

Reformed Theological Seminary-Dallas
The Gospels
NT5200 (3 Credit Hours)
Fall 2022

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I. Course Objectives

- Understand the basic presentation of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection according to the Gospels.
- Be familiarized with the various trends of synoptic interpretation and their presuppositions.
- Learn how to interpret the Gospels using Discourse Analysis and the hermeneutical use of the Old Testament.
- Grasp the redemptive-historical significance and theological emphases of the Gospels

II. Course Description taken from the Catalogue

- "This course emphasizes the distinctive portraits of Christ in Matthew, Mark, and Luke and the continuation of Christ's ministry in Acts. Attention is given to each writer's literary art, theological teachings, and pastoral purpose" (RTS 2009-2011 *Catalog*, p. 67).

III. Texts

- English Bible with cross references (NIV, ESV, etc.). I recommend the HCSB because of its translation and exceptional cross references.
- Beale, G. K. and Benjamin L. Gladd, *The Story Retold: A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the New Testament* (Downers Grove: IVP, 2020).
- Carson, D.A. and Douglas J. Moo, *An Introduction to the New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005).
- Gladd, Benjamin L., *Handbook on the Gospels* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2021)
- Williams, Peter J., *Can We Trust the Gospels* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2018).

IV. Procedures and Methods

- This class will be a combination of lecture, reading, and discussions. Each class the student should be prepared to discuss what they have learned from their reading assignments and take exceptional class notes.

V. Course Requirements

- **Exams-** One exam will be given at the end of the semester. Questions will mainly cover the lectures and assigned reading.
- **Class Participation-** Each student is expected to engage the material during the lectures,

which comprises 10% of the total grade.

- **Weekly Assignments-** Nearly every meeting, students will be assigned a particular aspect of synoptic interpretation. Late assignments will result in a loss of one letter grade per class. Those students with a working knowledge of Greek and Discourse Analysis should attempt to complete them on each weekly assignment. Though translations and DA's are optional, I'll award five bonus points on the paper for completing them in full. All students are still required to complete the synoptic comparisons.
- **Canvas Quizzes-** Students will take online quizzes based on the reading. The quizzes are a combination of true/false and multiple choice.
- **In-Class Electronics Use-** Unless the professor has made an exception, students are prohibited from using computers, phones, and tablets during class.
- **Papers-** One paper will be given to provide the student with hands-on experience in interpreting the Synoptics. Late papers will result in a loss of one letter grade. The professor will hand out a detailed list of paper requirements and expectations.
- **Grading:**
 1. Weekly Assignments 20%
 2. Exam 20%
 3. Reading 15%
 4. Paper 25%
 5. Classroom Participation 10%
 6. Quizzes 10%
- **Grading Scale:** The grading scale for this course is the seminary's grading scale. You may find it listed at the *RTS Catalog*, p.44.
- **Plagiarism:** Any cheating (quiz, exam, paper, etc.) will result in a failure of the course.
- **Reading:** In addition to the textbook reading, students must read through the Gospels, Gladd, *Handbook on the Gospels*, and Williams, *Can We Trust the Gospels?* I will ask students how much they have read/skimmed on the final exam.

VI. Assigned Reading/Lecture Topic

September 2 (5:00pm-9:00pm)

Lecture Overview: Introduction to the Course/Introduction to the Synoptics
(Genre, Source, and Redaction Criticism)

Reading: Beale/Gladd, *Story Retold*, 1-68 (chapters 1-4); Carson & Moo, *Introduction to the New Testament*, 134-165

Canvas Quiz #1: Beale/Gladd, *Story Retold*, 40-68 (chapter 4)

Weekly Assignment #1: D.A./Translation of Matt 8:23-27

(The Stilling of the Storm #136; Matt 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25)

September 3 (8:00am-11:30am)

Lecture Overview: Synoptic Comparison/Apostolic Eyewitnesses/Introduction to Matthew

September 3 (12:30pm-5:00pm)

Lecture Overview: Introduction to Matthew

October 14 (5:00pm-9:00pm)

Lecture Overview: Introduction to Mark

Reading: Beale/Gladd, *Story Retold*, 69-98 (chapter 5); Carson & Moo, *Introduction to the New Testament*, 169-194

Canvas Quiz #2: Beale/Gladd, *Story Retold*, 69-98 (chapter 5)

Weekly Assignment #2: D.A./Synoptic Comparison/Translation of Mark 4:10-12 (Reason for Speaking in Parables #123; Matt 13:10-17; Mark 4:10-12; Luke 8:9-10)

October 15 (8:00am-11:30am)

Lecture Overview: Introduction to Mark

October 15 (12:00pm-5:00pm)

Lecture Overview: Introduction to Luke

October 28 (5:00pm-9:00pm)

Lecture Overview: Introduction to Luke

Reading: Beale/Gladd, *Story Retold*, 99-151 (chapter 6-7); Carson & Moo, *Introduction to the New Testament*, 198-278

Canvas Quiz #3: Beale/Gladd, *Story Retold*, 126-151 (chapter 7)

Weekly Assignment #3: D.A./Synoptic Comparison/Translation of Luke 11:1-4 (The Lord's Prayer #185; Matt 6:9-13; Luke 11:1-4)

October 29 (8:00am-11:30am)

Lecture Overview: Introduction to John

October 29 (12:00pm-5:00pm)

Lecture Overview: Introduction to John

(Paper Due) ?

(Exam Due) ?

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: The Gospels (NT5200)
 Professor: Ben Gladd
 Campus: Houston
 Date: Fall 2022

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u> <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>		<u>Rubric</u> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
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.	Strong	The course strongly engages Scripture and the Jewish milieu of the first century, furnishing students with knowledge of a variety of topics.
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	With their nose in the text, students will spend a significant amount of time studying and mediating upon Scripture. The class requires students to research and write on topics pertaining to the Synoptics.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	Central to this class is the exaltation of Christ and his role in redemptive history.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	Since students are exposed to the various facets of the Synoptics and Acts, a love for Christ will inevitably grow as they continually look upon his character.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	Key to this course is living in light of Jesus' kingdom message. Jesus taught that his kingdom inverts the world's ideals.
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.)	Strong	Though most Synoptic scholars are not evangelicals, there is much to be gained by their insights.
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Moderate	Throughout the course, attention will be given to how students are to preach the Synoptics. We will often seek to answer "what difference does it make?"
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Minimal	As a result of this course, students will be wiser in how they worship Jesus by

			having a more concrete picture of who he is.
Shepherd	Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.	Moderate	Having a right view of Jesus and his ministry is central to pastoring.
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	As a net result of studying this Synoptics, students will have the ability to discern whether or not a teaching or movement is faithful to Jesus' message.