

Gospels/ NT-5200
Fall Term, 2021, NYC Campus

I. Details

- A. The course material will be delivered in three different formats:
 - 1. This class meets via live Zoom on **Tuesday nights, 7-8:30PM, Sept 14-Nov 2**
 - 2. This class meets in-person for two weekends, **Oct 1-2** and **Oct 22-23**, each **7-9PM Friday, and 9AM-5PM Saturday**
 - 3. Students will listen to 9 hours of Gospels lectures on Canvas
- B. Professor: Dr. Michael J. Kruger
 - 1. Email: mkruger@rts.edu
 - 2. TA: Josh Duemler: j.m.duemler@gmail.com
 - 3. Assistant: Carolyn Airing: cairing@rts.edu

II. Purpose

- A. To gain familiarity with the contents of the four Gospels.
- B. To gain acquaintance with the main theories of authorship, origin, and compositional relationship of the Gospels.
- C. To understand and evaluate discerningly the main lines of historical criticism of the Gospels in the modern period.
- D. To understand the main elements of the message of Jesus, revealed in word and deed, as reflected in the unified witness of the Gospels.
- E. To recognize the distinctive emphases of each of the four Gospels, and the implications of their diversity for interpretation and proclamation.
- F. To grow in personal responsiveness to the Gospel's message: faith, repentance, humility, obedience, joy, etc.

III. Course Requirements

- A. Faithful class attendance
 - Attendance is vital during the in-person weekends, as well as the Tuesday night Zoom classes
 - Expect class participation when applicable
 - Feel free to ask questions during lecture
- B. Read the four Gospels through twice in English. To signify that you have completed this reading you must submit your own outline of each Gospel **due on Dec 2nd, 11:59PM** (submit online via Canvas). *Each* outline must be **2-3 pages** in length, **1.5 spacing**. Outlines need to use standard format, Roman numerals (I, II, etc.) with indentations (A, B, etc.), and not be copied from any other source. *They must be reflective of your own efforts to summarize* and order the contents of each Gospel. Submit your outlines on Canvas.
- C. Research Paper
 - Serious paper approximately **15 typed pages (1.5 spaced)** in length (20 pages max) due on **December 2 at 11:59PM** (submit paper online via Canvas).
 - Standard *SBL* format, as outlined in *The SBL Handbook of Style*, 2nd ed. (SBL Press, 2014). (Book is available in the library, but you should own your own

copy). The paper should have single-spaced footnotes (not endnotes) and resemble the articles found in the standard journals; e.g., *JBL*, *JTS*, *JETS*, *NTS*, etc.

- Research paper must contain citations of at least two academic journal articles.
- Paper must have a properly formatted bibliography at the end.
- Paper options:
 - 1) Exegesis of a Gospels text/pericope, highlighting its distinctive contribution to the Gospel's message, taking into account both its immediate and larger historical context.
 - 2) A biblical-theological study of any major or minor theme in the four gospels.
 - 3) A historical study of an aspect of the origins of one or all of the four gospels; e.g., the date of John, the authorship of Matthew, etc.
 - 4) A resolution of an apparent contradiction (or other problem) in the four Gospels.
- Additional Note: RTS Charlotte has an archive of the best student papers at *Pen and Parchment*: <https://rts.edu/campuses/charlotte/students/pen-and-parchment/>

- D. Complete the required reading in preparation for class sessions and examinations.
- E. Exams: Midterm Exam to be taken out of class anytime between Oct 4 and October 18, covering both lectures and readings through Oct 3, and a Final Exam covering the remaining lectures and readings (Final exams are December 2-7).

IV. Grading

- A. Gospel readings and outlines—10%
- B. Research Paper—30%
- C. 2 Exams—60% (30% each)

V. Textbooks

- A. Michael J. Kruger, ed., *A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the New Testament: The Gospel Realized* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2016).
- B. George Eldon Ladd, *A Theology of the New Testament*, revised ed. (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993).
- C. Everett Ferguson, *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*, second edition (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003).
- D. Craig Blomberg, *The Historical Reliability of the Gospels*, second edition (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2007).
- E. Robert B. Strimple, *The Modern Search for the Real Jesus* (Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1994).

VI. Schedule and Required Reading Assignments

<p><u>Face to Face Classes</u></p> <p><u>Class 1—Sept 14</u> Kruger, 581-591 Blomberg, 24-103</p> <p><u>Class 2—Sept 21</u> Ferguson, 396-440 Blomberg, 152-195</p> <p><u>Class 3—Sept 28</u> Ferguson, 440-501 Blomberg, 241-295</p> <p><u>Class 4—Oct 1-2 (in NYC)</u> Ferguson, 501-582</p> <p><u>Class 5—Oct 5</u> Kruger, 29-91 Ladd, 31-88</p> <p><u>Class 6—Oct 12</u> Ladd, 89-132</p> <p><u>Class 7—Oct 19</u> Ladd, 133-169</p> <p><u>Class 8—Oct 22-23 (in NYC)</u> Ladd, 170-211</p>	<p><u>Class 9—Oct 26</u> Kruger, 93-113</p> <p><u>Class 10—Nov 2</u></p> <p><u>Online Lectures</u></p> <p><u>Listen to Lectures 1-4 on Gospel Criticism</u> Strimble 15-126</p> <p><u>Listen to Lectures 26-30 on the Gospel of John</u> Kruger, 115-135 Blomberg, 196-240 Ladd, 249-344</p>

VII. Brief Course Overview

Part One: Gospel Criticism

- I. Old Quest
- II. No Quest
- III. New Quest
- IV. Third Quest

Part Two: Gospel Origins

- I. Intro
- II. What is a Gospel?—The Question of Genre
- III. Stage of Oral Tradition: Form Criticism
- IV. Stage of Written Sources: Source Criticism
- V. Stage of Final Composition: Redaction Criticism
- VI. Stage of Scribal Transmission: Textual Criticism
- VII. Stage of Church History: Canonical Criticism

Part Three: Gospel Interpretation (longest section of course)

- I. Aids to Interpretation
 - A. Perspective on the Text: Biblical Theology vs. Systematic Theology
 - B. Context of the Text: Understanding the Background
 - C. Meaning of the Text: Historical, Modern, and Typological
 - D. Historicity of the Text: What about Contradictions?
- II. Overview and Analysis of the Four Gospels
 - A. Matthew
 - B. Mark
 - C. Luke
 - D. John

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: NT5200 Gospels
 Professor: Dr. Michael J. Kruger
 Campus: Charlotte
 Date: Fall 2020

MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes <i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i> <i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i>		Rubric ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None	Mini-Justification
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	- Theology of Gospels - Historical background of Gospels - Significant paper on the Gospels
Scripture	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Strong	- Focus on exegesis and understanding the text - Use of original languages - Application to modern circumstances
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	- Discuss aspects of Reformed theology in these books, such as eschatology, kingdom of God, and structure of the covenants
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	- Texts of Gospels applied to the lives of the students
Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. Includes ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Moderate	- Content of Gospels applied to various aspects of life (e.g., church, work, society, etc.)
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	Moderate	- Survey of critical scholarship and its relevance/application for evangelicals; students are taught good aspects and bad aspects of critical thinking. - Other theological approaches are surveyed and critiqued in a respectful manner.
Pastoral Ministry	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both church and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians.	Moderate	- Preaching applications are made regularly from Gospels texts. - Content in the course leads students to worship, encourages them to consider their shepherding role, and includes

			<div>some application to broader cultural issues,</div> <div>- Growth in spiritual maturity and an increased concern for non-Christians goals for the course</div>
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