

NT5200 — Gospels

Course Syllabus, Fall 2026 — RTS-Orlando

1. Course Details

- Three credit hours
- Tuesdays, 9:00am–12:00pm, September 1–December 1
- Course Description: *An exposition the four canonical gospels, with attention given to each gospel writer's literary art, theological teaching, pastoral purpose, and message for today's church and world.*

2. Instructor Information

- Gregory R. Lanier, Ph.D., Professor of New Testament, RTS Orlando / Academic Dean, RTS Global
- Email: glanier@rts.edu
- Office: Main administrative building
- Office Hours: Email to set up appointment

3. Objectives

- To obtain greater confidence in the inspiration and authority of the gospels and to grow in the obedience of faith in proclaiming the “good news” of the kingdom of God
- To understand the contents, structure, theology, and writing of the canonical gospels, including their similarities and distinctive emphases
- To obtain greater apprehension of the kingdom of God inaugurated by Jesus Christ
- To develop the ability to engage closely with the text of the gospels, with particular attention to context and sub-genre
- To learn how to engage with scholarship on the gospels—such as the “Jesus Quest,” synoptic problem, and so forth—in a responsible manner

4. Required Texts

- The Holy Bible: each student must bring his/her own copy of the Bible (in a modern English translation, e.g., ESV, NASB, NIV) to class each day. Students who have taken Greek are encouraged to bring a critical Greek edition (UBS4/5/6 or NA27/28).
- Michael J. Kruger (ed.), *A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the New Testament: The Gospel Realized* (Crossway, 2016).
- Lanier, Gregory, *NT5200 Gospels Student Course Packet*. [Purchase information to be provided in Canvas.]

5. Course Assignments

- **Reading of Biblical Texts**
 - Read Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John once in English
 - You will indicate in Canvas (by the assigned date) the estimated percentage of the reading you completed.

- **Reading of Textbooks**

- *Assignment*

- Read Kruger pp. 29–136
 - Read 800 pages from the following options (available in the RTS-O library, or you can purchase if you want). You do not need to read the entirety of any given book; you can divide the page count as you see fit.

Simon Gathercole, *The Gospel and the Gospels* (Eerdmans, 2022).

Benjamin L. Gladd, *Handbook on the Gospels* (Baker, 2021).

Mark Goodacre, *The Fourth Synoptic Gospel* (Eerdmans, 2025).

Charles E. Hill, *Who Chose the Gospels?* (Oxford, 2010).

Jonathan Pennington, *The Sermon on the Mount and Human Flourishing: A Theological Commentary* (Baker, 2018).

Mark L. Strauss, *Four Portraits, One Jesus: A Survey of Jesus and the Gospels* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2020).

Francis Watson, *Gospel Writing* (Eerdmans, 2013).

- You are free to read according to a schedule of your own choosing.

- *Evaluation*

- You will indicate in Canvas (by the assigned date) the estimated percentage of the reading you completed.

- **Research Paper**

- *Assignment*

- Complete a research paper of 3,500-5,500 words, adhering to the “Research Paper Guidelines” document provided separately via Canvas.
 - Students must submit their paper topic to the instructor via Canvas by the date specified on the course homepage.
 - Papers must be submitted electronically in PDF format via Canvas by the date specified on the course homepage.
 - *Late papers will not be accepted or graded.*

- *Evaluation*

- Argument (30%): Is the paper arguing a clear, coherent thesis throughout?
 - Scholarship (40%): Has the paper handled the biblical text responsibly? Has the paper made careful and discerning use of secondary sources, including honest engagement with viewpoints with which the author disagrees?
 - Quality (25%): Is the paper well-structured, logical, and cohesive? Is it well-written for its target audience? Is it clear and easy to read?
 - Style (5%): Does it meet the required style guidelines? Are footnotes and bibliography composed correctly?

- **Midterm and Final Examinations**

- *Assignment*

- Each exam will cover content from lectures only as indicated in Canvas. The midterm will cover lectures from the first half of the course; the final will cover lectures from the second half.
 - Each exam will consist of the following components:
 - Short essays, requiring ~5-7 sentences to answer. Student will choose 4 to answer out of a list provided.
 - Long essays, requiring ~20–30 sentences to answer. Student will choose 2 to answer out of a list provided.
 - Additionally, the *midterm* will require the student to provide a bullet-point outline (chapter-level) of Matthew, Mark or Luke. The *final* will require the student to provide a bullet-point outline (chapter-level) of John.
 - The examinations will be administered via Canvas.

- *Evaluation*

- Short essays = 10% each (total 40%)
 - Long essays = 25% each (total 50%)
 - Memorized outline = 10%

6. Grading

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| • Reading of biblical texts | 10% |
| • Reading of assigned textbooks | 10% |
| • Research paper | 30% |
| • Midterm examination | 25% |
| • <u>Final examination</u> | <u>25%</u> |
| | 100% |

7. Other Details

- The RTS policy on Artificial Intelligence is fully in effect, as found in the student portal.
- Attendance is mandatory. Student must notify the instructors by email regarding any absence.
- Students are not permitted to use computers in class. Notes will be taken in the student course packet. Phones must be turned on silent mode.
- *Late work will not be accepted or graded unless there is a legitimate emergency situation, as determined by the professor.*

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: NT5200 – Gospels Professor: Gregory R. Lanier, Ph.D.
 Campus: Orlando Date: Fall 2026

<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	Research paper on exegetical, theological, or ministry topic Written examinations
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	Lectures include significant exegesis component Original languages used in class and encouraged for students Memorization of gospel outlines required
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	Use of traditional Reformed theological categories, with emphasis on exegetical grounding in the gospels
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	Reading of Bible text Emphasis on personal and pastoral application in lectures
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Moderate	Emphasis on thinking biblically about social, political, and ecclesiological issues
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	Responsibly engaging with critical scholarship in lecture Encouraging students to read non-evangelical materials for paper
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	Emphasis on equipping students how to read and exposit on their own rather than simply regurgitate "safe" commentaries
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	None	
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.	Minimal	Pastoral/counseling application during lectures "Church issue" option for paper
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	Discussion of church issues related to kingdom, baptism, ecclesiology