GORDON-CONWELL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
NT 503 The Life of Jesus
Fall 2013. Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:35–11:00 am.
Eckhard J. Schnabel. email: eschnabel@gcts.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION
A study of the 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.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
Students will
- learn to interact with modern interpretations of the person and the teaching of Jesus. MS 2,5
- master the hermeneutical questions regarding the authenticity of the Gospel material. MS 1,2
- investigate major areas of Jesus’ teaching, particularly his proclamation of the Kingdom of God, miracles, parables, and personal transformation. MS 1,2.
- investigate Jesus’ messianic self-consciousness and his convictions concerning his divine mission, as well as titles such as “Son of man”. MS 1,2.
- understand the significance of Jesus’ passion, death, and resurrection. MS 1,2,6.
- understand the portraits of Jesus’ life, teaching, and significance provided by the four Gospels. MS 1,2,6.
- deepen their awareness of the significance of Jesus’ life and teaching both for the church today and for our personal life. MS 4,5,6.

TEXTS
A standard translation of the Bible, such as NRSV, NASB, NIV, TNIV


SUGGESTED READING
Bock, Darrel L. *Jesus According to Scripture: Restoring the Portrait from the Gospels*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002
Strauss, Mark *Four Portraits, One Jesus: An Introduction to Jesus and the Gospels*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007

**Requirements**

1. Students are expected to read Allison for a contemporary sympathetic critical discussion, and Keener for a synthetic evangelical analysis. For due dates see the Course Calendar.

2. Submit two Book Reviews on Allison (3,000 words) and on Keener (3,000 words). Summarize the basic thesis of the book, then present your evaluation. For due date see the Course Calendar.

3. Write a main research paper (6,000 words) on one of the following texts. For due date see the Course Calendar.

Matt 5:3-12 (The beatitudes)
Matt 5:17-20 (The law and the prophets)
Matt 6:5-15 (Prayer)
Matt 13:24-30, 36-43 (The parable of wheat and tares)
Matt 10:5-6 (Jews and non-Jews)
Matt 18:1-5 (On greatness)
Matt 18:23-35 (Parable of the unforgiving servant)
Mark 1:16-20 (The calling of the disciples)
Mark 2:1-12 (The healing of the paralytic)
Mark 3:13-19 (The choosing of the Twelve)
Mark 9:14-29 (Faith)
Mark 10:45 (The ransom saying)
Luke 9:57-62 (Entrance requirements)
Luke 10:25-37 (The good Samaritan)
Luke 12:10 (Sin against the Holy Spirit)
Luke 14:25-33 (Conditions of discipleship)
Luke 16:19-31 (The parable of the rich man and Lazarus)
Luke 17:20-21 (Presence of the Kingdom of God)
Luke 18:9-14 (The Pharisee and the tax collector)
John 7:37-39 (Living water and the Holy Spirit)
John 8:12 (Light of the world)
John 8:39-59 (Jesus and Abraham)
John 10:11 (Jesus the good shepherd)
John 13:1-20 (Jesus washes the disciples’ feet)
John 19:30 (*tetelestai*)

NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY: GENERAL TEXTS


THE HISTORICAL JESUS

Bock, Darrell L. *Jesus According to Scripture: Restoring the Portrait from the Gospels*. Grand Rapids: Baker 2002
Casey, Maurice, *Jesus of Nazareth: An Independent Historian’s Account of his Life and Teaching*. London: T&T Clark, 2010
Labahn, Michael and A. Schmidt, eds. *Jesus, Mark and Q*. JSNTSup 214. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic, 2001
Ridderbos, Herman N. *The Coming of the Kingdom*. Nutley: Presbyterian & Reformed, 1976
Sanders, E. P. *The Historical Figure of Jesus*. London: Allen Lane/Penguin Press, 1993
Strauss, Mark *Four Portraits, One Jesus: An Introduction to Jesus and the Gospels*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007
Wright, N. T. *Jesus and the Victory of God*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1996

**PARABLES**
Kissinger, W. S. *The Parables of Jesus: A History of Interpretation and Bibliography*. Metuchen: Scarecrow, 1979

**MIRACLES**
Twelftree, Graham H. *Jesus the Miracle Worker: A Historical & Theological Study*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1999
Galilee


Levine, Lee I., ed. The Galilee in Late Antiquity. New York: Jewish Theological Seminary of America, 1992


Encyclopedias and Bible Dictionaries


Atlases


COMMENATIRES

Carson, Don A. Matthew. EBC. 1984
France, R.T. Matthew. NICNT. 2007
Gundry, Robert H. Matthew. Eerdmans. 1982
Hagner, Donald A. Matthew. WBC. 1993/1995
Keener, Craig S. Matthew. Eerdmans. 1999
Nolland, John. Matthew. NIGTC. 2005
Osborne, Grant R. Matthew. ZECNT. 2010
Talbert, Charles H. Matthew. Paideia. 2010
Turner, David L. Matthew. BECNT. 2008

Boring, M. Eugene. Mark. NTL. 2006
Chilton, Bruce, Darrell Bock, and Daniel M. Gurtner, Mark. NTGJC. 2010
Evans, Craig A. Mark 8:27-16:20. WBC. 2001
Guelich, Robert A. Mark 1:1-8:27. WBC. 1989
Gundry, Robert H. Mark. Eerdmans. 1993
Lane, William L. The Gospel of Mark. NICNT. 1974


Beasley-Murray, George R. John. WBC. 1987
Köstenberger, Andreas. John. BECNT. 2004
Morris, Leon. John. NICNT. 1971

AB Anchor Bible
BECNT Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament
EBC Expositor’s Bible Commentary
ECC Eerdmans Critical Commentary
ICC International Critical Commentary
NICNT New International Commentary on the New Testament
NIGTC New International Greek Testament Commentary
NTGJC The New Testament Gospels in their Judaic Contexts
WBC Word Biblical Commentary
ZECNT Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament
COURSE CALENDAR

Sep 10 Introduction to the course. Methodological issues
    Historical foundations: Political and social history of Judea

12 Introduction to the Synoptic Gospels
    Read Keener 1-70

17 Questions of historicity and authenticity
    Read Allison 1-30; Keener 71-161

19 Jesus’ ministry: Characteristic forms and actions. Parables
    Read Keener 1-161, 186-195

24 Jesus and John the Baptist: Messianic expectations
    Read Keener 165-177

26 Jesus’ mission: The messianic dawn of God’s rule
    Read Keener 163-85, 196-202

Oct 1 The Jewishness of Jesus: Faith in Yahweh and obedience to Torah
    Read Allison 31-220

3 Provocation I: Jesus’ attitude concerning the Templ
    Provocation II: Jesus and sinners

8 Provocation III: Jesus’ attitude concerning the interpretation of Torah
    Provocation IV: Jesus’ sense of mission
    Read Keener 223-37

10 Kingdom of God I: The visible arrival of God’s rule: The miracles
    Kingdom of God II: The victorious authority of God’s rule: The exorcisms
    Read Keener 238-55

15 Reading Week

17 Reading Week

22 Kingdom of God III: The effective reality of God’s rule: Faith and forgiveness
    Due: Research paper

24 The messianic Son of Man I: Expectations
    The messianic Son of Man II: Jesus and God
    Read Keener 256-82

29 The messianic Son of Man III: Jesus and Israel
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Read Material</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov 5</td>
<td>The messianic community I: Summons to discipleship</td>
<td>Read Allison 304-86; Keener 202-222</td>
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<td>Nov 7</td>
<td>The death of the Son of Man: Predications &amp; explanations</td>
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<td>Nov 12</td>
<td>Reading Week</td>
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<td>Nov 14</td>
<td>Reading Week</td>
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<td>Nov 19</td>
<td>Final acts in the drama I: The action in the Temple</td>
<td>Read Keener 283-302</td>
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<td>Nov 22</td>
<td>Jesus’ statement about the future (eschatology)</td>
<td>Read Keener 361-71</td>
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<td>Nov 26</td>
<td>Final acts in the drama III: Jesus trial and crucifixion</td>
<td>Read Allison 387-434; Keener 303-29, 375-78</td>
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<td>Dec 3</td>
<td>The resurrection of Jesus: salvation and glorification</td>
<td>Read Keener 330-48, 379-88</td>
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<td>Dec 5</td>
<td>Jesus’ missionary commission</td>
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<td>Dec 10</td>
<td>Matthew, Mark, and Luke on Jesus</td>
<td><em>Due: Review of Allison, Review of Keener</em></td>
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<td>Dec 12</td>
<td>John on Jesus</td>
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