

**NT522E GOSPELS BOOK STUDY: MARK**  
**TUESDAYS, 6:30-10 PM, 5/14-6/11, AND SATURDAY 6/1 IN CH**  
**SPRING 2019**

Last revised: 6/14/19

**Missio Seminary exists to produce missional Christian leaders-  
men and women who incarnate the story of Jesus with humility and authenticity and who  
communicate the story with fidelity to Scripture, appreciation of the Christian tradition,  
and sensitivity to the needs and aspirations of postmodern culture.**

## **INSTRUCTOR**

Name Stephen Taylor  
Phone Numbers 215-368-5000 ext. 132 (office); 215-782-8794 (Home)  
Email staylor2@biblical.edu  
Office Hours Due to the tight schedules of Tuesday evenings, please arrange a time to consult with the instructor. Every effort will be made to accommodate your needs either by phone, email, or face-to-face meeting.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Mark was the least favorite of the canonical gospels during the first 1500 years of the church. Its Greek was perceived as inferior when compared to the other gospels, its structure haphazard, and its portrayal of Jesus primitive, rough, and fraught with mystery. It is precisely these characteristics, however, that have led to a renewed interest in Mark in modern times. In fact, Mark has generally been the starting point of most attempts to synthesize a picture of the historical Jesus (Jesus as he actually came across to first century folk). We will be reading the entire gospel but taking detailed soundings of 6 pivotal sections. Using an English synopsis of the gospels, we will get a better insight into Mark's unique role and message within the four-fold witness to Christ provided by the canonical gospels. Throughout we will keep one eye on the question of the historical Jesus: how did Jesus come across to those around him, before his true significance fully emerged and was understood?

## **PERSONAL NOTE FROM THE PROFESSOR**

Mark has always fascinated me. It is so packed with action. The disciples are so clueless. And Jesus seems so driven by an almost impossible calling: to bring in God's salvation, embodying God's compassion, while always being opposed or misunderstood. And then there is the intense focus on the Jesus' death and his mysterious resurrection. God's climactic act of revelation and redemption seems so wrapped in ambiguity and mystery. It's enough to enthrall and frustrate you--all at the same time. Could this be what it was like to be one of Jesus' disciples? Isn't it still like this sometimes? Mark tells me that to be challenged by Jesus is to be expected. Let's be challenged together.

*--Stephen S. Taylor*

## SYLLABUS

This syllabus provides an overview of the course and course requirements. Students are responsible to know the content of the syllabus and follow the course schedule. Questions about the syllabus or schedule should be emailed to the professor promptly and will generally be answered in an email to the entire class so that everyone is informed.

This syllabus is intended to give the student guidance in what may be covered during the term and will be followed as closely as possible. However, the professor reserves the right to modify, supplement, and make changes as course needs arise.

## PROGRAM GOALS AND COURSE OBJECTIVES

PROGRAM GOALS	COURSE OBJECTIVES—TO ENABLE YOU TO . . .
<b>Goal 1:</b> Students will live grace-based lives increasingly characterized by wisdom, the fruit of the Spirit, and love for God and others.	5. Achieve a better understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus and to follow him into the world.
<b>Goal 3:</b> Students will demonstrate knowledge of the Bible & its missional perspective and their ability to humbly interpret and apply it in light of history, culture, and genre.	1. Talk intelligently about the historical highpoints and main contours of Synoptic Gospels research. 2. Talk intelligently about the historical highpoints and main contours of the various “Quests for the Historical Jesus.” 3. Articulate the unique message about Jesus of the Gospel of Mark. 4. Spell out lines of impact and application from Mark that will prove fruitful for ministry and mission in your 21st century context.

## ASSESSMENTS, HOMEWORK HOURS, AND OUTSIDE INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Assessments are graded assignments that measure a student’s mastery of the course content. Homework is course work in addition to the instruction listed above.

ASSIGNMENT OR ASSESSMENT	RELATED OBJECTIVES	PERCENT OF GRADE	ESTIMATED TIME IN HOURS
1. Synoptic Analyses (2)	1,2,3,4	20%	15
2. Objective Midterm exam	1,2,3	35%	10
3. Final Sermon	1,2,3,4,5	35%	15
4. Preparation (reading and reflection)	1,2,3,4,5		40
5. Class Participation	1,2,3,4,5	10%	
Total estimated time for the above assignments.			80 hours
*These required assignments involve instruction comparable to what occurs in the classroom (lectures, presentations, and instructor-led activities such as discussions, debates, and collaborative work. They should be completed on the due dates listed in this syllabus.			

INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITY IN ADDITION TO CLASS SESSIONS*			
Martin, Dale. "The Historical Jesus." Lecture 13 in RLST 152: Introduction to the New Testament History and Literature. Open Yale courses. <a href="http://oyc.yale.edu/religious-studies/rlst-152/lecture-13">http://oyc.yale.edu/religious-studies/rlst-152/lecture-13</a>	1,2,6		2 hrs.
Keener, Craig. "Interview on the Historical Jesus." <a href="http://www.4truth.net/fourtruthpbjesus.aspx?pageid=8589952877">http://www.4truth.net/fourtruthpbjesus.aspx?pageid=8589952877</a>	1,2,6		2 hrs.
Garrow, Alan, Matthew Conflator Hypothesis. <a href="https://www.alangarrow.com">https://www.alangarrow.com</a>	1,2,6		3 hrs.
Wright, N. T., On "Jesus and the People of God" <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1AukgNlAgil">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1AukgNlAgil</a>	1,2,3,4,5		3 hrs.
Sermons on the Synoptic Gospels—some with Listening Quizzes—6 total	3,4,5		6 hrs.
Total			16 hrs
*These required assignments involve instruction comparable to what occurs in the classroom (lectures, presentations, and instructor-led activities such as discussions, debates, and collaborative work. They should be completed on the due dates listed in this syllabus.			
<b>Note:</b> All assignments must be submitted by the due date listed in the syllabus and no later than the final due date for the course listed in this syllabus by permission of the instructor. After the final due date, faculty cannot grant students permission to submit late work. See "Completion of Course Work" below.			

## REQUIRED READING AND MATERIALS

**NOTE:** Hyperlinks to Amazon.com are placed here for your convenience. However, please be aware that there may be other websites (by publishers or by other ebook publishers) that may sell the same item for cheaper prices. Please shop around! In addition, some sites offer ebook rental prices for a limited number of weeks. These may also be cost effective. However, be sure to buy the right edition and recognize some of the smaller sellers may not deliver books in a timely fashion.

English Bible (preferably NRSV or ESV with Apochrypha—bring to class) electronic or print. You may also opt for a Bible in your mother tongue, if it is different from English.

Society, American Bible. *Synopsis of the Four Gospels, Revised Standard Version*. Revised edition. New York: American Bible Society, 2010.  
[http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1585169420/ref=pd\\_lpo\\_sbs\\_dp\\_ss\\_1?pf\\_rd\\_p=1944687462&pf\\_rd\\_s=lpo-top-stripe-1&pf\\_rd\\_t=201&pf\\_rd\\_i=1598561774&pf\\_rd\\_m=ATVPDKIKX0DER&pf\\_rd\\_r=1ZS96NDQ7WG5XCCVH99G](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1585169420/ref=pd_lpo_sbs_dp_ss_1?pf_rd_p=1944687462&pf_rd_s=lpo-top-stripe-1&pf_rd_t=201&pf_rd_i=1598561774&pf_rd_m=ATVPDKIKX0DER&pf_rd_r=1ZS96NDQ7WG5XCCVH99G)

Wright, N. T. *The Contemporary Quest for Jesus*. Fortress Press, 2002. (Any edition of this book will do [Kindle or paperback])

Black, C. Clifton. *Abingdon New Testament Commentaries: Mark*. Abingdon New Testament Commentaries. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2011.  
<http://biblical.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=378376&site=ehost-live&scope=site>.

Geddert, Timothy J. *Mark : Believers Church Bible Commentary*. Believers Church Bible Commentary. Scottsdale, Pa: Herald Press, 2001.  
<http://missio.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=66127&site=ehost-live&scope=site>.

## RECOMMENDED TEXTS & MATERIALS

- DeSilva, David A. *An Introduction to the New Testament: Contexts, Methods and Ministry Formation*. Downers Grove, Ill: InterVarsity Press, 2004.
- Evans, Craig A., and N. T. Wright. *Jesus, the Final Days: What Really Happened*. Westminster John Knox, 2009.
- France, R. T. *The Gospel of Mark*. Reprint edition. Grand Rapids, Mich: Eerdmans, 2014.
- Guelich, Robert A. *Word Biblical Commentary Vol. 34a, Mark 1-8:26*. Waco, Tx: Thomas Nelson Inc, 1989. Note: the second volume on Mark 9-16 is by Craig Evans.
- Hooker, Morna D. *The Gospel According To St. Mark*. Peabody, Mass: Continuum, 2001.
- Hurtado, Larry W. *Mark*. Hendrickson Publishers, 1995.
- Myers, Ched. *Binding the Strong Man: A Political Reading of Mark's Story of Jesus*. 20th ed. Orbis Books, 2008.
- Powery, Emerson B. "Mark." In *True to our Native Land: an African American New Testament Commentary*, edited by Brian K. Blount, Cain Hope Felder, and Clarice Jannette Martin, 121-57. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2007.
- Rhoads, David. *Mark as Story*. 2nd ed. Fortress Press, 1999.
- Wright, N. T. *Following Jesus: Biblical Reflections on Discipleship*. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1997.
- . *Jesus and the Victory of God*. Augsburg Fortress Publishers, 1997.
- . *The Challenge of Jesus: Rediscovering Who Jesus Was and Is*. InterVarsity Press, 1999.

## COURSE PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS

### Attendance Policy and Grades

It is important to arrive on time and be actively engaged in every minute (literally, every minute) of class time. Class time is valuable – to you, to your classmates, and to the professor. Class time is thoughtfully prepared by the professor and crafted with intricacy for maximum learning effectiveness.

Students are also expected to login to the E-campus course site regularly and participate in the course activities in a timely manner. If you know you are going to be absent from the course site for more than three or four days, please notify the instructor and group members (if applicable) in advance. Nevertheless, recognize that your grade may be lowered for tardiness or absences at the discretion of the instructor.

Attendance in this course constitutes both 1) coming to class and 2) logging in to the E-campus course site and participating in the online or out-of-class activities assigned throughout the course. Students are responsible for reading and familiarizing themselves with the material posted on the E-campus course site throughout the course.

Student usage of the course site is tracked by the E-campus software and monitored by the professor of the course. Students who need to be absent from the course site for three or more days during a discussion forum activity or required web conference should email the professor in advance of the absence (see Attendance Policy and Grades in this syllabus). Students may email the instructor at any time if they have questions about the course.

### Completion of Course Work

All course work is to be completed by the last day of classes for the term or by the date posted in the course syllabus. Extensions to this time limit will be made only by the academic administration committee. The individual faculty member does not have the authority to grant any extensions of time beyond the last class of the term. Requests for extensions must be made in writing to the committee at least one week prior to the last day of classes. Variance forms for this purpose are available in the academic office or on Missio's website. All requests should specify the reasons for the extension and the length of the extension desired. Requests are not automatically granted.

### **Policies and Procedures**

Since each class period in a nine-week format course represents more than one week's work, only one unexcused, unexplained absence is permitted in the course of a 9-week quarter. A second absence will be granted in cleared with the professor. A third unexcused absence may result in failing the course. Be sure to discuss your attendance problems with the professor early and often!

All out-of-class assignments must be submitted electronically, using E-Campus, by the time indicated on the schedule below. Late assignments will be accepted but their grades may be docked. **The assignments should conform to a standard academic format** (Turabian or Chicago Manual of Style) unless otherwise noted in the individual rubrics for each assignment (i.e., one inch margins all around, double-spaced, Times New Roman font, 11 or 12 point, footnotes and bibliography **in proper form**). Note that page requirements do not count the title or reference pages.

**Students should name their assignments files, before uploading them to E-Campus, according to the following pattern: <lastname>< firstname-->< assignment title>**, where the assignment title matches the title given in the syllabus. As an example, if I were to submit the Sermon described below, I would entitle my file: Taylor Stephen--Sermon.

## **ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS AND GRADING**

### **Synoptic Analyses**

There will be two (2) 1-3 page analyses of Markan passages in comparison with parallel accounts in other gospels. Precise passages and detailed rubrics will be communicated through in-class handouts. Since these will become the bases for in class discussions, it is very important that each of these be completed and submitted prior to the relevant class meeting.

### **Listening Quizzes**

Four (4) of the Instructional Activities Outside of the Classroom will include embedded or linked short objective quizzes. Students should complete all of these for a grade. Most of these will be sermons on passages from the gospels. The student will be asked to listen to these critically, as explained in class.

### **Mid-Term Exam**

45-minute exam devoted to the introductory issues discussed in the first two sessions of class. The nature of the exam will be in discussed in class.

### **Sermon**

For a final project, you will compose a sermon, with an evangelistic thrust, of about 2400 words introducing a carefully delimited audience to Jesus, *as he is revealed in Mark's gospel*. Precise instructions will be given in class.

### **Class Attendance**

One missed class is permitted. A second class missed (or half classes together) will result in a five-point deduction from the final course grade. A third class missed will result in a failing grade.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

Tuesday, May 14 <i>Mark in Canonical Context and History</i>	Submission Method	Due Date
Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mark in one sitting a couple of times using different translations—get to know this wonderful work!!</b></li> <li>• Read introduction to Geddert or Black</li> <li>• Begin reading Wright</li> </ul> NOTHING DUE	n/a	n/a
Tuesday, May 21 <i>Kickoff, Controversy, and Confusion (1:1-3:35)</i>		
Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read appropriate comments in Geddert or Black</li> <li>• Continue reading Wright</li> <li>• Listen to either Keener interview and/or Martin lecture</li> </ul>	n/a	By class time
Due <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nothing Due (but make sure you are up on your reading and listening!!)</li> </ul>	n/a	By class time
Tuesday, May 28 <i>He Spoke in Parables (4:1-34; 12:1-12)</i>		
Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read appropriate comments in Geddert or Black</li> <li>• Finish reading Wright</li> </ul>	n/a	By class time
Due <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Synoptic Analysis 1 (according instructions given out in previous class meeting)</li> </ul>	Submit electronically	By class time
Saturday, June 1 8:30 a. m.-4:30 p. m. (Two Session)		
<b>Morning Session:</b> <i>The Son of Man: Authority and Power (4:35 - 7:37)</i> <b>Reading/Audio</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read appropriate comments in Geddert or Black</li> <li>• Listen to Keener audio</li> </ul>	n/a	. By class time
<b>Afternoon Session:</b> <i>Presence of the Kingdom and Dull Perceptions (8:1-10:52)</i> Reading Read appropriate comments in Geddert or Black		

Due	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid-term (for the first 45 minutes)</li> <li>• Be certain to read 4:1-34 well, since we will be doing a synoptic analysis in our group discussion in class</li> </ul>	Done in class	By class time
<b>Tuesday, June 4</b> <i>Showdown in the Town for the Son of Man (11:1-13-37)</i>			
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read appropriate comments in Geddert or Black</li> </ul>	n/a	By class time
Due	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Synoptic Analysis2 (according instructions given out in previous class meeting)</li> </ul>	Submit electronically	By class time
<b>Tuesday, June 11</b> <i>Curse and Vindication (14:1-16:8)</i>			
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read appropriate comments in Geddert or Black</li> </ul>	n/a	By class time
Due	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nothing due (but listen to the sermons [with quizzes] and work on your sermon!!)</li> </ul>	n/a	By class time
<b>Mark Sermon submitted electronically on E-Campus by Friday, midnight, June 15</b>			
<b>Note:</b> All assignments are due by the final due date for the course listed above. After the final due date, faculty cannot grant students permission to submit late work. Students must seek a course extension <u>by the final due date</u> variance request to the registrar.			

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY AND ACADEMIC POLICIES

1. **Academic Policies:** Students are fully responsible to know and follow all seminary rules, regulations, and deadlines published in the Academic Catalog and all requirements concerning their degree programs. See the e-campus home page.
2. **Course Syllabus:** Students are fully responsible to know and fulfill the requirements stated in the course syllabus. Students should email the professor about issues related to course work and deadlines during the course. See above under “completion of course work” for policies on course extensions.
3. **E-campus Course Site:** Students are fully responsible for course content and materials that are posted on the course site. Students are encouraged to check the course site frequently during the course. Students who experience difficulty accessing or using the E-campus should email [helpdesk@biblical.edu](mailto:helpdesk@biblical.edu) and include their student ID# in their correspondence.
4. **Academic and General Integrity:** As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to integrity and Christ-likeness in all areas of life. What this means in the academic realm is that the completion of all assignments and assessments are to reflect your own work. Students found guilty of cheating or plagiarism will receive a grade of zero on the assessment and will follow the process outlined in the Academic Catalog. See the Academic Catalog for more information on plagiarism and policies related to cheating and plagiarism.
5. **Student PC Security Statement:** Missio Seminary recognizes the need for computer use throughout the entire educational process today. Computers equipped with Internet access and applications that help deliver information and knowledge are vital. Students are encouraged to bring their electronic computing devices to campus to facilitate their course work and supplemental activities. Given the current climate of

online dangers such as viruses, malware, phishing scams, and other related risks it is critical to secure all such devices regardless if they're being used on campus or not. Please take the appropriate steps to safeguard the security of your own electronic devices to protect the integrity of the student network on campus and provide a safe computing environment for everyone to use.

## GRADING SYSTEM

To remain in good academic standing, a student must maintain the grade point average designated for his or her program.

<b>MISSIO SEMINARY GRADING SYSTEM</b>			
A	4.00	93.0 -100	Superior
A-	3.67	90.0 – 92.9	
B+	3.33	87.0 – 89.9	
B	3.00	83.0 – 86.9	Good
B-	2.67	80.0 – 82.9	
C+	2.33	77.0 – 79.9	
C	2.00	73.0 – 76.9	Fair
C-	1.70	70.0 – 72.9	
D+	1.30	67.0 – 69.9	Poor
D	1.00	63.0 – 66.9	
D-	.70	60.0 – 62.9	
F	0.00	00. - 59.9	Failing