2014

265-91 Gospel of Mark

John Bruggeman
john@huc.edu

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THEO 265    Gospel of Mark    Summer 2014, 6:15pm – 9:30pm
Instructor:  John Bruggeman    John@huc.edu    (Cell/Work 227-7306 / 487-3269)

Course Description: Analysis of the Gospel of Mark in light of its historical, literary, and theological context.

What we will cover: We will review the Gospel of Mark in an academic manner, examining how the text compares with the other canonical Gospels, how scholars interpret the text using form and text criticism and how we can understand a document that was written in the 1st century of the Common Era (CE).

Texts:

Grading: 93 - 100 = A; 83 - 92 = B; 70 - 72 = C; 60 - 67 = D; Below 60 = F;

Class participation and attendance = 20%
Writing assignments = 20%
Reading Quizzes = 20%
Final Exam & Class Project / Paper = 40%

Course Policies: Late Work/Absence/Make Up - Always inform the Instructor in advance of any absence. More than one missed class for any reason will lower the final grade one full letter grade. Extra credit can be arranged by contacting me in class or via email or phone. Writing assignments will most often be five pages in length. If there are more than 10 errors (typos, spelling errors, or grammar errors) half a letter grade will be deducted from the score.

Course schedule:
Class 1    5/20/14
What are Gospels? How should we read the Gospel? What tools do we have at our disposal as we read the Gospels? What is Form and Text criticism? How can we apply these tools to our study of Mark? What is Christology? What is Mark’s Christology? How can we find out what it is? This first class will be a guide on how to read the Gospels.

What does the Gospel of Mark say?
Class 2    5/22/14
Assignment: The Complete Gospels, Read the Gospel of Mark in one sitting
What does Gospel mean? Who is Mark? What is the Horizon of the Text and the Horizon of the Reader / Interpreter? What do we know about life in 1st century Jerusalem / Galilee / Judean area? What do we know about Jews and Romans at that time?

What does the Gospels of Matthew say?
Class 3    5/27/14    Quiz # 1
Assignment: The Complete Gospels, Read the Gospel of Matthew in one sitting
How does Mark compare to Matthew? What is the two source hypothesis and how does Matthew and Like use of Mark? What is the unique Matthew material? Who are the target audiences for Matthew? What or who does Matthew focus on compared to Mark? Who is Matthew’s target audience? What is Matthew’s motivation for his Gospel? Writing topic: Write about your birth and your early childhood. Who was important and what was important.

What does the Gospel of Luke say?
Class 4    5/29/14    Quiz # 2
Assignment: The Complete Gospels, Read the Gospel of Luke Chapter in one sitting
What does the Gospel of John say?

Class 5 6/3/134 Quiz # 3
Assignment: The Complete Gospels, Read the Gospel of John in one sitting
How does Mark compare to John? Does Mark compare at all with John? What do we know about the Gospel according to John? Who is the target audience for John? What does John focus on compared to Mark? What is John’s motivation?
Writing topic: Write about your teen years and early twenties (if you are over 25). Who was important and what was important to you as you grew older?

Class 6 6/5/14 Quiz # 4
Assignment: Online Class - Form, Text criticism, and Christology
Compare and contract Miracle stores, Wisdom sayings, Pronouncement stories in Mark’s Gospel. What is the structure of the Gospel of Mark? What is Form and Text criticism? How can we apply these tools to our study of Mark? What is Christology? What is Mark’s Christology?

What does the Gospel of Thomas say?

Class 7 6/10/14 Quiz # 5
Assignment: The Complete Gospels, Read the whole Gospel of Thomas
Where is the passion and virginal birth in the Gospel of Thomas? Is Thomas a real Gospel? How does Thomas compare to Mark? Do they share common material? What is Thomas’ motivation? What does Thomas focus on compared to Mark?

Class 8 6/12/14
Assignment: Reading the Gospels, Pages 1 - 66
Modern Catholic Bible studies and the Historical Critical method. The Historical background of first century Palestine and the historical Jesus. What were the influences on Judaism in the 1st century? The social system and the theological developments within Judaism. The quest for the historical Jesus - what can we know?

Class 9 6/17/14 Quiz # 6
Assignment: Reading the Gospels, Chapter 3, pages 66 - 86
The Gospel Tradition in Broad terms, New Testament Christology, titles, roles, patterns. The Synoptic tradition, why do the Gospels look so similar?

Class 10 6/19/14 Quiz # 7
Assignment: Reading the Gospels, Chapter 4, pages 88 - 114
Mark’s historical and theological background. Mark’s account of the Gospel.
Writing topic: What would you include in your own Gospel? What sayings of Jesus, miracle stories, and passion would you include?

Class 11 6/24/14
Compare and contrast Miracle stores, Wisdom sayings, Pronouncement stories in Mark’s Gospel. What is the structure of the Gospel of Mark? Miracles and pronouncement stories in Mark, Jesus arrives in Jerusalem. Mark’s apocalypse, is it like Revelations or a reaction to the destruction of the Temple? How can we understand the destruction of the Temple in chapter 13? We will also review material for the final exam.

Class 12 6/26/14
Your Gospel and Final Exam