

COS 321: Bible III: Gospels

Spring 2024

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor: Rev. Kerry Powell

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The best way to contact me regarding course content, policies, or schedule is through email. I will respond to all inquiries, as well as provide classwork feedback within ten days of the due date.

Meeting Dates and Times

This class consists of Zoom class sessions and an online module format. Actively participating in these modes of learning is critical for your success in this course.

We will gather via ZOOM each Monday beginning April 8 and continuing through May 27 from 6 pm-8 pm. You will have the ZOOM link prior to our gathering date.

There will also be course requirements that take place through an online classroom. This will require you to watch videos, listen to lectures, and respond to different posts.

Course Description

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 will be emphasized.

Objectives

Students will be able to:

1. Understand the origin, message, and purpose of each Gospel.
2. Exegete this form of literature.
3. Apply exegesis to preaching, other pastoral responsibilities, and issues of the present day.

Required Textbooks:

There are three primary required textbooks and two reference texts for this course. Please feel free to order used copies to suit your needs.

Primary Textbooks:

Culpepper, R. Alan. *Anatomy of the Fourth Gospel: A Study in Literary Design*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1983. ISBN: 978-0-8006-2068-4

Murphy, Frederick J. *An Introduction to Jesus and the Gospels*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2005. ISBN-13: 978-1-4267-4915-5

Powell, Mark Allan. *Introducing the New Testament: A Historical, Literary and Theological Survey* (Second Edition). Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2018. ISBN: 978-0-8010-9960-1

Required Reference Textbooks

Ringe, Sharon H. Luke. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1995. ISBN: 0-664-25259-1
Smith,
D. Moody. John. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1999. ISBN: 978—0-687-05812-9

Personal Journal

Throughout this course you are required to keep a personal journal. This gives you an opportunity for self-evaluation and reflection as you academically journey through the Gospels. This journal is for your eyes only. Be sure that you log your thoughts, beliefs, attitudes toward the Bible, exegetical process, and hermeneutics. In Week 5 of this course you will be asked to share a summary reflection describing ways you have been shaped by this course.

Course Assignments:

Pre-Course Work

1. Your pre-course work will be due in an online forum on the first day of class, Monday, April 8. There are two discussion questions you need to prepare to answer in these initial module posts.
2. Discussion One: Personal Introductions! Please say where you are currently serving in ministry, your ministry responsibilities, and what you hope to gain from this course.
3. Discussion Two: What is your personal sermon preparation methodology. Please include preparatory steps, resources utilized, and ways to improve. Define the terms “exegesis” and “hermeneutics” in your own words. Lastly what are 3-5 questions you have from the readings from the Powell text?
4. Read Chapters 1,2,3 in the Powell text.
5. Visit the websites linked in the online classroom to watch assigned videos.

Week One: April 7-13

1. On April 8th post your pre-course work module responses in the online classroom.
2. Respond to 2 other classmate’s module posts.
3. Watch *New Testament Background: The Roman World* video linked in the online classroom.
4. Watch *New Testament Background: The Jewish World* video linked in the online classroom.
5. Watch *New Testament Writings* video linked in the online classroom.
6. Write a personal reflection in your journal.
7. Attend ZOOM April 8 from 6:00-8:00pm.

Week Two: April 14-20

1. Watch the video that is linked in the online classroom.

2. In 5-6 pages, compare and contrast societal influences in the Roman world vs. contemporary culture. Make sure your paper has a clear thesis that describes 3-4 societal norms of both Roman and contemporary cultures. This paper is due by April 19.
3. Write a personal reflection in your journal.
4. Attend ZOOM April 15 from 6:00-8:00pm.

Week Three: April 21-27

1. Reading assignment for this week is Powell chapters 5-7.
2. View all posted video lectures via the links in the online classroom.
3. Review descriptions and methods of analysis in Powell, pg. 66-72.
4. By April 26, make a post in the online classroom reviewing the Narrative Criticism Bible analysis methods (aka criticism) in the Powell text. Read Mark 1 and Matthew 1-2 three times through the lens of this analysis method. Make sure you include the world behind the text, of the text, and in front of the text in your post.
5. Respond to two other classmate's module posts.
6. Write a personal reflection in your journal.
7. Attend ZOOM April 22 from 6:00-8:00pm.

Week Four: April 28-May 4

1. Reading assignment for this week is Powell chapters 6-7.
2. Watch all posted video lectures via the links in the online classroom.
3. Be prepared to discuss during class time the readings, the primary purposes the authors of Mark and Matthew had for writing their Gospel accounts, and unique features of Mark and Matthew.
5. Write a personal reflection in your journal.
6. Attend ZOOM April 29 from 6:00-8:00pm.

Week Five: March 5-May 11

1. Reading Assignment is Powell chapters 8-9.
2. Watch posted video lectures via the links in the online classroom.
3. Choose a specific passage from the Gospel of Mark. In 6-8 pages, prepare a thorough exegetical essay highlighting important aspects of the cultural background of this passage. Think about purpose, audience, narrator, background information, and preaching points. This is due on May 6.
4. After reviewing your personal reflection journal, make a 500 word forum post summarizing ways you experienced personal formation throughout this course.
5. Attend ZOOM May 6 from 6:00-8:00pm.

Week 6: May 12-May 18

1. Attend ZOOM May 13 from 6:00-8:00pm.
2. Work on your final paper.

Week 7: May 19-26

1. Attend ZOOM May 20 from 6:00-8:00pm.
Preaching the Gospels
2. Work on your final paper.

Week 8: May 27

1. Attend ZOOM May 27 from 6:00-8:00 pm.
Israel: Bringing the Gospels Alive

Final Paper: Due May 27th.

1. In 10-12 pages, write an essay from a Gospel passage of your choosing. In this essay include a strong thesis statement, introduction to major topics, exegetical and hermeneutical examination, practical sermon application, and a strong conclusion.
2. This paper is due by 11:59 pm.

Expectations for Written Work

All written assignments must be turned in on time and must be the student's original work. No plagiarism will be accepted. Here are some guidelines for your work

Format: All papers submitted via Course Connect should be in .doc or .docx format. If you are not using Windows software it is also acceptable to submit papers in PDF format. Always begin filenames with your name, then the title of the assignment. Examples: [firstinitial.lastname – assignment title] = " K.PowellExegesis.docx

Documentation: Please always cite your sources whenever you are quoting or summarizing from a text, even if it is obvious or mentioned in the assignment. Provide at least the author's name, the title, and the page number, even in discussion assignments. Please see the plagiarism section of this syllabus for more information.

Style: Chicago Manual of Style documentation is expected for bibliographic references and any quoted or paraphrased materials. Basic information about this style may be found at The Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL). For this course we will be using the Notes and Bibliography (NB) options. https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/chicago_manual_17th_edition/cmsof_formatting_and_style_guide/chicago_manual_of_style_17th_edition.html

Due dates: All assignments are due on the date specified by the syllabus. Written assignments submitted more than three (3) days after the due date may be accepted with a 10% penalty. Late discussion posts will attract a 25% penalty. If you experience extenuating circumstances that may result in a late submission, please contact your professor via email: brokleep03@gmail.com .

Feedback: I will make every effort to provide feedback and grades on all on-time submissions within ten days of the due date.

Grading

Pre-Course Asynchronous Discussion	50 points or 5% of final grade
Weeks 1-2 Asynchronous Discussion	100 points or 10% of final grade
Week 2 Written Assignment 1	100 points or 15% of final grade
Weeks 4-5 Discussion	100 points or 10% of final grade
Week 4 Written Assignment 2	150 points or 15% of final grade
Final Paper—assignment	300 points or 30% of final grade
Synchronous Class Participation (50 pts./session)	150 points or 15% of final grade
Total	1,000 pts. 100% of final grade

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60—69%	D
0—59%	F