



THE
SOUTHERN BAPTIST
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

22200: Intro to the New Testament Sample Syllabus

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will expose the student to issues concerning how to interpret the Gospels, and provide an historical and theological survey of each of the four Gospels, culminating with discussion of how these four Gospels witness to the one Jesus. (3 hours)

II. Official Outcomes and Objectives

Outcomes:

Know the major themes and movements of God's redemptive work as revealed in the Scriptures.

Objectives:

- Understands the materials of the New Testament canon concerning the life and teachings of Jesus and the transmission of the gospel in the early Church
- Understands the basic history and doctrines of the early Church as expressed in the New Testament
- Is able to articulate the basic argument and major contribution of each book of the canon

III. LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course the student should be able to:

1. Give a brief description of significant events and writings of the Second Temple period.
2. Summarize the critical and introductory issues concerning studying the four Gospels.
3. Summarize the basic contents and theology of each of the four Gospels.
4. Confidently use a basic methodology for interpreting the Gospel narratives.

IV. REQUIRED TEXTS

Hill, Charles. *Who Chose the Gospels? Probing the Great Gospel Conspiracy*. Oxford: OUP, 2010. ISBN: 978-0199551231. **(Hill)**

Strauss, Mark L. *Four Portraits, One Jesus*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007. ISBN: 978-0310226970. **(Strauss)**

Pennington, *Reading the Gospels Wisely*, Grand Rapids: Baker, 2012. ISBN: 978-0801039379
(Pennington)

Green, Joel, ed., *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*, 2d ed. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2013.
(DJG)

V. LEARNING ASSESSMENT

1.	Exams (midterm and final)	25%
2.	Reading Quizzes	10%
3.	Gospel Reading Guides	10%
4.	Homework Assignments (2)	10%
5.	Gospel Story Performance	10%
6.	‘Closer Reading’ Passages (7)	35%

Grading Scale

94% - 100%	A	84% - 87%	B	74% - 77%	C	64% - 67%	D
90% - 93%	A-	80% - 83%	B-	70% - 73%	C-	60% - 63%	D-
88% - 89%	B+	78% - 79%	C+	68% - 69%	D+	0% - 59%	F

Exams

A note on the two exams: The exams will be multiple choice and short answer, but they will likely be very difficult. They will be based on three things: (1) a **close reading** of the textbooks; (2) **memorization** of notes from the lectures; and (3) knowledge of the content of the Four Gospels. The midterm exam will cover all reading and lectures up until that point. The final exam will be comprehensive, but it will focus mainly on the information since the midterm.

Reading Quizzes

The student will complete reading quizzes over each chapter of Strauss and Pennington. These quizzes are not designed to be tricky but to assess a careful reading of each text. These are closed book and closed notes with a 15-minute time limit. There will be no more than 10 questions per quiz.

Note: For the Strauss reading the quiz number corresponds to the chapter of Strauss. One quiz for each chapter of Strauss. For the Pennington quizzes there will be two: one quiz over ch. 1-5 and another over ch. 6-11. The way the reading schedule works out the quiz over ch. 6-11 will be before ch. 1-5.

Gospel Reading Guides

The student will read each Gospel in their entirety and complete the reading guide for each Gospel. These reading guides are graded for completion. These are designed to help aid you in paying attention to important people, facts, and themes in each of the Gospels. This will also serve as a helpful guide for the exams.

Closer Reading Assignments

In conjunction with your reading of the Four Gospels in their entirety, you will also be assigned 7 passages for which you will give a “closer look.” For these assigned passages you will use the Closer Reading Study Sheet found on Canvas. This includes doing a narrative analysis of the text (as explained in the lecture) and answering a few additional questions. These assignments are due on the date listed on the syllabus and must be uploaded to Canvas.

Homework Assignments – Synoptic Comparison & Gospels Geography

There are two homework assignments. The first requires the student to do an exercise in Synoptic Comparisons. The handout for the assignment can be found on the Canvas page for this course.

The second assignment is designed to increase your familiarity with the geography of Jesus' travels. The blank map and instructions are on Canvas.

Gospel Story Performance

All students will be assigned into groups of 3-4 people and will be given a Gospel story to memorize. During the last several weeks of the course we will take a few minutes out of each class period for students to perform their memorized story in front of the class. *More information can be found on Canvas with a full description of the assignment and list of passages to choose from.*

Special Needs: As an institution, we strive to work with students and any challenges they face to the full degree possible. If there are any physical or mental challenges that might need special accommodation, please contact the instructor prior to or on the first day of class.

Course and Syllabus Modification (Disclaimer): This syllabus is intended to reflect accurately the learning objectives, instructional format, readings, activities, evaluation criteria, policies and procedures, and other information necessary for students to complete this course. The instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as deemed necessary to maintain the integrity of the learning experience as a result of events and circumstances that occur during the course.

VIII. COURSE SCHEDULE

Strauss = Mark Strauss, *Four Portraits, One Jesus*

Pennington = JTPennington, *Reading the Gospels Wisely*

Hill = C. E. Hill, *Who Chose the Gospels?*

DJG, “xxxx” = *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels* (2d ed.), “ENTRY TITLE”

Week	Material Covered / Lecture Title	Reading/Assignments DUE
	<i>Introduction</i>	
1	Introduction to the Course What are the Gospels and Why Do We Need Them?	Strauss 23-42 Strauss Quiz 1 Pennington chapters 1-3
	The Study of the Gospels Over the Centuries	Strauss 43-65 Strauss Quiz 2 Strauss 347-382 Strauss Quiz 11 Hill chapters 1-5 DJG, “Gospels: History of Interpretation”
2	Hermeneutics 501 for the Gospels	Pennington chapters 6-7 Strauss 67-89 Strauss Quiz 3 Hill chapters 6-11
	How to Read the Gospels Wisely	Pennington chapters 8-11 Pennington Quiz 6-11
3	The Gospels as History and in their Historical and Redemptive Context, Part One	Strauss 383-398 Strauss Quiz 12 Strauss 93-167 Strauss Quiz 4 Strauss Quiz 5 Strauss Quiz 6
	The Gospels as History and in their Historical and Redemptive Context, Part Two	Pennington chapters 4-5 Pennington Quiz 1-5 DJG, “Rabbinic Traditions and Writings”

	<i>The Four Gospels</i>	
4	Reading Matthew	Strauss 213-258 Strauss Quiz 8 All of Matthew
	Matthew 1-2	DJG, “Kingdom of God/Heaven”
5	Matthew 3-4	
	Matthew 5-7	
6	Matthew 8-12	
	Matthew 13-17	
7	Matthew 18-23	
	Matthew 24-28	All of Matthew (again) Matthew Reading Guide
	MIDTERM EXAM DUE (covering material through Matthew)	
8	Reading Mark Mark 1-3	Strauss 171-212 Strauss Quiz 7 All of Mark
	Mark 4 <i>Lecture Topic: Parables</i>	
9	Mark 5-16 <i>Lecture Topic: Eschatology</i>	Mark Reading Guide DJG, “Eschatology”
	Reading Luke Luke 1-4	Strauss 259-296 Strauss Quiz 9 All of Luke DJG, “Rich and Poor”
10	Luke 5-15	Gospel Performances 1-5
	Luke 16-24 <i>Lecture Topic: Jesus’ Passion</i>	Luke Reading Guide Strauss 493-525 Strauss Quiz 19 Strauss Quiz 20
11	Reading John	Strauss 297-343 Strauss Quiz 10

		All of John Gospel Performances 6-10
	John 1-6	DJG, "I Am Sayings" DJG, "Light and Dark" Gospel Performances 11-15
12	John 6-16	Gospel Performances 16-20
	John 17-21	All of John (again) John Reading Guide Strauss 455-468 Strauss Quiz 17 Gospel Performances 21-25
	<i>The One Jesus</i>	
13	The One Jesus	Strauss 399-409, 435-454, 469-491 Strauss Quiz 13 Strauss Quiz 16 Strauss Quiz 18 Pennington chapter 12 Gospel Performances 26-30
	Final Exams	FINAL EXAM