



**A PHD SEMINAR: THE GOSPEL OF MARK
(NTGK 9432)**
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
New Testament Department, Biblical Studies Division
Dr. Bill Warren, Landrum P. Leavell, II, Professor of NT & Greek
Fall 2021

Office: Hardin 260, phone ext 8190
E-Mail: Wwarren@nobts.edu

Ph.D. Teaching Assistant: Matt Burks
E-Mail: matthew.h.burks@gmail.com

NOBTS MISSION STATEMENT:

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

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.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The student learning outcomes for 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*
Clinton Arnold, *The Zondervan Illustrated Bible Background Commentary: Mark*
R. T. France, *The Gospel of Mark, NIGTC*
Thomas Oden, *Mark (Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture)*
Ched Myers, *Binding the Strong Man*
Martin Hengel, *Studies in the Gospel of Mark*
David Garland, *A Theology of Mark's Gospel*
Michael Strickland & David Young, *The Rhetoric of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark*
Gary M. Burge, *A Week in the Life of a Roman Centurion*
Ben Blackwell, John Goodrich, & Jason Maston, eds., *Reading Mark in Context*
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, Arnold, France, Myers, and Oden.
2. Read the books by Garland, Strickland/Young, Burge, Blackwell *et al*, 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 (2000 forward) on Mark to the seminar meeting #3, 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 or SBL style) on a theme approved by the professor (there are some suggestions below). The problem statement and outline of the paper must be submitted (via e-mail) to the professor by Sept. 28 and approved as acceptable (after revisions) by Oct. 19.

IV. SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Aug. 17	Intro to Mark, Burge, <i>A Week in the Life of a Roman Centurion</i>
Aug. 24	Mk 1, Hengel's <i>Studies in the Gospel of Mark</i>, Background studies # 1 & 2
Aug. 31	Mk 2, Garland, <i>A Theology of Mark's Gospel</i>, Journal Articles Background studies # 3 & 4
Sept. 7	Mk 3, Blackwell, Goodrich & Maston, <i>Reading Mark in Context</i>, Bkgds 5 & 6
Sept. 14	Mark 4, Strickland/Young, <i>The Rhetoric of Jesus in Mark.</i>, Bkgds # 7 & 8
Sept. 21	Mark 5-6, Book reviews # 1, 2, & 3
Sept. 28	Research paper topic, research question, thesis statement, & hypothesis due
Oct. 12	Mark 7-8, Book reviews # 4, 5, & 6
Oct. 19	Mark 9-10, Book reviews # 7 & 8
Oct. 26	Mark 11-12
Nov. 2	Mark 13
Nov. 9	Mark 14
Nov. 16	Mark 15-16
Nov. 30	Major Papers #1, 2, & 3 (papers due Mon. Nov 29, 8 am, class = 8:30-11 am)
Dec. 7	Major Papers #4, 5, 6, 7 & 8 (papers due Mon Dec. 6, 8 am; class=9am-2 pm)

V. BOOKS FOR REVIEW

1. C. Clifton Black, *Mark: Images of an Apostolic Interpreter*
2. Nicolas P. Lunn, *The Original Ending of Mark*
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. Peter Tomson, *Studies on Jews and Christians in the First and Second Centuries*
7. Mark Goodacre, *The Case Against Q: Studies in Markan Priority and . . .*
8. Brian Blount, *Cultural Interpretation: Reorienting New Testament Criticism*
9. David A. Brondos, *Jesus' Death in NT Thought (Vol. 1)*
10. Timothy Gray, *The Temple in the Gospel of Mark*
11. Delbert Burkett, *The Case for Proto-Mark: A Study in the Synoptic Problem*
12. Eckhard J. Schnabel, *Jesus, Paul, and the Early Church: Missionary Realities in Historical Contexts*

VI. THEMES FOR BACKGROUND STUDIES

1. Historical Quotes on the authorship of Mark & Mark the person, 2nd-6th centuries
2. Jewish Messianic claims and political unrest in 1st and 2nd century
3. The City of Rome in the First Century
4. The Persecution & the Christian Community in Rome (1st c. to AD 150, Nero, etc.)
5. Extra-Biblical Accounts of Healings and/or Exorcisms
6. Crucifixion practices in the Roman Empire
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
10. Pharisees in the 1st century

VII. SUGGESTED THEMES FOR MAJOR PAPERS (suggestions only)

- The Synoptic Problem: Solutions and Challenges
 - The Language and Style of Mark
 - Ancient Methods of Writing History and the Genre of the Gospels
 - The Significance of Miracles/Healings/Exorcisms in Mark
 - The Kingdom of God in Mark
 - Discipleship in Mark
 - The Meaning of the Death of Jesus in Mark
 - The Temple in Marcan Perspective
 - Sociological Analysis of an aspect related to Mark, Rome, persecution, group boundaries
 - A Social Map of Sacred [Time, Place, etc.] in Mark
 - Ideology, Interpretation, and Marcan Perspectives (multiple topics possible)
 - A Literary Analysis of a Theological Theme in Mark
 - The Textual History of Mark (or the treatment of a specific textual issue in Mark)
- (Others with the approval of the professor)**

Synchronous Learning Students (NOLA2U Live):

If you are taking this course via online attendance, please note the following attendance policies:

1. The course on the New Orleans campus will be connected synchronously via Web conferencing. Weekly attendance is required at the stated class meeting times.
2. Students are only allowed to miss the amount of class time specified in the NOBTS attendance policy as stated in the graduate catalog. (See “Absences” category in the website catalog at: <https://catalog.nobts.edu/generalinfo/academicpolicies>.)
3. Technical issues will not be considered a valid reason for missing a class session.

PLAGIARISM ON WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

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BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.

ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.

504.816.8180 - Call for any technical questions/support requests.

www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

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