“Syllabus”

I. Course Description:

This course will present a panoramic view of complementary portraits of Jesus found in the four canonical gospels in order to determine the events of His life (birth to resurrection), the content of His message and His own understanding of His person and mission.

II. Course Objectives:

This course will bring the students to a new awareness of Jesus and His uniqueness by focusing on His life, beginning with the incarnation, His earthly life, and ending at the resurrection. A special attention will be given to the “quest for the historical Jesus.”

III. Course Requirements:

To reach the intended goal, every student must fully attend and actively participate in each session. Students are expected to read in advance any assigned readings and come to class with two or three questions, concerns, and reflections from the reading materials in order to have a short discussion before each lecture.
1. Each week the students will prepare one page (no more) of reaction from the assigned readings, which will be discussed in class in a seminar format (30% of the final grade).

2. A final paper of 8-10 pages (double space) to answer the question: Who is Jesus? Students will use their understanding of Jesus historically and the presentation of the four gospels (50% of the final grade).

3. Faithful attendance and remarkable participation are required (20% of the final grade).

IV. Goal Intended:

After the lectures, readings, questions, reactions, suggestions, and theological reflections the students will develop a greater appreciation and life transforming understanding of the life of Jesus. Students would be able to state confidently that the Jesus of the Christian Bible is the Jesus of history. The wisdom obtained should transform the lives of the participants, bring them in a closer relationship with God, and set them on the right path for contextualized and conceptualized ministry.

Required Texts:

1. The Holy Bible
2. “Jesus the Messiah – A Survey of the Life of Christ” by Robert H. Stein
3. “Jesus and the Gospels” by Craig L. Blomberg

Suggested Texts:

1. “The Jesus Quest – Third Search for the Jew of Nazareth” by Ben Witherington III
2. “Who was Jesus? By N. T. Wright
Plan of Action

Following a short devotion – Each session will begin with an attempt to break the ice using some personal sharing, some current events, or some testimonies, while also trying to generate a couple laughs, helping everybody to relax and be ready to study and learn.

Course Schedule

June 6 – Lecture – 1  Introduction - What can we know about Jesus and how? – The Quest for the historical Jesus

June 13 – Lecture – 2  Historical background – The childhood of Jesus

June 20 – Lecture – 3  John the Baptist – Baptism and temptation of Jesus in the wilderness – Galilean Ministry of Jesus – The call of the disciples

June 27 – Lecture – 4  Works and Parables of Jesus – Parables of the kingdom

July 11 – Lecture – 5  Principles and Practice of the Kingdom – Opposition to Jesus

July 18 – Lecture – 6  Triumphal Entry – Action in the Temple – Confrontation at Jerusalem – Apocalyptic Discourse

July 25 – Lecture – 7  Last Super and the Arrest of Jesus

August 1 – Lecture – 8  Judgment and Crucifixion

August 8 – Lecture – 9  Resurrection – Jesus’ understanding of Himself
**Bibliography**


Wright, N. T. *Who was Jesus?* London: SPCK Holy Trinity Church, 1992.

“May the Holy Spirit grant us to have a wonderful learning semester and may He pour out His rich and abundant blessings upon all of us, our families, and our ministry.”