

INDIANA EXTENSION COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL

The United Methodist Church
Meeting at the University of Indianapolis
(February 17, 18; March 18; April 22, 2023)
COS 321 Bible 3, Gospels

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This course focuses on the content and message of the Gospels, as well as the theological perspectives of the Gospel writers. The practice of exegesis (detailed analysis) will be emphasized. Students will be able to:

1. Understand the origin, message, and purpose of each Gospel.
2. Perform exegesis on this form of literature.
3. Apply the insights gained through exegesis to their congregations' missional situation.

Required Textbooks: Please note that the required Study Bible, Dictionary and Commentary will be used in this class and in future COS classes, as well as being valuable additions to your pastoral library.

Books you should already own:

- Harrelson, Walter J. *The New Interpreter's Study Bible: New Revised Standard Version with the Apocrypha*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2003 ISBN 0-687-27832-5 [NISB] \$31
- Mark Allan Powell, ed. *The Harper-Collins Bible Dictionary*. Harper: San Francisco, 2011. [HCBD] \$31
- Gaventa, Beverly Roberts, and David L. Petersen, eds. *The New Interpreter's Bible One-Volume Commentary*. Abingdon Press, 2010. [NIOVC] \$53

Books new for this course:

- Powell, Mark Allan. *Introducing the New Testament: A Historical, Literary, and Theological Survey*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Baker Academic
- 2009, First Edition. ISBN 978-0801028687 \$27
 - 2018, Second Edition. ISBN 978-0801099601 \$26
- Rhoads, David M. *The Challenge of Diversity: The Witness of Paul and the Gospels*. Minneapolis, Minn: Augsburg Fortress Press, 1996. ISBN 0-08006-29825 \$20
- Gorman, Michael J. *Elements of Biblical Exegesis: A Basic Guide for Students and Ministers*. Third Edition. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Academic, 2020 \$23
- A Gospel synopsis: (Pick one of these. This is a tool which allows you to compare the differences and similarities between gospels in a side-by-side layout.)

- 1) EITHER: Aland, Kurt. *Synopsis of the Four Gospels*. New York: American Bible Society, 2010. ISBN 1585169420. (uses the Revised Standard Version) \$32
- 2) OR: Dewey, Arthur and Robert Miller. *The Complete Gospel Parallels*. Polebridge Press, 2010. ISBN 978-1-59815-035-3. (uses the Scholars Version, a very different translation from most others) \$30 (with code)
 - Order directly from <https://www.westarinstitute.org/store/the-complete-gospel-parallels/> (enter coupon code: PerryKeaStudent)

Note that the abbreviations in brackets [] are used in the syllabus to indicate that resource. An advantage of the NISB is its introductory articles to books of the Bible and also the excursuses*. I will assign these in reading assignments. An intro to a biblical book is at the beginning of that book in this study bible. Excursuses appear throughout this book. The list of excurses by subject is found on pg. xxiv - xxv. A list by title of the particular excursus follows on pg. xxv - xxvi. (* an excursus is a useful article set apart from the main text that explains an aspect of the text or a related issue.)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WRITING PAPERS

- 1) Format your written work for 8 ½ x 11 paper, double-spaced, one inch margins. Use 12 point font. Do not use script, condensed, or all caps print.
- 2) Citation Rules:
 - a) If you *quote* from a text, you must use *quotation marks* and note the source (including page numbers at the end of each usage). Quotations less than five lines should be enclosed in quotes. Quotations five or more lines should be single spaced and indented 1.5 Inches from the left margin.
 - b) As much as possible, ideas and information should be stated in your own words and sentence structure, not in the words or sentence structure of the authors you have read.
 - c) Whenever you use *information or an idea* from another source, whether that is a direct quotation or a restatement in your own words, *always cite the source*. You may footnote, or use the in-text method (Author's last name Year, page/s) for example: (Powell 2011, 400). If you use in-text citation, then provide full bibliographic information in a bibliography at the end of the paper. Author. Title. Place of publication: publisher, date. I will be providing a handout of examples for properly citing sources.
- 3) Submit the papers to the instructor via e-mail attachment when due (see schedule below). Do not put the contents of the paper in the text of the e-mail but rather create a file in MS Word format (*.doc or *.docx) or Rich Text Format (*.rtf, in most all word processing programs you can save a document in this

format using the “save as” command). Attach that file to your e-mail and submit it to me.

- 4) When you submit a paper, place a title page including:
 - a) The course number
 - b) Name of the course
 - c) Your name
 - d) Date the paper is due
- 5) Papers are returned by e-mail with comments attached.
- 6) NOTE: Using other people’s language or intellectual property without acknowledgment or documentation, whether from a book, journal, teacher, another student, sermon service, or lectionary aid, is unacceptable behavior. Using other people’s intellectual property without acknowledgement/ documentation is plagiarism. This usually means failure for the course with notification sent to the Conference Course of Study Registrar and the Division of Ordained Ministry.

CLASS PREPARATION AND STUDY

I know that you are busy. Many of you are pastoring congregations, working a full-time job, and attending to your family. I appreciate all that you do! With that said, study and preparation are important. A common rule in college is the “twofer” one. A student should study two hours outside of class for each hour in class. The COS assumes 20 hours of class time and about 20 pages of writing. That is a lot, but planning for it helps significantly. For example, each Saturday class meets for six hours; according to the “twofer” rule, you would need about twelve hours of preparation time. This includes reading the material for the next class and completing your written assignments for that week. I suggest you take a **realistic** look at your schedule and identify specific days and hours you can set aside for this course.

Grading:

Letter grades are assigned. The final grade for the course is based upon how well the student fulfills all the requirements of the course. Attendance in all of the sessions is required. See the “Course Expectations” chart below.

Course Expectations:

Assignment	% Value
Gospel Background Paper (5-8 pages)	30
Close Reading/Detailed Analysis Paper (6-8 pages)	30
Vital Info Sheet for each Gospel (1-2 pages each, total 4-8 pages)	7.5 each x4 = 30
Course participation* Includes Two Questions per class assignment List of Resources for studying the Bible that you own	10
Total	100

Written and verbal instructions will be given in class for the various written assignments.

*Although I have assigned a 10% value to course participation, chronically not participating or chronic absence may result in more than a 10% reduction in the final grade or perhaps failure of the course. It is COS policy that a student shall not miss more than 6 contact hours (the total of 1 Saturday session) and pass the course.

Course Schedule

Assigned readings for a session shall be completed *prior to* that session, including those in February.

Before our first meeting on Friday February 17, send me an email that identifies the Gospel passage that you will use in your Close Reading/Detailed Analysis paper.

I also strongly encourage you to begin your research for your Gospel Background Paper in the days/weeks before our first class meets. Your Background Paper will be on the Gospel you have selected for your Close Reading/Detailed Analysis Paper. For example, if you have chosen John 1:1-18 for your Close Reading/Detailed Analysis, then your Background Paper will be on the Gospel of John.

Friday February 17, 7:00-9:00 P.M
Saturday February 18, 8:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M

Topics

- The Christian Canon of Scripture
- The Text of the Bible
- What is Exegesis
- The Writing Assignments and Vital Info Sheets to be explained
- Synoptic Problem/Puzzle
- The Gospels
- The NT world

Readings

- HCBD articles entitled: Canon; gospel; The Gospels; Synoptic Problem;
- NIOVC: Under General Articles: Canon of the NT; Narratives of the New Testament
- Powell: Chapters 1-5
- Rhoads: Introduction and Chapter 1
- Gorman: Chapters 1-3

Assignments Due when class meets on February 18

- Two Questions
- List of Resources for studying the Bible that you own: Bible dictionaries, Bible commentaries, synopses

Bring the following books to all classes:

- Synopsis
- Powell
- Rhoads
- Gorman
- A Bible of your choice

Saturday March 18, 8:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Topics

- Matthew
- Mark

Readings

- Gospel of Mark
- Gospel of Matthew
- HCBD articles entitled: Mark; Mark, The Gospel According to; Matthew;

Matthew, The Gospel According to

- NISB: Introduction to Mark and to Matthew; All the excursuses listed under Mark on pg. xxv
- NIOVC: Overview of Matthew; Overview of Mark;
- Powell: chapters 5-7
- Rhoads: chapters 3-4
- Gorman: chapters 4-5

Assignments Due – Due 11:59 pm, Friday, March 17

- Vital Info Sheet on Matthew and Mark
- Gospel Background Paper
- Two Questions (due when class meets on March 18)

Saturday April 22, 8:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Topics

- Luke
- John

Readings

- Gospel of Luke
- Gospel of John
- HCBD articles entitled: Luke; Luke, The Gospel of; John; John, The Gospel of
- NISB: Introduction to Luke; Introduction to John and all excursus for both listed on pg. xxv.
- NIOVC: Overview of Luke; Overview of John
- Powell: chapters 8-9
- Rhoads: chapters 5-6
- Gorman chapters 6-7

Assignments Due

- Vital Info Sheet on Luke and on John (due when class meets on April 22)
- Two Questions (due when class meets on April 22)
- Close Reading/Detailed Analysis Paper (**due by 5:00 pm, Friday, April 28**)