

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT.

TITLE: Gospels, Acts, Johannine Epistles

TERM: Fall 2018-2019

PROFESSOR: Edith Humphrey

CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: _____
AUDITORS: 3

UNLIMITED X
NO AUDITORS _____

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An introduction to Matthew, Mark, Luke, John (with the Johannine Epistles), and Acts showing their significance in the Church and the world today. Special attention is given to the specific content of these books, to their genres and connections with ancient biography or history, to various theological and historical portraits of Jesus, and to the methods used in critical study of the Gospels (source, form, redaction, literary, socio-historical, canonical and rhetorical).

CLASS OBJECTIVES: To lead students to

- Know the contents and structure of these NT books, and relate them in genre and overall narrative to the Hebrew Bible, the second Temple period and the Greco-Roman world.
- Understand and appreciate different Christian traditions and scholarly methods of interpreting the Bible.
- Learn how to summarize scholarly articles, and ask critical questions concerning their reading.
- Engage in a close reading of a particular passage, using the scholarly “tools” of exegesis.
- Begin to engage in graduate level theological research.
- Understand the literary, historical and theological questions that arise from a careful reading.
- Develop a capacity to interpret the NT Gospels, Acts, and Johannine letters as Christian Scripture.
- Read the Gospels, Acts and Johannine letters in relation to the life of the Church in the world.
- Consider how socio-cultural context shapes interpretations of tradition, thought, and practice.
- Reflect upon the connection between Christian ministry and biblical insight, by awareness of contemporary interpretive issues.
- Understand and love these texts in their unity and diversity.

PREREQUISITES: none

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:

- New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha (RSV or NRSV) ISBN: 978-0195289602 \$19.28 (NRSV) ISBN: 978-0195283488, \$28.31 (RSV) **OR** Harper Collins Study Bible (NRSV) with Apocrypha ISBN: 978-0060786847, \$19.85
- Throckmorton *Gospel Parallels* ISBN: 978-0840774842, \$27.91 **OR** K. Aland *Synopsis of the Four Gospels* (latter is Grk/English) ISBN: 978-3438054050, \$98.69
- Wenham and Walton, *Exploring the New Testament: A Guide to the Gospels and Acts*, vol. 1 (2nd edition), ISBN: 978-0830825394, \$22.50 (this paperback edition is available through InterVarsity Press)
- Other readings as assigned and on my.pts

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

3 cell assignments (1 page each) with discussion; 2 quizzes (Bible content and course material); 1 short (7-8 page) paper further exploring one of the previous cell assignments, in consultation with the professor

ATTENDANCE: Required.