

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

Wednesdays 6:30 pm – 10:00 pm
Office hours: By appointment
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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.

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

- R. T. France, *The Gospel of Mark: A Commentary on the Greek Text* (NIGTC; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002). [ISBN: 978-0-8028-2446-2]
- Klyne R. Snodgrass, *Stories with Intent: A Comprehensive Guide to the Parables of Jesus* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008). [978-0-8028-4241-1]
- Daniel Wallace, *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics: An Exegetical Syntax of the New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996). [ISBN: 0-310-21895-0]

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

- E. Nestle, et al., (Nestle-Aland) *Novum Testamentum Graece* (27th ed.; Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1993), or other imprint. Commonly abbreviated as NA²⁷. [ISBN: 978-3-438-05100-4]

OR

- Barbara Aland, et al., *The Greek New Testament* (4th rev. ed.; Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft / New York, N.Y.: United Bible Society, 1993), or other imprint. Commonly abbreviated as UBS⁴. [ISBN: 3-438-05110-9]

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

- deSilva, David A., *An Introduction to the New Testament: Contexts, Methods & Ministry Formation* (Downer's Grove: IVP, 2004), pp. 219-22, 227-33, 395-400 (sections on "Examining Literary Context," "Jewish Purity Codes and Mark's Gospel," "Mark and Ministry Formation," and "Narrative Criticism"). [ISBN: 0-8308-2746-3]
- Köstenberger, Andreas J., L. Scott Kellum, and Charles L. Quarles, *The Cradle, the Cross, and the Crown: An Introduction to the New Testament* (Nashville: B&H, 2009), pp. 102-75 (ch. 3: "Jesus and the Relationship between the Gospels). [ISBN: 978-0-8054-4365-3]
- —Ibid., pp. 227-43 (from ch. 5, "The Gospel according to Mark")
- Marshall, I. Howard, *New Testament Theology: Many Witnesses, One Gospel* (Downer's Grove: IVP, 2004), pp. 57-93 (ch. 3: "The Gospel of Mark"). [ISBN: 978-0-8308-2795-4]
- McKnight, Scot, *Interpreting the Synoptic Gospels* (Guides to New Testament Exegesis 2; Grand Rapids: Baker, 1988), pp. 71-95 (ch. 7, "Tradition Analysis: Form Criticism," and ch. 8, "Tradition Analysis: Redaction Criticism"). [ISBN: 0-8010-6235-7]
- Schreiner, Thomas, "Tracing the Argument," in *Interpreting the Pauline Epistles* (Guides to New Testament Exegesis 5; Grand Rapids: Baker, 1990), 97-126. [ISBN: 978-0-8010-8302-0]

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.)

- Aland, Kurt, *Synopsis of the Four Gospels: Greek-English Edition of the Synopsis Quattor Evangeliorum* (10th edn; Stuttgart: UBS, 1993) [ISBN: 3-438-05405-1] (or similar synopsis by Aland)
- *Bauer, W. (Danker/Arndt/Gingrich), *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (3rd edn; Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2000). [ISBN: 0-226-03933]
- Blomberg, Craig L., *The Historical Reliability of the Gospels* (2nd edn; Downer's Grove: IVP, 2007). [ISBN: 978-0-8308-2807-4]
- Edwards, James R., *The Gospel according to Mark* (PNTC; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002) [ISBN: 978-0-85111-778-2]
- *Evans, C.A. and S.E. Porter, (eds.), *Dictionary of New Testament Background* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2000). [ISBN: 0-8308-1780-8]
- Fee, Gordon and Douglas Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* (3rd edn; Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003). [ISBN: 978-0310246046]

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- *Fee, Gordon, *New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors* (3rd edn; Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2003). [ISBN: 978-0664223168]
- *Ferguson, Everett, *Backgrounds of Early Christianity* (3rd edn; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003). [ISBN: 978-0802822215]
- **“GCTS Exegesis Reference Manual”
- Green, Joel B., Scot McKnight, and I. Howard Marshall (eds.), *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels* (Downer’s Grove: IVP, 1992) [ISBN: 978-0-8308-1777-1]
- 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).
- Robinson, Haddon W., *Biblical Preaching: The Development and Delivery of Expository Messages* (2nd edn; Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001), ch. 2. [ISBN: 978-0-8010-2262-3] {W}
- —, *Biblical Preaching: The Development and Delivery of Expository Messages* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1980), ch. 4. [ISBN: 0-8010-7700-1] {W }
- Schreiner, Thomas, “Diagramming and Conducting a Logical Analysis,” in *Interpreting the Pauline Epistles* (Guides to New testament Exegesis, 5; Grand Rapids: Baker, 1990), 77-96. [ISBN: 978-0801083020] {W}
- Stein, Robert H., *Mark* (BECNT; Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008). [ISBN: 978-0-8010-2682-9]
- Stein, Robert H., *Studying the Synoptic Gospels: Origin and Interpretation* (2nd edn; Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001). [ISBN: 0-8010-2258-4]

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 up to a full grade point at the professor’s discretion. The final date assignments may be submitted has been set by the seminary as May 7, 2012 (April 27th for students graduating in May 2012). 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.

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

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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 five **weekly assignments**. One will be a sentence flow and one will be comparing the wording of synoptic parallels. Three 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 "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, journal articles, etc.). The passage should be a complete unit, approved in advance by the professor. Instructions for preparing the paper will be posted on the class website. Further help and orientation may be

found at www.viceregency.com.

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

<i>Class requirement</i>	<i>Grade percentage</i>
1. Translation Notebook	10%
2. Weekly Assignments	20%
3. Exegesis paper	40%
4. Reading Report	15%
5. Final Exam	15%
	100%

COURSE OUTLINE/PROPOSED SCHEDULE (subject to change at professor's discretion)

[Readings are listed 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. WA = Weekly Assignment.]

Class	Date	Topic	Readings, Assignments
	Wed. Feb. 1	No class meeting. In place of a class meeting, students must complete the listed assignment.	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.)

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1	Wed. Feb. 8	Greek Competency Quiz Introduction to the course Sentence flowing and arcing/logical analysis The exegetical and homiletical ideas	Please note that the assignments for this date are to be completed by the first class. Read the whole of Mark in one sitting Schreiner, "Tracing the Argument" Köstenberger et al., 102-75
2	Wed. Feb. 15	Introduction to special considerations for exegesis in the Gospels Introduction to Mark	McKnight Köstenberger et al., 227-43 France, 1-45 Turn in WA # 1: Sentence flow of 1:1-2
	Feb. 20-24	Reading Week	Catch up and get ahead on reading and assignments
3	Wed. Feb. 29	1:1-45	Translate 1:1-27 France, 49-121 Turn in WA # 2: Intensive analysis of 1:16-20
4	Wed. March 7	Synoptic Parallel Comparison (Note instructions from Fee on the course website.) 2:1-3:35	Translate 2:1-14; 3:31-35 France, 121-80 (Note: Less work this week because of extra work next week. Plan accordingly and use your time wisely!)
5	Wed. March 14	4:1-34	Translate 4:1-20 France, 181-219 Snodgrass, 1-60, 145-91, 216-28 Turn in WA # 3: Synoptic parallel comparison of Mk 4:10-12; Mt 13:10-15; Lk 8:9-10
6	Wed. March 21	4:35-6:29	Translate 5:21-43 France, 219-59 Turn in WA # 4: Intensive analysis of 5:35-43
	March 26-30	Reading Week	Catch up and get ahead on reading and assignments
7	Wed. April 4	6:30-8:21	Translate 7:1-23 France, 259-319 Turn in WA # 5: Intensive analysis of 7:14-23
8	Wed. April 11	8:22-11:26	Translate 8:22-38 France, 321-450
9	Wed. April 18	11:27-13:37	Translate 13:2-10, 12-13, 24-27, 30-37 France, 451-546 Snodgrass, 276-99
10	Wed. April 25	14:1-16:8	France, 547-688 Marshall
	Fri. April 27	For <u>May Graduates only</u>: All remaining work due!	May Graduates turn in exegesis paper, reading report, translation notebook, and final exam
	Mon. May 7	All remaining work due!	Turn in exegesis paper, reading report, translation notebook, and final exam

Reading Report Name: _____

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

Date Due	Reading	Completed?	On Time?
Wed. Feb. 8	Read the whole of Mark in one sitting		
	Schreiner, “Tracing the Argument”		
	Köstenberger et al., 102-75		
Wed. Feb. 15	McKnight		
	Köstenberger et al., 227-43		
	France, 1-45		
Wed. Feb. 29	France, 49-121		
Wed. March 7	France, 121-80		
Wed. March 14	France, 181-219		
	Snodgrass, 1-60, 145-91, 216-28		
Wed. March 21	France, 219-59		
Wed. April 4	France, 259-319		
Wed. April 11	France, 321-450		
Wed. April 18	France, 451-546		
	Snodgrass, 276-99		
Wed. April 25	France, 547-688		
	Marshall		