

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 2019-2020

**PROFESSOR:** Tucker Ferda

**CREDIT HOURS:** 3

**REGISTRATION:** LIMITED TO: \_\_\_\_\_  
# AUDITORS: 5

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 better understand the contents, structures, and literary genres of these NT books
- to situate the texts in the historical context of Second Temple Judaism and the Greco-Roman world
- to provide tools and methods to interpret these texts as Christian Scripture
- to consider how socio-cultural context shapes interpretive traditions and practices
- to reflect on the connection between Christian ministry and biblical insight, both then and now
- to begin to engage in graduate level theological research
- to foster a love of the texts in their unity and diversity

### PREREQUISITES:

None

### REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:

*New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha* (NRSV), ISBN:978-0195289602, \$7.91; **OR** *Harper Collins Study Bible* (NRSV) with Apocrypha, ISBN: 978-0060786847, \$19.20

Burton H. Throckmorton, *Gospel Parallels*, ISBN:978-0840774842, \$25.38; **OR** Kurt Aland, *Synopsis of the Four Gospels* (latter is Grk/English) ISBN: 978-0826705006, \$13.07

David Wenham and Steve Walton, *Exploring the New Testament: A Guide to the Gospels and Acts*, Vol. 1, InterVarsity Press, 2016; ISBN: 978-0830853076, \$20.67

### ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

Course participation and written reflection on readings;  
2 content quizzes/exams;  
2 short writing assignments (5-7 pages)

**ATTENDANCE:** Required.