian style) on one of the major paper themes listed below (or a theme approved by the professor). The problem statement and outline of the paper must be submitted to the professor by Oct. 24 and approved as acceptable (revisions completed) by Nov. 6.

IV. SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Aug. 21	Intro to Mark, the Synoptic Problem, Methodologies
Aug. 28	Hengel's <i>Studies in the Gospel of Mark</i>, Journal Articles, Background st. #1
Sept. 4	Mark 1, Dunn's Historical Jesus, pp. 1-338, Background studies #2, 3, & 4
Sept. 11	Mark 2, Dunn's Historical Jesus, pp. 339-614, Background studies #5, 6, & 7
Sept. 18	Mark 3-4, Dunn's Historical Jesus, pp. 615-894, Background studies #8 & 9
Sept. 25	Mark 5-6, Book reviews #1 & 2
Oct. 2	Mark 7-8, Book reviews #3 & 4
Oct. 9	Mark 9-10, Book reviews #5 & 6
Oct. 23	Mark 11-12, Book reviews #7 & 8
Oct. 30	Research paper topic, research question, thesis statement, & hypothesis due
Nov. 6	Mark 13-14, Book review #9
Nov. 13	Mark 15-16 (seminar = 8:30-10:45 am)
Nov. 27	Major Papers #1, 2, & 3 (seminar = 1-4 pm, papers due Sat. Nov. 24, 5 pm)
Dec. 4	Major Papers #4, 5, & 6 (seminar = 1-4 pm, papers due Fri. Nov. 29, 5 pm)
Dec. 11	Major Papers #7, 8, & 9 (seminar = 1-4 pm, papers due Thur. Dec. 6, 5 pm)

V. BOOKS FOR REVIEW

1. W. Marxsen, *Mark the Evangelist*
2. Brendan Byrne, *A Costly Freedom: A Theological Reading of Mark's Gospel*
3. M. D. Hooker, *The Son of Man in Mark*
4. N. Clayton Croy, *The Mutilation of Mark's Gospel*
5. C. D. Marshall, *Faith As a Theme in Mark's Narrative*
6. C. Clifton Black, *The Disciples according to Mark: Marcan Redaction . . .*
7. Mark Goodacre, *The Case Against Q: Studies in Markan Priority and . . .*
8. Brian Blount, *Cultural Interpretation: Reorienting New Testament Criticism*
9. G. R. Beasley-Murray, *Jesus and the Future*
10. Timothy Gray, *The Temple in the Gospel of Mark*
11. E. Best, *The Temptation and Passion: The Marcan Soteriology*
12. Rudolf Bultmann, *The History of the Synoptic Tradition*

VI. THEMES FOR BACKGROUND STUDIES

1. Historical Quotes on the authorship of Mark & Mark the person, 2nd-6th centuries
2. Messianic claims and political unrest in 1st and 2nd century Palestine
3. The City of Rome in the First Century
4. The Neronian Persecution & the Christian Community in Rome (1st c. to AD 150)
5. Extra-Biblical Accounts of Healings
6. Extra-Biblical Accounts of Exorcisms
7. The Jewish-Roman War and Mark 13 (66-72)
8. Jewish Holiness Laws and Concepts in the 1st century
9. The Temple in Jerusalem in the 1st century

VII. THEMES FOR MAJOR PAPERS (suggestions only, not comprehensive)

The Priority of Mark: History of the Synoptic Problem

The Language and Style of Mark

A History and Introduction to Form Criticism and Redaction Criticism

A History and Introduction to Narrative Criticism

A History and Introduction to Sociological Criticism

Gospel as Genre and Ancient Methods of Writing History

The Significance of Miracles/Healings/Exorcisms in Mark

The Kingdom of God in Mark

Discipleship in Mark

Marcan Soteriology

The Temple in Marcan Perspective

A Sociological Analysis of [some aspect related to Mark, i.e., Rome, Persecution, Group Boundaries, etc.]

A Social Map of Sacred [Time, Place, etc.] in Mark

Ideology, Interpretation, and Marcan Perspectives

A Literary Analysis of [a Theological Theme] in Mark

The Textual History of Mark

(Others with the approval of the professor)

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