

Aphpa Omega International College
Third Trimester 2018

Course: Synoptic Gospels

Class Meetings: Sept 8, 10, 15, 17; Oct 1, 8, 27; and Nov 12.

(Please note the time of the meetings below)

Instructor: Dr Lim Kar Yong

Email: karyong@stm2.edu.my

Course Description

This course is designed to help students weave through the maze of NT studies in the area of Synoptic Gospels - Matthew, Mark, and Luke. This course will cover the background and events of the Inter-testamental and Second Temple period affecting our understanding of the Synoptic Gospels, the content and theological themes of the Synoptic Gospels, and the uniqueness of each of the Synoptic Gospels. A brief survey of the life and teachings of Jesus drawn from the Synoptic Gospels will also be given special attention in this course.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- 1) provide the historical background to the period of the New Testament and how this impact the way we read the Synoptic Gospels.
- 2) give an overall outline, themes and contents, and the uniqueness of each of the Synoptic Gospels.
- 3) begin to explore the different areas, disciplines and aspects of NT studies broadly and specifically the Synoptic Gospels and learn how to do basic research and writing in NT studies.
- 4) apply the relevance of the Gospels and the teaching of Jesus in contemporary Christian living as well as the life of the church.

Course Requirements

- 1) Read the Synoptic Gospels in an idiomatic English translation of your choice.
- 2) Graded requirements:
 - a. Term Paper (60%): Write a research paper with proper footnotes and bibliography related to a defined topic, theme, or area of critical NT studies related to the Synoptic Gospels. For example, you may consider two or three parallel passages on a miracle event/parable and consider why there are similarities and differences in the Synoptic Gospels and how this may inform you on the purpose of each of the Evangelists in the way they narrated the accounts. Or, you may choose a theme on women and discuss why Luke seems to pay more attention to women in his Gospel compared to the other Synoptic Gospels, and how this may fit into the overall flow and purpose of the Lukan narrative. Various other topics will be suggested during the class. Please feel free to run by your idea with me before proceeding with your paper. The length of your paper is according to your programme of studies as stipulated in your academic handbook This paper is due on the date stipulated in your academic calendar. Please not that I usually do not

permit any extension except in urgent medical conditions of bereavement in the family.

- b. Class presentation (30%): Do a 15-min class presentation on a proposed teaching material on how you will teach the Synoptic Gospels to the church – your target audience maybe Sunday school, youth, young adults, adult bible class, cell groups, or any other context of your ministry. The focus here is how you might communicate and teach the materials based on your research. Creativity in the lesson plan will be given special attention in the grading of this assignment. You may choose to cover a particular theme, comparison of themes, or any areas related to the Synoptic Gospels. More ideas will be presented in the lectures. (30% of the grade).
- c. Reading Report (10%). Please indicate whether you have completed the reading requirement according to your programme of studies. You may indicate this when you submit your assignment to me either in your email or at the cover page of your assignment as per (a) above.

Required Textbook: Choose one of the following:

- 1) David Wenham & Steve Walton. *Exploring the New Testament, Vol 1: Introducing the Gospels and Acts*. 2nd ed. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2011.
- 2) Craig Blomberg. *Jesus and the Gospels: An Introduction and Survey*. 2nd edition. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2009.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic
Sept 8 Sat	9.30am-1.00pm Introduction to the Course Inter-testamental/Second Temple Period: Events that Shaped the NT World
Sept 10 Mon	7.00pm-10.30pm Inter-testamental/Second Temple Period: Events that Shaped the NT World
Sept 15 Sat	9.30am-5.00pm Overview of Synoptic Gospels Gospel of Matthew
Sept 17 Mon	7.00pm-10.30pm Gospel of Mark
Oct 1 Mon	7.00pm-10.30pm Gospel of Mark

Oct 8 Mon	7.00pm-10.30pm Gospel of Luke
Oct 27 Sat	9.30am-5.00pm Life of Jesus according to the Synoptic Gospels Presentation
Nov 12 Mon	7.00pm-10.30pm Presentation

Select Bibliography

New Testament Survey/Introduction/Studies

- Achtemeier Paul J., Joel B. Green and Marianne Meye Thompson. *Introducing the New Testaments: Its Literature and Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.
- Barnett, Paul. *Jesus & the Rise of Christianity: A History of New Testament Times*. Downer Grove: InterVarsityPress, 1999.
- Boring, M. Eugene. *An Introduction to the New Testament: History, Literature, Theology*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2012.
- Carson, D. A. & Douglas J. Moo. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.
- deSilva, David A. *An Introduction to the New Testament: Contexts, Methods & Ministry Formation*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2004.
- Elwell, Walter and Robert Yarbrough. *Encountering the NT: A Historical and Theological Survey*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005 (includes multimedia, interactive CD-ROM, companion reader).
- _____. *Readings from the First-Century World: Primary Sources for New Testament Study*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.
- Gundry, Robert. *A Survey of the New Testament*, 5th ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.
- Johnson, Luke Timothy. *The Writings of the NT: An Interpretation*, 3rd ed. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2010.
- Köstenberger, Andreas J., L. Scott Kellum & Charles L. Quarles. *The Cradle, the Cross, and the Crown: An Introduction to the New Testament*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2009.
- Köstenberger, Andreas J., & Robert W. Yarbrough, eds. *Understanding the Times: New Testament Studies in the 21st Century: Essays in Honor of D. A. Carson on the Occasion of his 65th Birthday*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2011.
- McKnight, Scot & Grant R. Osborne, eds. *The Face of New Testament Studies: A Survey of Recent Research*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004.

Pennington, Jonathan T. *Reading the Gospels Wisely: A Narrative and Theological Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2012.

Strauss, Mark L. *Four Portraits, One Jesus: A Survey of Jesus and the Gospels*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007.

Watson, Francis. *The Fourfold Gospel: A Theological Reading of the New Testament Portraits of Jesus*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2016.

Dictionaries

Evans, Craig A. and Stanley E. Porter, eds. *Dictionary of New Testament Background*. Downers Grove: InterVarsityPress, 2000.

Green, Joel B., Jeannie K. Brown & Nicholas Perrin, eds. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. 2nd edition. Downers Grove: InterVarsityPress, 2013.

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