

## **BIBL 5150 — INTERPRETING THE NEW TESTAMENT I**

Fall Semester 2012—North Park Theological Seminary

Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00-2:15

August 27-December 14

Instructor: Klyne Snodgrass

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In this introductory treatment of the Gospels attention is given to hermeneutics, critical approaches to the Gospels, historical background, the characteristics and message of each of the Gospels, Jesus' proclamation of the kingdom, and the major features of his ministry. Three hours credit.

### **I. OBJECTIVES**

1. To learn the *content* of the Gospels and understand both their message and, as much as possible, the process that brought them into being.
2. To develop a thorough knowledge of the information known about the life and ministry of Jesus and the historical quests seeking to understand him.
3. To become acquainted with the historical, social, religious, and literary contexts in which the New Testament emerged.
4. To become conversant with the terminology, presuppositions, and conclusions of various modern approaches to the Gospels and to assess these approaches by firsthand study of the Gospels.
5. **To develop sound methods for lifelong study of the New Testament. Attention will be given throughout the course to the subject of hermeneutics.**
6. To gain knowledge of the bibliographic and electronic resources available for study of the Gospels.
7. To provide a better understanding of Christianity, an opportunity for deeper commitment and spiritual development, and a broader basis for ministry. The ultimate objectives for all of us are to increase our integrity and our ability to care.
8. To develop the ability to think theologically, i.e., to see the theological significance of texts and issues.

### **OBJECTIVES—SECOND SET**

1. To know Jesus and his role in God's kingdom.
2. To determine who we are individually and collectively in God's purposes. *Identity* is always the subject.
3. To learn from the Gospels how Christians should order their lives.
4. To seek the work of God's Spirit to form our own being. Identity is a process of becoming.
5. To become followers—actually—of Jesus so that our identity is shaped by his.

### **OBJECTIVES—THIRD SET**

1. To develop a christologically driven sensitivity, care, and love that motivate ministry.
2. To develop personal integrity that engenders trust and enables and sustains ministry.
3. To acquire skills that lead to *legitimate* confidence and allow one to be a leader ministering to others.
4. To learn from the Gospels what churches should be and do.

II. **PROCEDURE**—The three sets of objectives are an awareness that this course deals with *three* different areas, the first of them sometimes unrelated to the other two: 1) the *discipline* of New Testament studies; 2) *Christian discipleship*; and 3) *preparation for ministry*. The discipline of New Testament studies has the information needed for understanding and for ministry, but it is difficult to defend on its own apart from issues of faith and ministry.

The main obstacles to achieving the objectives above are the immense amount of material important for studying the Gospels and the wide diversity of needs and abilities within the class. Readings, written material, and lectures will provide an introduction to general subjects such as hermeneutics, Gospels criticism, cultural background, and to subjects that arise from the Gospels themselves such as miracles, parables, and the resurrection. **The written material, which is fairly extensive**, will be posted on line and the relevant sections should be read **before** class. Students are expected to *master* these written materials on their own. **General knowledge is not sufficient.** Material posted on line or provided in class is **solely** for the educational purposes of students enrolled in BIBL 5150 at North Park Theological Seminary. The material is subject to U.S. copyright law and is not for further reproduction or transmission. Nothing directly related to this course (printed material, audio and video recordings, etc.) may be posted on any electronic outlet.

Explanation of technical language used in biblical studies is available in Richard Soulen and R. Kendall Soulen, *Handbook of Biblical Criticism* (3d ed; Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2001). Online glossaries are also available.

The class will be divided into work groups with **each group assigned responsibility for leading the discussion of written material and of specific passages from the Gospels**. Questions about the written material and *any questions not directly pertinent to class* should be posted first to the online discussion board “Qumran Corner.”

Two quizzes will be given early in the schedule. You are expected to know **in detail** the terms, concepts, and important people in the discussions. *Anyone doing poorly on these quizzes will be advised to drop the course.*

**NOTE: Do not use quotations from secondary sources in any written assignment for this course. Do make every effort to be sensitive to gender and culture issues.**

**Also, phones and caps will both be in the off position during class.**

Contact information for instructor: E-mail: [ksnodgrass@northpark.edu](mailto:ksnodgrass@northpark.edu); phone:773-519-3365.

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the dean of students. Please do so as soon as possible to insure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely manner. If needed, appointments can be relocated. For further information please review the following web site: <http://www.northpark.edu/ada>.

### III. REQUIRED TEXTS

1. The New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010, or some other edition of the Bible that includes the OT Apocrypha. Bring it to class!
2. **A synopsis of the Gospels.** For those who have had Greek the standard synopsis used for Gospels study is Kurt Aland’s *Synopsis Quattuor Evangeliorum*, 15th edition (which contains the Greek text of the 26th edition of the Nestle-Aland Greek New Testament and parallels with apocryphal gospels and patristic sources). This synopsis is also available

with an English translation on the facing page, but without the evidence from the apocryphal gospels and patristic sources, and it is more expensive.

If you have not had Greek, the choice is Kurt Aland's, *Synopsis of the Four Gospels: /English Edition*.

There are Gospels synopses on line, but you need one for class (and your library). After the first few weeks you will be expected to have a synopsis with you in class. Go to [www.Bibles.com/students](http://www.Bibles.com/students) and enter the promotion code SCHOL40 for 40% off the English edition and the Greek-English edition (but unfortunately not on the Greek only edition). The same discount applies to the UBS Greek text, Metzger's textual commentary, and Omanson's textual guide, and a few other works.

- 3a. For those with little previous background in Gospels studies, Mark L. Strauss, *Four Portraits, One Jesus: An Introduction to Jesus and the Gospels*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007. This book parallels the discussion of the content presented in class, but it is rather basic, too simple for seminarians with any background at all. Readings from Strauss will be included on quizzes and tests. If you have had course work in the Gospels, you will want to use the text under 3b **or select from a range of possibilities in consultation with the instructor**.
- 3b. **INSTEAD**, if you have had prior academic work in the Gospels, select N. T. Wright, *Jesus and the Victory of God*. Readings from Wright will be included on quizzes and tests. If by chance you have already worked through Wright's book, see the instructor for an alternative.
4. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*. Simon & Schuster, 1995.
5. Klyne Snodgrass. *Divorce and Remarriage (An Occasional Paper, Number Three)*. Chicago: Covenant Publications, 1992, updated 2008. This item should be available online.

#### IV. REQUIREMENTS

1. **If you have had Greek**, you will be expected to translate fifty verses from the Gospels over the fourteen weeks of the course. *This assignment will count for 10% of the final grade*. See the online directions for this assignment.  
**If you who have not had Greek**, you will be expected to invest an equivalent amount of time (about 8 hours) reading in the areas pertaining to origin and transmission of the Bible, inspiration, hermeneutics, and/or NT Apocrypha. Again *this assignment will count for 10% of the final grade*. A statement of completion of the eight hours, what was read, and a one page evaluation of your reading is **due Sept. 21**.
2. **Read all four Gospels between Aug. 1 and Dec. 14, 2012.**
3. **Read the handouts**, the paper "The Evangelical Covenant Church and the Bible," the pamphlet on divorce, select primary sources, *Four Portraits, One Jesus* (or *Jesus and the Victory of God*), the assigned pages from *The Cost of Discipleship*, and the other assigned readings on the schedule below.
4. **Using BibleWorks**, do a word study of μονογενής (*monogenēs*: "only," "unique," sometimes translated "only begotten") in both the NT and the LXX. Use Frederick Danker's *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Early Christian Literature* (p. 658), even if you have not had Greek, and use at least one theological dictionary for its treatment of the word. Further instruction will be given in class. **Due Sept 6**.
5. Write a five paper on **Matthew's attack on self-centeredness. Due Oct 4**.

**6a. Be ready as part of your group to help lead the discussion of handouts as assigned. See below.**

**6b. Prepare a one page overview of the issues in the *one* text below assigned to your group.** *Each person* is to prepare a one page overview of the text, and the group will present the issues and the resolution of the issues to the class. While each person will survey the issues in the passage, the group should divide the responsibilities for presenting the issues. By default, for every text one person must treat structure, one must treat Gospel parallels, and one must treat background issues, especially OT background, and someone must treat exegetical and theological issues. This is **not** a research assignment. Use **one** good commentary from the bibliography **as specified:** for Matthew use Davies and Allison, Keener, Luz, Nolland, Osborne, or Hagner. For Mark use Edwards, Lane, France, Guelich and Evans, or Collins. For Luke use Fitzmyer, Green, Marshall, Bock, or Nolland. For John use Barrett, Brown, Morris, Carson, or Keener. **Read critically! What you seek is an understanding of the issues and key factual information. Do not be taken in by every comment.**

**Group A     John 3:3-8; Due Oct 4**  
**Group B     Mark 1:14-15; Due Oct 4**  
**Group C     Matt. 5:17-20; Due Oct 12**  
**Group D     Matt. 19:16-26; Due Oct 12**  
**Group E     Mark 4:10-12; Due Nov 2**  
**Group F     Matt. 11:25-30; Due Nov 16**  
**Group G     Matt. 16:13-20; Due Nov 16**  
**Group H     Matt. 21:12-17; Due Nov 29**

7. Do research on **one** of the following texts: Matt 6:9-15; 12:1-8; 16:21-28; 17:1-8; Luke 9:51-62; or 10:25-37. (If you want to work on a different text, discuss it with the instructor.) Follow the directions specified on line. This assignment will be done in three parts with **part 1 being due Oct 24, part 2 due Nov 8 and part 3 due Dec 4 with grace until Dec 8.**

**VI. CLASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS**—Except for the first week, readings are to be completed by the date under which they are listed.

**Aug 28 Introduction and Hermeneutics**—John 7:37-39

**Read** the handout on hermeneutics and **begin** translation work or alternate reading assignment.

**Read and be ready to discuss** “The Evangelical Covenant Church and the Bible” (found on the Covenant website: <http://www.covchurch.org/resource/covenant-resource-paper-the-covenant-church-and-the-bible>) and “Textual Criticism Insight” (posted on Moodle. Read critically!

**Optional:** Read the article posted on Moodle on a hermeneutics of hearing.

**Aug 30-Sept 4 Hermeneutics** **Groups A and B have primary responsibility for discussion.**

Keep translating and doing the alternate reading

**Sept 6 Gospels Criticism and Quests for Jesus** **Group C has primary responsibility for Gospels Criticism; Group D has primary responsibility for Quests for Jesus.**

**Read** the handouts on Gospels criticism and on Quests for Jesus; Strauss, 19-89 or Wright, xiii-82. Note that there are web sites on the synoptic problem and on Q—and on

most other subjects we will study. Spend at least twenty minutes browsing the NT Gateway website (<http://www.ntgateway.com>) for material pertinent to this course, i.e., material specifically on the Gospels, Gospel criticism, textual criticism, Judaism, the Qumran Scrolls, rabbinic material, etc.

**Read** Martin Kähler, “Against the Life-of-Jesus Movement,” in *The Historical Jesus in Recent Research*, ed. James D. G. Dunn and Scot McKnight, pp. 67-84; and R. Bauckham, “For Whom Were the Gospels Written,” in *The Gospels for All Christians*, ed. Richard Bauckham, pp. 9-48.

**Photocopy from your Synopsis and mark in detail Matt 9:1-8 and parallels according to the directions on line. Due Sept 11.**

### **Sept 11-13 Gospels Criticism and Quests for Jesus**

**Read** Strauss, 347-398 or Wright 83-124; Scot McKnight, “Jesus of Nazareth,” in *The Face of New Testament Studies*, ed. Scot McKnight and Grant R. Osborne, pp. 149-176; and N. T. Wright, “Five Gospels but No Gospel: Jesus and the Seminar,” in *Authenticating the Activities of Jesus*, ed. Bruce Chilton and Craig A. Evans, pp. 83-120.

**Be prepared for a quiz on Hermeneutics, Gospels Criticism, and Quests for Jesus on Sept 13.**

### **Sept 18-20 The Jewish Background of the NT**

**Read** the handouts, Strauss, 92-167 or Wright, 125-197.

**Read** from the Apocrypha: 1 Maccabees 1-4; Wisdom of Solomon 1-7; and Sirach 1-5.

**Read** Tractate *Pesahim* in Danby’s translation of the *Mishnah*. **Compare** the length of *Pesahim* in the *Babylonian Talmud*.

**Read** *The Manual of Discipline* (1QS) columns 1-5 in F. G. Martínez and E. J. C. Tigchelaar, *The Dead Sea Scrolls Study Edition*, pp. 71-83 or in Vermes, *The Dead Sea Scrolls in English*, pp. 72-80 (he uses the title “The Community Rule”).

### **Sept 25-27 The Use of the OT in the NT**

Hermeneutical Presuppositions and Jewish Methods

John 1:1-18 and Luke 4:18-22

**Sept 26 and 27 Lund Lectures—Class on 27 as usual and attendance at the lectures is required.**

### **Oct 2-4 Overview of the Gospels and the Kingdom of God**

**Be ready for the second quiz on Oct 2.** The quiz, which may be on line, will cover Judaism and the use of the OT in the NT. You will be expected to know the following:

- a. The major persons and events of the Maccabean War
- b. The major parties in Judaism and their beliefs
- c. The major features of the chronology from 200 B.C. to 30 A.D.
- d. The distinctions between the Herods
- e. The geography of Palestine in the first century.

Read the handout and Strauss, 170-296—this reading may be spread over the next few weeks.

**Oct 4 The Kingdom of God** **Group E has primary responsibility for discussion**

**Read** the handout on the kingdom, Strauss, 399-447 or Wright, 244-319, and George Eldon Ladd, *A Theology of the New Testament*, 2d ed., 54-88.

**Short paper on Matthew’s attack on self-centeredness is due Oct 4.** See the directions on line.

Optional: read my article on the gospel of Jesus posted on Moodle and/or Bruce Chilton, *Pure Kingdom: Jesus' Vision of God*, pp. 45-101.

**Oct 9 and 11 The Kingdom of God continued and the Sermon on the Mount**

**Read** Strauss, 297-343 or Wright, 244-368 and Craig L. Blomberg, “John and Jesus,” in *The Face of New Testament Studies*, ed. Scot McKnight and Grant R. Osborne, pp. 209-226.

**John 3:3-8 and Mark 1:14-15.** Groups A and B assigned John 3:3-8 and Mark 1:14-15 respectively should be ready to discuss these texts.

**Oct 11 The Sermon on the Mount**

**Read** pp. 35-154 from Bonhoeffer's *Cost of Discipleship*. If you have read this recently, as an alternative read Charles H. Talbert, *Reading the Sermon on the Mount*, pp. 3-146.

**Oct 15-19: FALL BREAK—NO CLASSES**

**Oct 23-25 Discussion and Reflection and Law in Matt, esp. 5:17-20 and 19:16-26.**

Shaking of the Foundations?

**Groups C and D assigned Matt 5:17-20 and 19:16-26** respectively should be ready to discuss these texts.

**Read** the handouts. Those reading Wright, read pp. 369-442.

**First stage of research paper is due Oct 24.**

**Oct 30 Law in Matt continued and Parables**

**Oct 30 Divorce and Remarriage Group F has primary responsibility**

**Read** the pamphlet *Divorce and Remarriage* (on the Covenant's website)

**Nov 1 Introduction to Parables Group G has primary responsibility**

**Read** the handout, Strauss, 447-454 or Wright, 198-243.

Optional: Read my article on “*Anaideia* and the Friend at Midnight” posted on Moodle.

**Nov 6-8 Parables and Mark 4:10-12 and Miracles**

**Group E assigned Mark 4:10-12** should be ready to discuss this text.

Those reading Wright, read pp. 443-474.

**Nov 8 Miracles Group H has primary responsibility**

First Test covering everything from the overview of the Gospels through parables. (This test may be online Nov 7 or 8.) It will also expect knowledge of the content of Matthew by chapter.

**Read** the handout, Strauss, 455-468.

**Second stage of research paper is due on Nov 8.**

**Nov 13-15 Miracles and Christology, especially in relation to Matt 11:25-30 and 16:13-20**

**Read** the handouts, Strauss, 469-491 or Wright, 477-539.

**Groups F and G assigned Matt 11:25-30 and 16:13-20** respectively should be ready to discuss these texts.

**Nov 20 Christology continued, esp. Son of Man**

**Optional: Read** Martin Hengel, “Jesus, the Messiah of Israel: The Debate about the ‘Messianic Mission’ of Jesus,” in *Authenticating the Activities of Jesus*, ed. Bruce Chilton and Craig A. Evans, pp. 323-349.

**Nov 27-29 Cleansing of the Temple and Lord's Supper**

**Nov 27 Read** the handout on discipleship

**Read** the handout on the temple incident and Strauss, 493-509. Those reading Wright, read pp. 612-653.

**Group H assigned Matt 21:12-17** should be ready to discuss this text.

**Nov 29 Lord's Supper: Do the online tasks answering the questions about the Lord's Supper and read the handout.**

A handout on Jesus' Future Expectation is online but will not be included on tests.

**Dec 4- 6 The Crucifixion of Jesus and the Significance of his Death Groups A, B, C, and D have primary responsibility**

Read the handouts. Those reading Wright, read pp. 540-611.

Research paper is due Dec 4 with grace until Dec 8.

**Dec 11 Resurrection Groups E, F, G, and H have primary responsibility**

Read the handout, Strauss, 511-525 and N. T. Wright, "Jesus Resurrection and Christian Origins," *Gregorianum* 83 (2002): 615-635, mirroring his much larger work *The Resurrection of the Son of God*. Those reading Wright, read pp. 657-662.

**Dec 12 Study Day**

**Dec 13 or 14 Second Test during the Final Exam period**

**VII. EXTRA CREDIT—Two points will be added to your final average if before Dec 14 you:**

1. Read the following primary sources

- a. Psalms of Solomon 17-18
- b. Testament of the 12 Patriarchs, Testaments of Levi and Judah

(a-b can be found in James H. Charlesworth, ed. *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha*

- c. IQH (The Thanksgiving Hymns) columns 4-5
- d. 1QpHab (Peshier on Habakkuk)

(For c-d see the translations of the Dead Sea Scrolls by F. G. Martínez and E. J. C. Tigchelaar, *The Dead Sea Scrolls Study Edition* or Vermes or Gaster)

- e. Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews*, Book XVIII.55-64 and 116-119 (Loeb edition)
- f. Tractate *Aboth* in the *Mishnah* (ed. Danby)
- g. Tractate *Shabbath* in the *Mishnah* (ed. Danby)
- h. Philo, *On the Posterity of Cain and His Exile*, 1-11 (Loeb vol. 2)
- i. Read the first ten pages of the *Babylonian Talmud* on Tractate *Shabbath* (*bShabbath*)
- j. The Targums on Genesis 1:1 (Onkelos, Fragment, and Pseudo-Jonathan in Etheridge's translation)

k. The Gospel of Thomas 1-25 (ed. Guillaumont et al.) or the translation at the back of the Greek version of Aland's Synopsis.

**or**

**EXTRA CREDIT—Three points will be added to your final average if before Dec 16 you**

2. Read **and** provide a three page reflection on four hundred pages from *The Historical Jesus in Recent Research* (ed. by James Dunn and Scot McKnight; Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbraun's, 2005). Read critically!

**or**

3. Read **and** provide a three page reflection on Richard A. Burridge, *Imitating Jesus*. Read critically!

**or**

4. Read **and** provide a three page reflection on Simon Gathercole, *The Pre-existent Son*. Read critically!

**Other options can be arranged with the instructor. The maximum extra credit is three points.**

## VIII. GRADING

Greek translation or alternative reading	10%
Reading, paper on spiritual formation, class involvement	10%
Quizzes One and Two	20%
Tests One and Two	30%
Paper	30%

### Summary of requirements:

1. Read the Gospels!
2. Greek translation or substitute reading
3. Reading of handouts (approximately 100 pages), works from the Apocrypha (27 pages), *Pesahim* in the *Mishnah* (15 pages), *The Manual of Discipline* (7 pages), Strauss or Neufeld **and** Burridge (approx. 475 pages), the section from Bonhoeffer's *Cost of Discipleship* (120 pages), the pamphlet on Divorce and Remarriage (17 pages), and assigned articles (about 240 pages). (About 1000 pages total.)
4. A five page paper on Matthew's assault on the ego
5. A one page analysis of a specific text (Matt 5:17-20; 11:25-30; 16:13-20; 19:16-22; 21:12-17; or Mark 4:10-12)
6. The three part research assignment
7. Two quizzes and two tests