

GOSPELS
BREAD OF LIFE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
FALL 2012

Brian D. Asbill
E-mail: brian.d.asbill@biola.edu

<i>Units</i>	<i>Day(s)</i>	<i>Time</i>
3	Thursday	7:15-9:55pm

I. COURSE OVERVIEW

Course Description: A chronological analysis of the four gospels in light of their historical context which places particular emphasis on their theological similarities and differences as well as on their application to contemporary Christian life.

Learning Outcomes:

1. A basic familiarity with the content and theological emphases of the four gospels
2. A greater appreciation of the need for Christians to study the gospels in light of the Old Testament and other relevant historical material
3. A greater appreciation of how the life and teachings of Jesus can and should shape the lives of people today

II. REQUIRED TEXTS

Synopsis: choose *one* of the following options:

- English: *Synopsis of the Four Gospels: Revised Standard Version*. Revised edition. American Bible Society, 2010.
- Chinese: 四福音與經外平行經文合參 / *Synopsis of the Four Gospels with Parallels from the New Testament Apocrypha and Patristic Writings*. Bible Society, 2008.

Textbook: choose *one* of the following options:

- English: Pentecost, J. Dwight. *The Words and Works of Jesus Christ: A Study of the Life of Christ*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1981.
- Chinese: Pentecost, J. Dwight. *The Words and Works of Jesus Christ: A Study of the Life of Christ*. Translated by Emily Yang. Unpublished.

III. REQUIREMENTS

Book Report on Textbook (i.e., Pentecost):

- 1,000-1,200 words (include a word count on the top of the first page)
- The first half of your report should answer the question, "What are the three to five most important ideas presented in this book?"
- The second half of your report should offer two to three points of appreciation and two to three points of criticism. These points must focus on matters of important theological content rather than stylistic concerns or passing details.
- It is strongly recommended that you take careful notes as you progressively read *The Words and Works of Jesus Christ* so that you are more prepared to write your book review toward the end of the course.

Exegesis Project:

- A handout will be provided during the course which outlines the requirements for this assignment

IV. GRADING

Weighting:

Reading	Bible and Pentecost	20%
Writing	Book Report	20%
	Exegesis Project	30%
Testing	Quizzes	30%

Scale:

A	100-93%	C	76.9-73%
A-	92.9-90%	C-	72.9-70%
B+	89.9-87%	D+	69.9-67%
B	86.9-83%	D	66.9-63%
B-	82.9-80%	D-	62.9-60%
C+	79.9-77%	F	59.9-0%

If you simply complete the assignments as prescribed with standard quality, you should expect to receive a “B.” To earn an “A” you must exceed expectations in some way (depth of thought, creativity, clarity, use of sources, etc.). In the course of grading, my comments on your work are written from this perspective. That is, they largely explain how a student has exceeded expectations (above a “B”) or has not satisfactorily met expectations (below a “B”).

VI. COURSE SCHEDULE

The reading and assignments in the schedule below are to be completed *before* the class day on which they are listed. The course outline will run parallel to Darrell L. Bock's *Jesus According to Scripture: Restoring the Portrait from the Gospels* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2002). You are not required to purchase or read this source, but if you are interested in going deeper it is certainly recommended as a supplement.

Date	In-Class Topics	Required Preparation
9/6	Introduction to the Gospels	
9/13	The Birth and Childhood of Jesus: The Hope of Promise	Matt. 1-2; Luke 1-2 Pentecost ch. 1 (first half)
9/20	The Backdrop to Jesus' Ministry: John the Baptist, Jesus' Baptism and Temptations	Matt. 3:1-4:11; Mark 1:1-13; Luke 3:1-4:13 Pentecost ch. 1 (second half)
9/27	The Initial Portrait of Jesus' Galilean Ministry: Teaching, Healing, and Controversy	Matt. 4:12-25; Mark 1:14-3:19a; Luke 4:14-6:16 Pentecost ch. 2 (first half)
10/4	Jesus' Teaching on Relating to God and Others: The Sermon on the Mount and the Sermon on the Plain	Matt. 5:1-7:29; Luke 6:20-49 Pentecost ch. 2 (second half)
10/11	More Galilean Ministry: Miracles, Mission to the Outcasts, and Discipleship in the Face of Opposition	Matt. 8:1-12:50; Luke 7:1-8:3; Mark 3: 19b-35 Pentecost ch. 3
10/18	From Kingdom Teaching to Confession: How the Disciples Began to Understand Jesus	Matt. 13:1-16:12; Mark 4:1-8:26; Luke 8:4-9:17 Pentecost ch. 4
10/25	Confession and Prediction: The New Reality—Part 1	Matt. 16:13-18:35; Mark 8:27-9:50; Luke 9:18-50 Pentecost ch. 5
11/1	Toward Jerusalem: The New Reality—Part 2	Luke 9:51-18:14 Pentecost ch. 6
11/8	Continuing toward Jerusalem: Ministry in Judea and Final Lessons	Matt. 19:1-21:9; Mark 10:1-11:10; Luke 18:15-19:44 Pentecost ch. 7
11/15	The Passion Week: Controversy, Prediction of Judgment and Return, Trial, Death, and Resurrection	Matt. 21:10-28:20; Mark 11:11-16:8; Luke 19:45-24:53 Pentecost ch. 8
11/22	THANKSGIVING — NO CLASS	
11/29	Introducing Jesus in John's Gospel: The Word Incarnate and the First Witnesses—John the Baptist and the Disciples	John 1 EXEGESIS PROJECT
12/6	The Book of Signs: Before the Hour	John 2-12 Pentecost ch. 9
12/13	The Book of Glory: The Farewell Discourse and the Johannine Passion Account—The Hour Has Come	John 13-21 Pentecost ch. 10 BOOK REPORT on Pentecost