

Course Syllabus

BIB345NT New Testament: The Gospels

Course Credits: 3

Course Duration: 8 weeks

Course Description:

An expository study of the life and teachings of Jesus Christ as recorded in the four canonical Gospels. The course will focus on the chronology of events, the major discourses, and key themes of the Gospels in their First-Century historical, cultural, geographical, and religious setting. Skills will be developed for the communication and application of the text with an eye toward personal discipleship and ministry in the local church.

Biblical & Theology Studies Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs*) - By the completion of this program, students will be able to:

#	PLOs
1	Apply basic research methods and utilize quality resources for personal Bible study, sermon/lesson preparation, and academic theological research.
2	Implement sound principles of biblical interpretation to understand and apply the biblical text in proper historical context through exegesis and theology.
3	Demonstrate a functional understanding of Christian Scripture, Christian heritage, Christian beliefs, and Christian living.
4	Identify the relationship between biblical and theological knowledge, a personal relationship with God, and a commitment to service in the local church.
5	Evaluate differing viewpoints on key biblical and theological issues to identify biblical and logical consistency.
6	Support a commitment to the authority and inerrancy of the Word of God for all matters of faith and practice.

BIB345NT New Testament: The Gospels - Course Syllabus

7	Formulate a system of doctrine that is thoroughly biblical, internally consistent, and functionally relevant for faith, life, and ministry.
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Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs):

#	CLOs	Bloom's*	PLO(s)~
1	Describe the genre of the four Gospels in terms of historical, literary, and theological considerations.	2	1,2,3
2	Demonstrate the importance of the Greco-Roman and Jewish historical, cultural, and religious setting for the life of Christ.	3	1,2,3
3	Assess the differences between the Synoptic Gospels and the Gospel of John in view of the doctrine of Biblical Inerrancy.	4	1,2,3,5,6
4	Perform competent exegesis of selected passages in the Gospels, demonstrating literary discernment and theological acumen.	6	1,2,3,4
5	Develop applications from the Gospels that pertain to personal spiritual growth and ministry in the local church.	6	1,2,3,4

*Indicates the Bloom's Taxonomy cognitive domain level.

~Indicates which PLO(s) are aligned with the CLO.

Biblical Worldview Integration Plan:

This course is designed to facilitate the integration of the Gospels into a comprehensive biblical worldview through a structured sequence of learning activities. Weekly essays, reflections, and discussions will provide opportunities for critical engagement with the theological and ethical implications of the Gospels, offering students an opportunity to construct and articulate practical applications of Gospel teachings, with an emphasis on their relevance to contemporary life and ministry contexts.

Course Content Expert Weekly Videos Grading Grid:

Assessments (# in parentheses) - # pts. each if > 1	Total Points
Discussions (8) - 25 pts. each	200

BIB345NT New Testament: The Gospels - Course Syllabus

Essays (8) – 65 pts. each	520
Reflections (8) – 35 pts. Each	280
Total Points:	1,000

Course Schedule:

Week 1

Media:

1. Strauss, Chapters 1 & 4
2. Bible (OT): Malachi 3:1; 4:5-6; Isaiah 9:1-7; Micah 5:2-5; Isaiah 40:1-11; Daniel 7:13-14; Jeremiah 31:31-34
3. Bible (NT): Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38, 67-80; John 1:1-18
4. Video: "Out of the Silence - The Arrival of Hope"
5. Podcast: "The Story Behind the Story - Jesus and the Gospels in the Bigger Biblical Narrative"

Assignments:

1. Essay: Silence, Promise, and the Shape of the Gospels - See Instructions in the course
2. Bible Reflection: Finding Our Place in the Grand Story - See Instructions in the course
3. Wk1 Discussion - See Instructions in the course

Week 2

Media:

1. Strauss, Chapters 5, 14, 15
2. Bible: Matthew 1-2; Luke 1.1 - 4:15; John 1:19-51
3. Video: "The Nativity Story"
4. Podcast: "Identity Before Calling"

Assignments:

1. Essay: The Nativity and God's Unexpected Story - See Instructions in the course
2. Bible Reflection: Identity Before Calling - See Instructions in the course
3. Wk2 Discussion - See Instructions in the course

BIB345NT New Testament: The Gospels - Course Syllabus

Week 3

Media:

1. Strauss, Chapters 6, 17
2. Bible: John 2:1-12 (Cana); John 3:1-21 (Nicodemus); John 4:1-42 (Samaritan Woman); Luke 4:16-44 (Nazareth Rejection, Healings, Prayer, Authority); Mark 2:1-12 (Healing of the Paralytic)
3. Video: "Jesus as Living Water"
4. Podcast: "Rejection, Authority, and the Expansive Kingdom" Episode 3

Assignments:

1. Essay: Jesus as the Living Water - See Instructions in the course
2. Bible Reflection Paper: Authority Over Fear and Limitation - See Instructions in the course
3. Wk3 Discussion - See Instructions in the course

Week 4

Media:

1. Strauss, Chapter 16
2. Bible: Matthew 5-7 (Sermon on the Mount); Luke 6:17-49 (Sermon on the Plain & Woes); Matthew 13:1-23; Mark 4:1-20; Luke 8:4-15 (Parable of the Soils); Luke 15:11-32 (Prodigal Son)
3. Video: The Parable Arc
4. Video: The Sermon on the Mount - Upside-Down Kingdom
5. Podcast: The Soils - What Kind of Soil Am I?

Assignments:

1. Essay: Parables and the Sermon on the Mount - See Instructions in the course
2. Bible Reflection Paper: The Parable of the Soils - See Instructions in the course
3. Wk4 Discussion - See Instructions in the course

Week 5

Media:

1. Strauss, Chapters 7, 18
2. Bible: Matthew 8-9; Mark 4-5; 8:34-38; Luke 8:22-56

BIB345NT – New Testament: The Gospels - Course Syllabus

3. Bible: Healing the Demon-Possessed Man (Legion) - Matthew 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39
4. Video: Jesus Over the Chaos
5. Podcast: Carrying the Kingdom - The Cost of Discipleship

Assignments:

1. Essay: Jesus Over the Chaos - See Instructions in the course
2. Bible Reflection Paper: Risk, Truth-Telling, and Discipleship - See Instructions in the course
3. Wk5 Discussion - See Instructions in the course

Week 6

Media:

1. Strauss, Chapters 8-9
2. Bible: Matthew 14:13-36; Mark 6:30-56; Luke 9:10-27; John 6:1-71
3. Video: From Consumers to Disciples - Presence Over Provision
4. Podcast: Beyond Bread - Growing Opposition and the Bread of Life

Assignments:

1. Essay: Presence Over Provision - See Instructions in the course
2. Podcast Reflection Paper - See Instructions in the course
3. Wk6 Discussion - See Instructions in the course

Week 7

Media:

1. Strauss, Chapter 19
2. Bible: John 12:1-11 (Mary Anoints Jesus); John 12:12-19 (Triumphal Entry); Matthew 21:12-46 (Temple & Parables); Mark 12:41-44 (Widow's Offering); Matthew 24-25 (Olivet Discourse); Luke 22:1-46 (Passover & Gethsemane)
3. Video: The Passion Begins - Who Do We Say He Is?
4. Podcast: Watch and Pray, Episode 7

Assignments:

1. Essay: Beautiful or Wasteful? - See Instructions in the course
2. Bible Reflection Paper: Watch and Pray - See Instructions in the course
3. Wk7 Discussion - See Instructions in the course

BIB345NT NewTestament: The Gospels - Course Syllabus

Week 8

Media:

1. Strauss, Chapter 20
2. Bible: Matthew 26-28; Mark 14-16; Luke 22-24; John 18-21
3. Video: "The Crucified King"
4. Video: "All Authority: Who Do You Say He Is?"
5. Podcast: "Risen and Ascended - The Triumph of Christ"

Assignments:

1. Essay: The Crucified King - See Instructions in the course
2. Bible Reflection Paper: All Authority - See Instructions in the course
3. Wk8 Discussion - See Instructions in the course

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