Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Boston Campus (CUME)
NT 613 Exegesis of Mark (Fall 2012)
Instructor: Dr. Brian J. Abasciano

Saturdays 9/29, 10/6; 11/10, 17; 12/15 (9:00 am – 4:30 pm)
Evangelical Covenant Church, Springfield, MA
Office hours: By appointment

Instructor Contact Information:
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Hampton, NH 03842
Email: bvabasciano@gmail.com
Phone: (603) 926-7034

COURSE DESCRIPTION
An exegetical study of the structure, theology, and probable setting of Mark, with special attention given to the person of Jesus and his mission. This course satisfies the Master of Divinity degree requirement for an exegesis course in a New Testament narrative book.

PURPOSES OF THE COURSE
1. To help the student grow in his/her ability to exegete the Greek text of the New Testament, including development of the full range of exegetical skills such as those learned in NT 502 “Interpreting the New Testament,” through instruction, firsthand experience and practice in exegeting Mark, and observing the exegesis of Mark by others. (Cf. articles 1-2 of the seminary’s mission statement.)

2. 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.)

3. 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.)

4. To help the student grow in the process of moving from exegesis to ministering the Word. (Cf. articles 1-3, 5 of the seminary’s mission statement.)

REQUIRED TEXTS

And at least ONE of the following editions of the Greek New Testament:
OR


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


• —Ibid., pp. 227-43 (from ch. 5, “The Gospel according to Mark”)


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. listed above and Stein’s commentary listed below.)


• Fee, Gordon and Douglas Stuart, How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth (3rd edn; Grand
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. **A Greek Competency Quiz** is required of every Greek exegesis class. *Only those who receive a passing grade on this quiz will be allowed to remain in the class.* The quiz will be given on the first day of class based on the basic knowledge of Greek expected of students who have completed the seminary’s first year Greek program. It is graded on a pass-fail basis. Those who fail the first attempt will be given another quiz which must be completed before the end of the second week of class. Only those passing one or the other of the quizzes will be able to continue in the course.

2. **In preparation for each class session**, you are to:

   a. Translate the passage from Mark assigned in the course schedule, recording your translation in your translation notebook (see # 3 below). You might find it helpful to use translation aids such as a quality Bible software program designed for Greek language study (e.g. Accordance, Gramcord, BibleWorks, Logos) or one of the following reading helps: *A Reader's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* by Sakae Kubo (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1975); *A Grammatical Analysis of the Greek New Testament* by Max Zerwick and Mary Grosvenor (Rome: Pontificio Istituto Biblico, 1993); *The Linguistic Key to the New Testament* by Fritz Rienecker and Cleon L. Rogers (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1980); *Analytical Greek New Testament: Greek Text Analysis* (Baker’s Greek New Testament Library, 1; Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1981) by Barbara and Timothy Friberg. You can find similar (though not as good) type of help for free at http://greattreasures.org or http://unbound.biola.edu/ or http://www.blueletterbible.org/.

   b. Complete the week’s written assignment (see # 5 below) if there is one.

   c. Read any required reading that may be assigned in the course schedule by the class session for which it is listed.

3. You are to keep a **Translation Notebook** in which you record your *personal* translation (not someone else’s and not an amalgam of published translations) of the Greek text of the Gospel of Mark that is assigned for translation. Along with your translation you should record whatever lexical, grammatical, or syntactical notes you would need to explain your translation in class.

4. You are to complete four **exegetical skills assignments**. One will be a sentence flow and one will be comparing the wording of synoptic parallels. Two others will consist of (a) a Greek sentence flow, (b) an arc/logical analysis, (c) a grammatical analysis that syntactically classifies certain words identified in weekly assignment files posted on the class website, and (d) an articulation of an exegetical idea and a homiletical idea, all in reference to the verses specified in the course schedule for such treatment with the label “intensive analysis”.

5. You are to prepare an **exegesis paper** of 10-15 pages plus appendices on a passage of your 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. This paper should reflect the training provided in the course, “Interpreting the New Testament.” It should reflect both inductive study of the text and knowledge of secondary literature (lexicons and other reference works, academic commentaries and monographs,
6. 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.

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) 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.

Course Evaluation

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<thead>
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<th>Class requirement</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Translation Notebook</td>
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<td>2. Exegetical Skills Assignments</td>
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<td>3. Exegesis paper</td>
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<td>4. Reading Report</td>
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<td>5. 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. 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. ESA = Exegetical Skills Assignment.]
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<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Readings, Assignments</th>
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| 1     | Sat. Sept. 29 | Greek Competency Quiz  
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  
Schreiner, “Tracing the Argument”  
Köstenberger et al., 102-75  
McKnight  
deSilva, “Narrative Criticism”  
Köstenberger et al., 227-43  
France, 1-45  
deSilva, “Mark and Ministry Formation” |
| 2     | Sat. Oct. 6  | 1:1-45 Synoptic Parallel Comparison  
(Note instructions from Fee on the course website.)  
2:1-3:35 | Translate 1:1-27  
France, 49-121  
Translate 2:1-14; 3:31-35  
France, 121-80  
**Turn in ESA # 1: Sentence flow of 1:14-15**  
**Turn in ESA # 2: Intensive analysis of 1:16-20** |
| 3     | Sat. Nov. 10 | 4:1-34  
4:35-6:29 | Translate 4:1-20  
France, 181-219  
Snodgrass, 1-60, 145-91, 216-28  
Translate 5:21-43  
France, 219-59  
**Turn in ESA # 3: Synoptic parallel comparison of Mk 4:10-12; Mt 13:10-15; Lk 8:9-10** |
| 4     | Sat. Nov. 17 | 6:30-8:21  
8:22-11:26 | France, 259-319  
Translate 8:22-38  
France, 321-450  
**Turn in ESA # 4: Intensive analysis of 5:35-43** |
| Dec. 7| For January Graduates only: All remaining work due! | January Graduates turn in exegesis paper, reading report, translation notebook, and final exam. These must be put in the mail by Dec. 7, 2012. |
### 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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