

New Testament Studies: Life of Christ

RL 3253 A

Instructor

Robert Lee Foster, PhD

Contact Points

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Course Website

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Office Hours

Maddox Center 106

Specific office hours are posted on my door but I am generally in my office from 7:15 AM to 4:00 PM.

Communication

Students must use their WBC e-mail address for this course. This address will be used to make contact with students as need arises related to course work, attendance, etc. Students are responsible to check their email between each class. If you need to contact me, please do so personally or use one of the contact points mentioned above.

Course Overview

A study of the life, ministry, and teaching of Jesus, including an examination of contemporary critical issues.

Course Objectives

The following objectives will serve as a summary of the content of the course. The learning activities which are discussed in this syllabus will measure the achievement of these objectives. Furthermore, these objectives are intended to assist students in accomplishing the “Institutional Academic Goals” of Williams Baptist College (Catalog).

1. The student will become familiar with the events of the Life of Jesus of Nazareth specifically as recorded in the Gospel of Mark.
2. The student will become familiar with the basic teachings of Jesus of Nazareth recorded in the Synoptic Gospels.
3. The student will be able to describe the issues related to the authorship, date, audience, and provenance of the Gospel of Mark.
4. The student will understand the significant issues and ideologies of Second Temple Judaism.
5. The student will understand the hermeneutical issues related to the Gospels.
6. The student will become familiar with the major themes of the Gospel of Mark including Christology, the Kingdom of God, the Secrecy Motifs, Discipleship, Atonement and Salvation, and Eschatology.
7. The student will become familiar with the issues surrounding the ending of the Gospel of Mark.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected and required to uphold the highest standards of academic honesty in this and all courses. Students should be familiar with the college’s “Academic Honesty Policy” (catalog). Students requiring any clarification of these policies should consult their academic advisor or the Office of Academic Affairs.

Required Texts

A modern translation of the Bible such as NKJV, NASB, ESV, NRSV, etc.

Garland, David E. *A Theology of Mark's Gospel*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2015.

Green, Joel B., Scot McKnight, and I. Howard Marshal, eds. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*, 2nd ed. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2013. (Abbreviated DJG in course schedule.)

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago, 2013.

Learning Activities

Note Bene

Turning in an assignment is no guarantee of receiving full point value. Only assignments done in a professional, error-free manner with excellence in thought and organization will receive full point value.

Late Assignments

Assignments may be accepted late if submitted in a reasonable amount of time, except where otherwise noted. The grade received on any assignment turned in after the due date will be reduced by 10% for each class session it is late.

Class Attendance (25 points)

Students are expected to attend every class session. Class begins at the appointed time.

Students who miss one week's worth of class will be notified by the professor. Absences equal to two weeks of classes may result in removal from the class. No excused absences are allowed. Students who are involved in college required activities such as Williams Singers, Cast, Athletic Competitions, etc. will not be counted absent when the student submits a note (email is acceptable) to the professor including the date and reason for the absence. These notes should be submitted within one week of the absence, preferably prior to the absence. Please see the current Academic College Catalog for additional information.

Students will lose 10 points from their Attendance and Participation grade for each absence beginning with their second absence. Students will lose 5 points for any late arrivals or early departures beginning with their second late arrival or early departure. If a student loses 20 points because of late arrivals, they will be required to meet with the professor. If a student loses more than 25 points, the additional forfeiture will be subtracted from her/his total points in the class.

Research Paper (200 total points)

Each student will write a 14-15 page exegesis paper on an issue related to the study of the Synoptic Gospels, for example, *An Examination of Honor and Shame in the Question of Authority in Mark 11:27-33*. The final paper (Stage Four) should include at least three commentaries from the following list: Broadman Bible Commentary, International Critical Commentary, Interpretation, New American Commentary, New International Commentary on the New Testament, New International Greek Testament Commentary, NIV Application Commentary, Word Biblical Commentary. Papers should also demonstrate use of at least two journal articles from the ATLA Religion Database, located on EbscoHost.

The research project will be completed in four stages. Each stage will be evaluated to assign a final grade for the paper.

Stage One: Students should submit three one page proposals. The proposals should include a clear definition of both the issue and passage which they would like to research. Each of these proposals should be at least one substantive paragraph

in length. The professor will evaluate each proposal and suggest a course of study. Please submit in proper Turabian format including a title page, a blank page, and the proposals in body format.

Stage Two: Students will select one of their proposals and expand the proposal by writing a thesis paragraph for their paper, constructing an outline of the passage and presenting a proposed bibliography of at least five resources. Please submit in proper Turabian format including a title page, a blank page, the thesis paragraph and outline in body format, and a bibliography.

Stage Three: Students should submit a rough draft which will be marked for grammar, style and format so that corrections can be made in the final paper. Students should also submit a completed “*A Checklist for Step by Step Biblical Exegesis.*”

Stage Four: Students will submit a final project.

Stages one through three will account for 20% for the grade on the project. The remaining 80% will evaluate the final product including format and style. All four stages of the papers must follow Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th ed. Students will submit two copies of Stages 3 and 4: a printed copy and an electronic copy submitted to Turnitin.com. Papers will not be considered submitted until both copies have been received. The checklist does not need to be submitted to Turnitin.com.

Students will not receive a passing grade for the course if they do not submit a paper.

NOTE BENE: *NO LATE PAPERS (Stage Four) WILL BE ACCEPTED!* They are due in class on March 16, 2017. See course calendar for due dates of each stage.

Seminar (100 total points)

Each student will participate in a one day research seminar. The seminar will take place on _____. Attendance is mandatory. Additional details will be discussed in class.

Reading (50 points)

Each student will be required to read the Gospels of Matthew, Mark (3 times, one time straight through in a single setting) and Luke during the course of the semester. Students will be asked to maintain a log of their reading and to affirm that they have completed this reading on the antepenultimate day of class. Logs are available on the class page of the PeacePage.

Exams (100 points Mid Term Exam, 200 points Final Exam; 300 total points)

Exams will cover discussion, lectures, and reading material. *The Final Exam will be comprehensive.*

Final Course Grade

Accuracy of Grades

All grades for the class are kept in the Vcamp 360 grade book. Vcamp 360, however, is not used to calculate final grades, only to record individual assignment grades. Students should routinely check their grades. Any questions about the grades should be directed to the professor by the last day of class. All grades for the course (except the final exam) will be considered final the last day of class. The final exam grade will be considered final if the student does not contact the professor within one week of the posting of the grade. This procedure is intended to involve the student in the accuracy of their grade in a timely manner.

Grading Scale

Class Attendance	25	A	93-100%
Research Paper	200	B	83-92.9%
Seminar	100	C	73-82.9%
Reading	50	D	63-72.9%
Exams	300	F	0-62.9%
TOTAL POINTS:			675

Disabilities

The student has the responsibility of informing the professor of any medically documented disabling condition that will require modifications to avoid discrimination. All requests for special accommodations must be approved in consultation with the Director of Counseling Services. Reasonable accommodations will be jointly developed between student and professor after consultation with the Director of Counseling Services. The student is responsible to initiate any request for accommodations in advance of their need. Documentation will be required.

Course Schedule

DATE	LECTURE	READING	ASSIGNMENTS
January 10	Introduction to the Course An Approach to Biblical Exegesis	Lk 14:25-33 Neh 8:8-12, Ezr 7:10 Garland 39-98	
12	Second Temple Judaism	Syllabus "Judaism" DJG 398-405 "Temple" DJG 688-698 (Intro, ¶6-8)	
17		Mt 6:1-18 "Pharisees" DJG 609-614 "Scribes" DJG 732-735 "Sanhedrin" DJG 728-732	
19	The Prologue to the Gospel of Mark	Mk 1:1-13 Garland 99-104 "Mark, Gospel of" DJG 512-525 "Son of God" DJG 769-775	
24	(continued)	Garland 179-224	
26	GALILEAN MINISTRY: Early Galilean Ministry "Demon, Devil, Satan" "Authority and Power"	Mk 1:14-3:6 Garland 104-116 DJG 163-172 DJG 50-54	Stage One Due

31 ABSC Evangelism Conference
No Class

February	GALILEAN MINISTRY:	Mk 3:7–6:13	
2	Later Galilean Ministry	Garland 116-127	
	“Miracles and Miracles Stories”	DJG 549-560	
	Clean and Unclean”	DJG 125-132	
	“Sabbath”	DJG 716-719	
7	(continued)		
9	GALILEAN MINISTRY:	Mk 6:14–8:21	Stage Two Due
	Ministry around Galilee	Garland 127-136	
	“Discipleship”	DJG 183-184 (¶ 1.2)	
	“Table Fellowship”	DJG 796-800	
14	GALILEAN MINISTRY:	Mk 8:22-30	
	A Turning Point in Jesus’ Ministry	Garland 136-138	
	“Blindness and Deafness”	DJG 81-82	
	“Son of David”	DJG 766-769	
16	JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM:	Mk 8:31–9:50	
	The Passion Predictions	Garland 138-142	
	“Prediction of Jesus Passion and Resurrection”	DJG 630-633	
	“Transfiguration”		
	“Healing”	DJG 834-841	
		DJG 299-307	
21	(continued)	Mk 10:1-52	
		Garland 142-147	
23	MAJOR THEMES IN MARK’S THEOLOGY:	Garland 388-409	Stage Three Due
	Mark’s Theology of Discipleship		
28	(continued)	Garland 409-437	

March	(continued)	
2		
7	CONFRONTATION IN JERUSALEM "Temple Cleansing"	Mk 11:1–12:44 Garland 147-157 DJG 817-821
9	CONFRONTATION IN JERUSALEM: The Markan Apocalypse "Apocalyptic" "Apocalyptic Teaching"	Mk 13:1-37 Garland 157-160 DJG 17-20 DJG 20-27
14	MAJOR THEMES IN MARK'S THEOLOGY: Mark's Eschatology	Garland 507-534
16	(continued)	Stage Four Due
21	SPRING BREAK –No Class	
23	SPRING BREAK –No Class	
28	THE PASSION OF JESUS: Introduction/ Preparatory Events "Chronology"	Mk 14:1-52 Garland 160-166 DJG 119-122 (§4)
30	MAJOR THEMES IN MARK'S THEOLOGY: The Kingdom of God in Mark	Garland 335-367
April	THE PASSION OF JESUS: The Trials "Trials of Jesus"	Mk 14:53–15:15 Garland 166-171 DJG 841-854
4		
6	THE PASSION OF JESUS: The Crucifixion "Death of Jesus"	Mk 15:16-41 Garland 171-176 DJG 146-163 (§1-3, 5) Vcamp: "On the Physical Death of Jesus Christ"
11	THE PASSION OF JESUS: Burial and Resurrection "Burial of Jesus" "Resurrection"	Mk 15:42–16:8 Garland 176-178 DJG 88-92 DJG 678-679 (§4.1)

13	MAJOR THEMES IN MARK'S THEOLOGY: Mark's Theology of Atonement and Salvation	Garland 472-506	
18	MAJOR THEMES IN MARK'S THEOLOGY: The Ending of Mark's Gospel "Mark, Gospel of"	Mk 16:9-20 Garland 535-559 DJG 523-524 (¶4)	
20	MAJOR THEMES IN MARK'S THEOLOGY: The Secrecy Motifs in Mark	Garland 368-387	Reading Log Due
25	MAJOR THEMES IN MARK'S THEOLOGY: Enacted Christology in Mark	Garland 261-316	
27	(continued)		
May 2	MAJOR THEMES IN MARK'S THEOLOGY: The Requirements, Costs, and Rewards of Discipleship	Garland 438-454	
4	(review)		
Final Exam			