Bethesda University of California
Course Syllabus

BETHESDA UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT:
Bethesda University of California is a Christ-centered community of higher education preparing Korean/English speaking men and women with professional competence, academic excellence, and spiritual integrity to be servant leaders in the Church, community, and global society.

Course Number and Title: GBIB 560 GOSPELS
Semester: Fall 2013 (8/26 - 12/13/2013)
Time: Tuesdays (6:50pm - 9:20 pm) - Room: # 205
Professor: Nha T. Tran, Ph.D.

1. RELATIONSHIP OF COURSE TO BETHESDA UNIVERSITY’S MISSION:

   This course helps the student to comprehend the essence of Christian gospel message through studying the Gospels and respond to various contemporary issues and challenges that Christian leaders and churches face today. The student will describe how the teachings of Jesus can be used in our very different circumstances today.

2. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

   An overview of the four gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) with emphasis on the Christological uniqueness of each gospel’s portrait of Christ’s history, ministry, person and work. The course introduces the student to literary genres, structural analysis, and the practical use the literary critical tools for gospel research such as socio-historical and traditio-critical methodologies. The main focus of the course is how to apply to our lives of certain basic truths taught and demonstrated by Jesus Christ during His earthly ministry.
3. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

After completing this course, students will have achieved the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Assignments for Assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Understand the four canonical Gospels to see what each of these four portraits of Jesus tells us; and the literary and theological relationships between the Gospels, and the major themes each one presents.</td>
<td>• Reading textbooks and Dictionary articles • Book report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explain the overall literary theme and design of each gospel and how to interpret those messages according to each gospel’s unique literary plan.</td>
<td>• Reading textbooks and Dictionary articles • Paper #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discern the basic introductory issues of each gospel according to its author, its own historical-cultural Sitz im Leben, traditional dating, and origin.</td>
<td>• Reading textbooks and Dictionary articles • Paper #2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify attitudinal and behavioral changes made or mandated in your personal life as a result of increased understanding of the life and work of Jesus Christ.</td>
<td>• Reading textbooks and Dictionary articles • Paper #3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grasp the basic historical sketch of Jesus’ Christological pre-existence, incarnation, birth, life, passion, death, burial and resurrection.</td>
<td>• Reading Dictionary articles • Final exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. COURSE MATERIALS:

A. Required texts:

- A Modern Edition of the Bible (ESV, NKJV, NASB).
- Darrell L. Bock and Gregory J. Herrick (eds), Jesus in Context: Background Readings for Gospel Study (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005).
B. Recommended readings:

- Mark D. Roberts, *Can We Trust the Gospel?* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2007).

C. Journal articles:

- Brendan Byrne, “Jesus as Messiah in the Gospel of Luke: Discerning a Pattern of

• F. Scott Spenser, “‘Follow Me’ the Imperious Call of Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels,” *Interpretation* 59/2 (April, 2005): 142-53.

5. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

A. Readings:
   1) Read the entire of four Gospels. Read each Gospel in one sitting preferably during the semester prior to the class it is discussed (see the schedule). Your reading will be
reported on the exams.

2) Textbooks and Dictionary articles: Complete the readings from the textbooks and Dictionary articles as scheduled and reporting weekly to the professor.

B. Read Four Gospels, One Jesus? (by Richard A. Burridge) and give a critique on it. There are two parts included in the critique: (1) a summary of the book (2 pages), and (2) strengths and weaknesses of the book (3 pages).

C. There will be three papers: students may choose one of the following passages for the focus for these three papers: Matthew 26:6-13, or Mark 6:30-44; or Luke 14:1-14, or John 15:1-17.

  ▪ First, a five-page paper on the historical and literary setting of the passage. Compare it with other Gospel’s parallels. Students must consult and interact with at least three modern scholarly books, not counting the assigned textbooks for this class. Produce a diagram of the passage.

  ▪ Second, a five-page paper analyzing the key words and original message of the passage. Students must consult and interact with at least five modern scholarly books, in addition to the assigned textbooks for this class, including at least five modern, major commentaries (major means at least 15 pages for each chapter in the Gospel you are studying). Students should select a passage and identify potential resources as soon as the class begins. See the list of commentaries in bibliography recommended below.

  ▪ Third, a five-paper discussing how the passage is relevant in our own context, either in theology and/or in ethics. Outside research is permitted but not required for this paper.

These three short papers are finally integrated into a research paper. It will be around 15 pages in length. You will need to use at least 10 resources (commentaries, monographs, periodical articles) as your basis for the paper. You will work through your structural analysis point by point using footnotes on each point of your outline by citing your commentary sources and blending them with your own analysis.

D. Final exam: there is a take-home exam. Its content is the Life of Christ.

Note: All the assignments for this class have to be submitted by December 17th 2013 (Friday) via e-mail to tranthna@gmail.com either in Word document or in PDF (please do NOT send them in Hangul format). The instructor will NOT accept any work after this date without a prior arrangement with him. The professor reserves the right to modify the course as needed.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Time Estimate</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Readings (textbooks, articles)</td>
<td>900 pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three short papers</td>
<td>5 pages each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book report</td>
<td>5 pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>Open-book/take-home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>60 hours</strong></td>
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</table>

6. **GRADING INFORMATION:**

1) **Grading Scale:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Numerical Grade</th>
<th>Grade Points</th>
<th>Performance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95-100</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-94</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Good +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-86</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>Good -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>Satisfactory +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74-76</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-73</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>Satisfactory -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>64-66</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>Very Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-63</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>Extremely Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59 or lower</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Failure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2) **Grading Rubric:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Methods of Submission</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; Readings</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>report to professor</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three short papers</td>
<td>As scheduled</td>
<td>In class or email</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book report</td>
<td>As scheduled</td>
<td>In class or email</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam (Take-home)</td>
<td>December 20, 2013</td>
<td>Email</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7. **INCOMPLETE POLICY:**

All course work is due on the dates assigned. Students who fail to submit assignments on time will be subject to the course's late grading policy. In all other cases and unless otherwise stated by the instructor, all course work is due by 4:00 p.m. on the last day of the semester. A grade of incomplete will only be awarded to students who cannot physically complete their course work by the last day of the semester due to an avoidable situation such as a serious illness. In such cases, students must provide valid evidence of their condition. After a semester has ended it is no longer possible to request an incomplete. Incompletes will not be granted simply because of poor time management. Students who assume that an incomplete will be issued because they failed to finish their course work by the end of the semester will automatically receive a grade of F.

Incompletes must first be approved by the Academic Affairs office. To apply for an incomplete, students must fill out an incomplete-grade-request form and submit it to the office by October 18, 2013. After receiving approval from the office, the student must then obtain approval from his or her instructor.

8. **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Attendance is an important requirement of the course. Students are expected to attend class, therefore credit is not normally given for mere attendance. Instead, penalties are normally given for failing to attend. It is suggested that penalties be given to students who miss over 20% of the class sessions.

If students miss more than 3 times, the Registrar will be notified and the grade of the student would automatically be an F. If international students miss more than 2 class periods, the Registrar will be notified as soon as possible and their F1 would be in jeopardy.

9. **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

Plagiarism and cheating are unacceptable. Plagiarism is defined as the use of someone else’s ideas, arguments or other original material without acknowledging the source.

10. **BIBLIOGRAPHY (Commentaries/Biblical Theologies):**

Matthew


• See more at [http://www.bestcommentaries.com/matthew/](http://www.bestcommentaries.com/matthew/)

**Mark**


• See more at [http://www.bestcommentaries.com/mark/](http://www.bestcommentaries.com/mark/)
Luke

- See more at [http://www.bestcommentaries.com/luke/](http://www.bestcommentaries.com/luke/)

John


See more at [http://www.bestcommentaries.com/john/](http://www.bestcommentaries.com/john/)

**Biblical Theologies**


11. COURSE SCHEDULE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | 08/27  | Introduction - Historical Background       | Bloomberg: 7-27  
DJG: 312-26; 688-98                           |                     |
| 2    | 09/03  | Historical Background                      | Bloomberg: 29-81  
DJG: 291-97; 398-405; 609-14; 137-46          |                     |
| 3    | 09/10  | Synoptic Problem                           | Bloomberg: 83-126  
Stein: 29-96  
DJG: 784-792                                   |                     |
| 4    | 09/17  | Mark - Existence of Q                      | Bloomberg: 127-142  
Stein: 97-123  
DJG: 512-24; 644-50                             |                     |
| 5    | 09/24  | Matthew                                    | Bloomberg: 143-158  
Stein: 125-152  
DJG: 526-41                                     | Paper # due         |
| 6    | 10/01  | Luke Source Criticism                      | Bloomberg: 159-176  
Stein: 153-169  
DJG: 495-510                                   |                     |
| 7    | 10/08  | John Form Criticism                        | Bloomberg: 177-203  
Stein: 173-194  
Bock: 205-260  
DJG: 368-83; 243-50                             |                     |
| 8    | 10/15  | Life of Christ  
Oral transmission  
Birth of Jesus                                  | Bloomberg: 205-249  
Stein: 195-221  
Bock: 37-56  
DJG: 60-74                                      | Book report due     |
| 9    | 10/22  | Life of Christ                             | Bloomberg: 250-269  
Stein: 223-233                                    | Paper #2 due        |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>References</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 10/29 | John the Baptist | Bock: 57-71  
DJG: 383-91 |
| 11/5 | Galilean Ministry  
(Early stages)  
Redaction Criticism  
Sermon on the Mount | Bloomberg: 270-298  
Stein: 237-284  
Bock: 72-92  
DJG: 662-69; 735-44 |
| 11/12 | Galilean Ministry  
(Later stages)  
Miracles, Parables | Bloomberg: 299-330  
Bock: 93-106  
DJG: 549-560; 591-601 |
| 11/19 | Teaching Ministry  
Jewish Feasts  
Final Week | Bloomberg: 331-355  
Bock: 107-122  
DJG: 234-41 |
| 11/19 | Judean Ministry  
Final Week | Bloomberg: 356-382  
Bock: 123-149 |
| 11/26 | Thanksgiving - No class | Paper # 3 due |
| 12/3 | Passion & Resurrection | Bloomberg: 383-421  
Bock: 150-204  
DJG: 601-4; 673-88 |
| 12/10 | Final Exam | |

**Note:** DJG = *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*  
- The syllabus is subject to revision without notice.