COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course seeks to (1) equip students to interpret the Bible soundly using basic exegetical methodology and (2) help students understand the Gospel of Mark along with its theology and how it might be appropriately applied today. To these ends, some rudimentary knowledge of Greek and Hebrew is presented, exegetical tools and methodology are introduced, and an exegetical study of the Gospel of Mark is conducted, addressing questions of both Mark’s original meaning and contemporary application. This course satisfies the requirements for the Master of Arts degrees in Youth Ministry, Urban Ministry, and Counseling for an “In Depth” course or for a New Testament course.

PURPOSES OF THE COURSE

1. To equip the student to interpret the Bible soundly using basic exegetical methodology, including knowledge of the Greek and Hebrew alphabets and how to do basic word studies in Greek and Hebrew (cf. articles 1-2 of the seminary’s mission statement).

2. To introduce the student to basic tools for basic biblical exegesis and research (cf. articles 1-2 of the seminary’s mission statement)

3. To help the student understand the exegetical and interpretive issues relating to Mark, the theology of the Gospel, and the pastoral issues it raises and/or addresses. (Cf. articles 1-3, 5 of the seminary’s mission statement)

4. To help the student apply the message and theology of Mark as appropriate to his or her own life and to issues in the contemporary church and world based on solid exegesis of the ancient text. (Cf. articles 1-6 of the seminary’s mission statement)

REQUIRED TEXTS


**OTHER REQUIRED READING (located on the class website listed under the author’s name)**


**Recommended Texts and Readings** (Entries marked with {W} may be found on the course website. A few items are marked with an asterisk, indicating that they are especially recommended resources for NT exegesis beyond that of Mark or synoptic studies. For further bibliography on Mark and synoptic studies, see Köstenberger et al. and Stein’s commentary listed below.)

• *“GCTS Exegesis Reference Manual”* {W}
• Hafemann, Scott, “Logical Relationship Questions.” {W}
• —,—, “A Listing of the Basic Literary ‘Forms’ (‘Gattungen’) Used in Studying the NT.” {W}
• Lane, William, *The Gospel of Mark* (NICNT; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974).
COURSE STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS (All papers should be typed, double-spaced in Times New Roman font size 12, with pagination, and one-inch margins)

The class will work its way through the Greek text of the Gospel of Mark, dealing with issues of lexical meaning, grammar and syntax, logical and narrative structure, history and culture, rhetoric, literary techniques, theology, and application as they arise. Special attention will be given to tracing the Gospel’s flow of thought and detecting the main logical points of the narrative as the professor and students work together to grasp Mark’s original intent and to think God’s thoughts after him. The philosophy of this course follows the old maxim, “If you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day, but if you teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime.” Thus, the course does not only seek to communicate knowledge about the exegesis and meaning of Mark (giving fish to students), but even more to equip students to exegete the text of any New Testament Gospel for themselves (teaching students to fish). Completion of regular assignments, preparedness for class, and class participation are all important parts of this process. Late work is subject to reduced credit at the professor’s discretion. The final date assignments may be submitted has been set by the seminary as December 20, 2012 (Dec. 7th for students graduating in January 2013). Only the registration office can give an extension beyond these dates. Although there is no specific percentage assigned to class attendance and participation, it can affect the student’s grade at the discretion of the professor. Written work handed in late may be docked a half grade of credit per week late or portion thereof at the professor’s discretion.

1. In preparation for each class session, you are to complete the session’s written assignment(s) (see # 5 below) if there is one and read any required reading that may be assigned in the course schedule by the class session for which it is listed.

2. The student will take two quizzes, one on the Greek alphabet and one on the Hebrew alphabet.

3. You are to complete a word study exercise, comprising assignments 9-1 and 9-2 in your Duvall/Hays text.

4. The student will complete 4 arcs or logical analyses of passages in Mark as indicated in the course schedule. An articulation of a subject, complement, exegetical idea, and homiletical idea for the passage must be included with each arc or logical analysis.

5. You will submit a reading report indicating what reading was completed for the course and whether or not each reading was completed on time. Please use the report form included later in this syllabus. Reading that is completed late will be subject to a 10% credit penalty at the professor’s discretion.

6. The student will prepare a short exegesis paper (about 6-10 pages + appendices) on a passage of his/her choice from the Gospel of Mark. The paper will systematically analyze a complete passage in Mark in the light of its literary, redactional, historical-cultural, and theological context, its
grammatical, logical, and rhetorical structure, its use of important words and concepts, its main idea and key themes, and its relevance in its original context and in our own.

7. You will complete a take-home **final exam** covering lectures, reading, and assignments.

**Note about Plagiarism:**
All use of sources in written work must be properly indicated. Read GCTS’s policy on plagiarism (see [http://www.gordonconwell.edu/sites/default/files/hamreg_plagiarism.pdf](http://www.gordonconwell.edu/sites/default/files/hamreg_plagiarism.pdf)) carefully and remember that use of authors’ words is to be indicated with quotation marks and a footnote, and the use of their ideas but not their words is to be indicated with a footnote. For further information see [http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml](http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml).

**Course Evaluation**

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<tr>
<th><strong>Class requirement</strong></th>
<th><strong>Grade percentage</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Word study exercise</td>
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<td>3. Arcs/logical analyses and synoptic comparison</td>
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<td>4. Reading Report</td>
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<td>5. Exegesis paper</td>
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<td>6. Final Exam</td>
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**COURSE OUTLINE/PROPOSED SCHEDULE** (subject to change at professor’s discretion)

Readings are listed in the following schedule by authors’ last names, with further information provided when necessary. Edwards’ name listed without further specification indicates reading of the comments in his commentary on the passages in Mark listed as the topic for a given date. See the required texts and readings sections above for further information on the readings assigned. Readings and other work are to be completed by the date/class session for which they are listed. Due to the special time frame of this course (only 5 class sessions), students have some special time constraints with their assignments and may have to be especially careful to focus their time wisely. At the same time, students will be given latitude for reading due dates. Priority should be given to completing written assignments on time. Please note that there is a substantial assignment and a substantial amount of reading due for the first class. Class sessions do not start until a few weeks into the semester, so please use that time to complete as many of the assignments due by the first class as possible as well as getting ahead on further work. [LA = arc or logical analysis]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings, Assignments</th>
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| 1     | Sat. Sept. 29 | Introduction to the course  
Sentence flowing and arcing/logical analysis  
The exegetical and homiletical ideas  
Introduction to special considerations for exegesis in the Gospels  
Introduction to Mark | Please note that the assignments for this date are actually due to be completed by the first class.  
Complete the arcing tutorial at  
http://www.biblearc.com/web/ (Click the “learn” tab to access the tutorial. There is no need to register at the site. The students will hand in a signed statement that [s]he completed the tutorial as well as the practice arcs created as part of the tutorial. To download a copy of a completed arc, click “Options” on the right side of the page once the arc is completed, then choose “Download this arc,” and then choose Download.”)  
Read the whole of Mark in one sitting  
Duvall/Hays, chs. 1-4  
Schreiner, “Tracing the Argument”  
Edwards, Introduction |
| 2     | Sat. Oct. 6  | 1:1-45  
Synoptic Parallel Comparison (Note instructions from Fee on the course website.)  
2:1-3:35 | Greek Alphabet Quiz  
Duvall/Hays, chs. 5-9  
Edwards  
Turn in LA # 1: 1:14-15  
Turn in LA # 2: 1:16-20 |
| 3     | Sat. Nov. 10 | 4:1-34  
4:35-6:29 | Hebrew Alphabet Quiz  
Duvall/Hays, chs. 10-14  
Edwards  
Snodgrass, 1-60, 145-91, 216-28  
Turn in LA # 3: Mark 4:10-12 |
| 4     | Sat. Nov. 17 | 6:30-8:21  
8:22-11:26 | Duvall/Hays, chs. 15-18  
Edwards  
Turn in LA # 4: 5:35-43  
Turn in Turn in Word Study Assignment ( = Duvall/Hays assignments 9-1 and 9-2) |
|       | Dec. 7      | For January Graduates only: All remaining work due! It is to be mailed to the professor’s address. | January Graduates turn in exegesis paper, reading report, translation notebook, and final exam. These must be put in the mail/postmarked by Dec. 7, 2012. |
14:1-16:8 | Duvall/Hays, chs. 19-22 and appendix 1  
Edwards  
Snodgrass, 276-99  
Turn in exegesis paper and reading report |
|       | Sat. Dec. 20 | Take home final exam due | Turn in final exam, putting it into the mail to the professor’s address by Dec. 20th (i.e., it must be postmarked no later than Dec. 20, 2012, but may be mailed earlier) |
Reading Report  Name:__________________________

(If a reading was only partially completed, list the number of pages actually completed in the “Completed?” column.)

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<td>Edwards on Mark 11:27-13:37</td>
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