NT 613 Exegesis of Mark

1-4 p.m., AC 252
Email: wheaton.family@comcast.net

Course Description
The course provides an in-depth introduction to the text of Mark and the major issues surrounding its interpretation in the contemporary Church. Attention will be directed especially toward the Gospel’s teaching about the person of Jesus, discipleship and ethics.

Course Objectives
Upon completing this course the student should be capable of the following:

1. Refine and sharpen exegetical skills requisite to robust, pastoral ministry of the Word of God. To this end we will examine a series of passages from the Gospel in a manner that heightens sensitivity to the grammar, literary features, Old Testament allusions, and historical and cultural background of the passage (Articles 1-2 of GCTS Mission Statement).

2. Discuss some of the major interpretive issues in the theology and application of Mark in the contemporary Church (Articles 3-4 of GCTS Mission Statement).

Course Schedule. We will meet from 1-4pm on the following dates:

Week of July 25: MWF
Week of Aug 8: MW
Week of Aug 1: WF
Week of Aug 15: MW

Course Requirements
1. The following texts are required:
   b. Joel Marcus, Mark 8-16 (Anchor Bible 27A).
2. **5% of final grade.** Due in 2nd class mtg: 1-2 page outline of English text of Mark (less than 1 page will not receive credit). Also transcribe three outlines from major commentaries in parallel and write 1-2 paragraphs highlighting important features of Mark’s structure that you observe from this study (e.g., “While many scholars disagree about…, there is a broad consensus that Mark opens a new stage of his narrative at…”, or “Differences between outlines of Mark 3-8 seem to depend in part upon…”). AFTER you have completed the assignment, please read the article “The Structure of Mark’s Gospel” (to be provided) for insight into contemporary work on the structure of the Gospel.

3. **15% of final grade.** You will make a careful comparison of the Greek texts of Daniel 2 (LXX and TH) and Mark 4 with a view toward discerning one of the most decisive Old Testament backgrounds to Mark 4-8 as a whole.
   a. **Assignment (5%).** Read carefully through the Markan text 2-3 times in Greek. Then read through the Dan 2 texts. Underline the points where the LXX and TH diverge. Highlight terms and phrases which correspond to Mark 4.
   b. **Quiz (10%).** The quiz will be a straight-forward translation quiz of 2-3 texts taken from Mark 4, Dan 2 LXX and TH. I will not ask about individual words or grammatical constructions. You will have 20-minutes only! While the format of the quiz is intended to be easier than a detailed analysis of grammar and vocabulary, the time limit will reveal whether you have worked hard on the text and can translate briskly and confidently.

4. **80% of the final grade.** Four short papers focused narrowly on individual steps in the exegetical process. Papers are each worth 20% of final grade.
   a. **Paper 1.** Detailed, thorough analysis of grammar, syntax and semantics of passage. Not more than 3 pages; due Fri, July 29 at the start of class. This paper will be devoted to compact, technical discussion of every facet of the Greek of their pericope (grammar and also word studies – beyond just consulting TDNT!)
b. **Paper 2.** *Sharpen sensitivity to literary features of pericope.* Not more than 3 pages; due Fri, Aug 5 at the start of class. This paper will form a discussion of literary features, including an outline of the passage (and its wider context if they feel that is important), notable literary devices (chiasms, echoes, etc.; see Fee?), catch-words/echoes that link the passage to larger motifs that span the Gospel in whole or part, etc. This is also the place to note what the author has evidently given emphasis to by various means (narrative time vs real time, sp vs axn, who is given speech vs who is denied it, etc.)!! Also may include comparing passage with //s in Matt or Luke.

c. **Paper 3.** *Sharpen sensitivity to use of OT.* Not more than 5 pages; due Fri, Aug 12 at the start of class. This paper will be devoted to identifying and drawing out allusions and echoes to the OT as well as to delving in depth into any OT citations that occur in your passage. If your text does not seem to contain a prominent OT citation or allusion, devote the time to examining the Jewish or Greco-Roman background.

d. **Paper 4.** *Sharpen reflective skill surrounding the theological significance of passage for wider purposes of Gospel.* Not more than 8 pages; due Fri, Aug 19 at 1 pm. This paper is NOT (*NOT!*) a summary of your findings in the above sections! It is rather the place to trace the author’s thought in the pericope (what is the point(s) the author is making by means of his inclusion of this particular story, at this particular point in his narrative, in the shape in which he has crafted it?) and to ask how this idea(s) contributes to the flow of thought across this section of the Gospel and/or to the thought of the Gospel as a whole.