

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 and Greek
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Office: Hardin 260, ext. 8190/3735

E-Mail: Wwarren@nobts.edu

Ph.D. Assistant: Matt Burks

E-Mail: matt.burks@gmail.com

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:

NOBTS 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. The special emphasis this year at NOBTS is Doctrinal Integrity, with all encouraged to emphasize that value during the 2018-19 academic year.

NOBTS has seven basic competencies guiding our seminary 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.

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*
 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, 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 Mar. 26 and approved as acceptable (after revisions) by Apr. 9.

IV. SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Jan. 22	Intro to Mark, Burge, <i>A Week in the Life of a Roman Centurion</i>
Jan. 29	Mk 1, Hengel's <i>Studies in the Gospel of Mark</i>, Background studies # 1 & 2
Feb. 5	Mk 2, Garland, <i>A Theology of Mark's Gospel</i> #1, Journal Articles Background studies # 3 & 4
Feb. 12	Mark 3, Garland, <i>A Theology of Mark's Gospel</i> #2, Backgrounds # 5 & 6
Feb. 19	Mark 4, Strickland/Young, <i>The Rhetoric of Jesus in Mark.</i>, Bkgnds # 7 & 8
Feb. 26	Mark 5-6, Book reviews # 1, 2, & 3
March 5	= Mardi Gras, no classes at NOBTS
Mar. 12	Mark 7-8, Book reviews # 4, 5, & 6
Mar. 26	Research paper topic, research question, thesis statement, & hypothesis due
Apr. 2	Mark 9-10, Book reviews # 7 & 8
Apr. 9	Mark 11-12
Apr. 16	Mark 13
Apr. 23	Mark 14
Apr. 30	Mark 15-16
May 7	Major Papers #1, 2, 3, & 4 (papers due Mon. May 6, 8 am, class = 2-5 pm)
May 14	Major Papers #5, 6, 7 & 8 (papers due Mon. May 13, 8 am, class = 2-5 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. 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*

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
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
10. Pharisees in the 1st century

VII. SUGGESTED THEMES FOR MAJOR PAPERS (suggestions only)

- The Priority of Mark: History of the Synoptic Problem
 - The Language and Style of Mark
 - 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
 - Marcian Soteriology
 - The Temple in Marcian 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 Marcian Perspectives (multiple topics possible)
 - 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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