Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

NT 613: Exegesis of Mark
Professor: Dr. Stephen E. Witmer

Spring Semester 2012
Phone: 978.433.5658
Office hours: on request (AC 143)

Class: Wednesdays, 1.15-4.15pm
GCTS mailbox: Box 199A
Email: stephen.witmer@PCFchurch.org

Catalog 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.’

Objectives
After completing this course, the student should have:
1. The ability to translate and interpret the Greek text of the Gospel of Mark (see GCTS mission statement, articles 1-2).
2. A familiarity with the structure of the Gospel of Mark, together with the way in which its narrative unfolds (see GCTS mission statement, articles 1-2).
3. An understanding of the broad contours of the history of research on Mark and the introductory issues concerning the Gospel (i.e. author, date, setting) (see GCTS mission statement, articles 1-2).
5. An increased confidence in bringing the message of the Gospel of Mark to bear upon the modern world (see GCTS mission statement, articles 3 and 6)

Text Books
Required
• NA-27

Recommended
• Lane, William. The Gospel of Mark. NICOT. Eerdmans: Grand Rapids, 1974.
Course Requirements and evaluation

1. Greek competency quiz. This quiz will be given at the beginning of the second class period. A passing grade is required in order to remain in the class (see page 94 of the GCTS catalog).

2. Exegetical paper (50%). This will be a 12-15 page paper (12-point font, 1.5 spacing, including footnotes) treating any passage in Mark 11.1-16.8. It is due on Friday, April 27. For each day late, two points will be deducted from the final grade of the paper. Your chosen passage should be relatively short, preferably about 10-12 verses. Use all the skills you have learned in NT 502 (Interpreting the New Testament) and in subsequent classes: e.g. word studies, discourse analysis, sentence flows, sentence diagrams, synoptic comparison, grammatical and syntactical analysis, form analysis, text criticism, narrative analysis. Make sure to work from the Greek text. Please write your paper in commentary style, working through the passage verse by verse. Make sure that your paper is not choppy and disconnected – I want to see that you have understood the passage as an integrated whole, rather than a sequence of unconnected verses. At the end of your paper, please reflect briefly on how your passage may be appropriately applied to the 21st century. To state the obvious: avoid plagiarism. Any plagiarism will result in a mark of 0 for the paper. I will be looking for the following things in your papers: (1) Competent interaction with secondary sources. Please consult all standard reference tools and cite at least 10 commentaries or journal articles with reference to your passage. (2) Flawless grammar, spelling, punctuation, and attention to scholarly conventions of citation – a full bibliography, and footnotes of all works cited. You may choose whatever style you wish to use for footnotes and bibliography (e.g. Turabian, SBL, Chicago), but be consistent. Papers that are full of errors in this area will be penalized. (3) Arguments. Your passage will raise questions of interpretation. I want to see that you are aware of the various possible interpretations and I want to see you evaluating the available evidence in order to adjudicate between these possibilities. Do not sit on the fence. NB: if the available evidence is not sufficient to take a position, say so, and demonstrate why – that too is an acceptable position. I have weighted the paper heavily in the final grade because this gives you an opportunity to work hard and do well.

3. Final exam (30%). The exam will consist of questions covering matters arising from the required reading, lectures, and class discussion.

4. Exegetical notebook and class participation (20%). In preparation for each class session the passage indicated on the syllabus should be fully translated, with all unfamiliar words parsed. Please keep all your notes and your original translation in an ‘exegetical notebook,’ and give this notebook to me on the last day of class (or the day of the exam, if you wish to keep it to study for the exam). For every day past the due date that the exegetical notebook is not turned in, two points will be deducted from the final grade. I will evaluate your notebook, together with your participation in class, in order to determine this portion of your grade.
5. Reading. Please complete all the required reading and submit a reading report on the last day of class indicating what percentage of the reading you have completed. For every 10% of the reading not done, you will lose 1% from the final grade. In other words, you won’t raise your grade by doing the reading (it is simply expected that you’ll read everything) but you will lower your grade by not doing the reading.

NB: From the seminary catalog: ‘Competence in Greek is required in all aspects of a course for a passing grade.’

Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>74-76</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>91-93</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>71-73</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-90</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-70</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-86</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>64-66</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>81-83</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>61-63</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-80</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>60 and below</td>
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Class Assignment Schedule

The following schedule is not a lecture schedule but rather a schedule of due dates for assignments. It is expected that the passage under ‘text to prepare’ will be translated from Greek with all necessary parsing by the class for which it is assigned and that the secondary reading will also be done by the class for which it is assigned. It is important that these assignments are done on time (I will ask you to indicate in your exegetical notebook and your reading report whether they have been done on time) so that you are working consistently throughout the semester rather than cramming toward the end.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>SESSION</th>
<th>TEXT to PREPARE</th>
<th>READING DUE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed, Feb 1</td>
<td>Class 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, Feb 8</td>
<td>Class 2</td>
<td>Mark 1.1-45</td>
<td>Read Gospel of Mark in English (in Rhoads and Michie); Telford (a) 1-29; France 1-121</td>
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<td>Wed, Feb 15</td>
<td>Class 3</td>
<td>Mark 2.1-3.6</td>
<td>Hengel 1-84; France 121-152</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, Feb 22</td>
<td>NO CLASS – READING WEEK #1</td>
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<td>Wed, Feb 29</td>
<td>Class 4</td>
<td>Mark 3.7 – 4.41</td>
<td>Telford (b) 1-40; France 152-225</td>
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Wed, Mar 7  Class 5  Mark 5.1-43  Read Gospel of Mark in English (2nd time); France 226-240

Wed, Mar 14  Class 6  Mark 6.1-56  France 241-275

Wed, Mar 21  Class 7  Mark 7.1-37  France 275-304

Wed, Mar 28  NO CLASS – READING WEEK #2

Wed, Apr 4  Class 8  Mark 8.1-38  France 305-343

Wed, Apr 11  Class 9  Mark 9.1-50  France 343-385

Wed, Apr 18  Class 10  Mark 10.1-52  Telford (a) 30-241; France 385-425; Read through Mark 11.1-16.8 two times in English

Wed, April 25  Make-up class if necessary

Exegetical notebook due date: April 18 (you can keep it until the day of the exam)

Reading report due date: April 18

Exegetical paper due date: April 27

Final examination: April 30 – May 4, 2012

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