Course Objectives:

*gain experience and skill in the study of the historical background of the Gospels and in the exegesis of the canonical Gospels within the context of these backgrounds (Articles 1, 2 of the GCTS Statement of Mission)*

*study complementary portraits of Jesus in the four gospels to determine the events of his life, the content of his message, and his understanding of his own person and mission (Articles 1, 2 of the GCTS Statement of Mission)*

*gain knowledge about and learn how to apply critical methods for studying the Gospels within an evangelical approach to the Scriptures and for the sake of a fruitful, biblically-faithful Gospel ministry in the world and in the Church (Articles 1, 2 of the GCTS Statement of Mission)*

*learn about the history of the Quests for the Historical Jesus and how to critically engage with and in this endeavor from an evangelical perspective (Articles 1, 2 of the GCTS Statement of Mission)*

*be constantly interacting with canonical Gospels themselves as a course requirement and thus encountering Jesus himself through the Word of God daily as an act of prayer, worship, devotion, and study (Articles 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the GCTS Statement of Mission)*

*learn about and be able to articulate the theological significance of Jesus’ life and teachings (Articles 1, 2 and 3 of the GCTS Statement of Mission)*
Required Textbooks:


*The Holy Bible* (Any modern translation)

Recommended Texts:


Course Assignments and Due Dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reading Report</th>
<th>25% of final grade (Due Dec 19th)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading Study Questions (in Blomberg and on Cams)</td>
<td>15% of final grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam (Multiple Choice and Short Answer on</td>
<td>30% of final grade (Dec 19th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Readings and Lecture Material)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Final Paper</em> (8-10 pages double spaced)</td>
<td>30% of final grade (Due Dec 19th)</td>
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*More information will be given on the final paper after the first Reading Week. Some basic info: The paper will be an interaction with the student’s choice of a popular-culture conception of Jesus from the perspective of the Jesus of history and faith as we encounter him in the canonical Gospels. The paper will be an apologetic work and not a research paper. The point will be for the student to engage in an informed conversation with a progressive view of Jesus that questions the authority, authenticity, and accuracy of the scriptural account in order to effectively converse and critique the position from an evangelical perspective.
Course Grading Policy:

All grading, including final course grade, is based upon the grading scale given in the seminary Catalog:
A+=4.0; A=4.0; A-=3.7; B+=3.3; B=3.0; B-=2.7; C+=2.3; C=2.0; C-=1.7; D+=1.3; D=1.0; D-=0.7; F=0.0.

"A" means "conspicuous excellence;" "B" means "exceeding the minimum;" "C" means "satisfactory" work; "D" means "passing" but "unsatisfactory;" and "F" means "course has been failed."

Course Protocol:

• Each class will consist of a mix of lectures and discussions stemming from the reading. Normally, each class will have a reading assignment and study question assignment due. These must be turned in on the day for which they are listed as due.

• Class attendance is required, and unexcused patterns of non-attendance will result in a penalty of 10 points off of the final grade. In the event that absence from class becomes unavoidable, the student should contact the instructor via phone or email in advance with a valid reason.

• Assignments are due at the start of class on their due dates, and may not be turned in electronically. Assignments which are turned in late will result in a letter grade deduction from the project grade per day that the assignment is late. Therefore, for example, if an assignment would have been an “A” paper, it would decrease to a “B” as a result of being turned in one day late, and for each additional day the grade will decrease one letter grade from “B” to “C” per day late and so on.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism Statement:

From the GCTS Student Handbook, pg. 84: “The seminary considers all breaches of personal and academic integrity to be serious offenses. As such, the seminary has zero tolerance for such behaviors. Cheating involves, but is not limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination. Duplication of course requirements involves the submission of the same (or substantially same) work for credit in two or more courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructor (see Duplication of Course Requirements). Plagiarism involves the use of another person’s distinctive ideas or words, whether published or unpublished, and representing them as one’s own instead of giving proper credit to the source.”
Course Schedule

Introduction and the Quests for the Historical Jesus

9/11 - Introduction to the Course and “The Quests for the Historical Jesus” Lecture and Discussion

Due: No assignment due, but try to get ahead on reading if you can.

9/18 - The Quests for the Historical Jesus continued

Due: Blomberg, 205-231 and Study Questions (pg. 231); Johnson, 1-56 and Study Questions (on CAMS)

Critical Methods and Historical Background for Studying the Gospels, and the Historical Reliability of the Gospel

9/25 - Critical Methods for Studying the Gospels and the Historical Reliability of the Gospels

Due: Blomberg, 87-126 and Study Questions (pg. 110 only); Blomberg, 424-446 and Study Questions (pg. 446); Johnson, 57-80 and Study Questions (on CAMS)

10/2 - Historical Background for Studying the Gospels

Due: Blomberg, 8-81 and Study Questions (pg. 28, 57, and 81); Johnson, 81-104 and Study Questions (on CAMS)

10/9 - READING WEEK I — NO CLASS

Read Blomberg, 128-203 and prepare the Study Questions on 141-142, 158, 176, and 203; and prayerfully read one of the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, or Luke) and the Gospel of John in their entirety in preparation for our journey through the study of the Scriptural life of Jesus.
Jesus’ Life, Teaching, Ministry, Death, and Resurrection according to the Canonical Gospels

10/16 - The Birth and Childhood of Jesus and The Beginning of Jesus’ Ministry

   Due: Blomberg, 232-269 and Study Questions (pp. 249 and 269)

10/23 - Jesus’ Galilean Ministry (Earlier Stages)

   Due: Blomberg, 270-298 and Study Questions (p. 298)

10/30 - Jesus Galilean Ministry (Later Stages)

   Due: Blomberg, 299-330 and Study Questions (p. 330)

11/6 - Additional Teachings of Jesus in Matthew, Luke and John

   Due: Blomberg, 331-355 and Study Questions (p. 355)

11/13 - READING WEEK II — NO CLASS

   Read Blomberg, 356-421 and prepare the Study Questions on 382 and 421; and prayerfully read two of the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, or Luke) as we continue our journey through the study of the Scriptural life of Jesus.

11/20 - Jesus’ Judean Ministry

   Due: Blomberg, 356-382 and Study Questions (p. 382)
11/27 - Jesus' Passion and Crucifixion

Due: Read the Handout from excerpts from M. Hengel, *Crucifixion in the Ancient World and the Folly of the Message of the Cross* and Study Questions (both on Cams); Blomberg, 383-421 and Study Questions (p. 421)

12/4 - Jesus’ Resurrection

Due: Read the Handout from excerpts from N.T. Wright, *The Resurrection of the Son of God* and Study Questions (both on Cams)

12/11 - ‘Pop Culture’ Jesus and the Biblical Christ

Due: Read the Handout and Study Questions (both on Cams)

12/18 - The Theology of Jesus

Due: Blomberg, 447-482 and Study Questions (p. 482)

**Final Exam is on December 19th**

**Final Paper Due December 19th**