

## **The Gospel According to Matthew (NT 4305/6305)**

### Aims of the Course

1. Students will acquire mastery and appreciation of the content of the Gospel according to Matthew in the context of the faith, life, and mission of the ancient Christian church.
2. Students will increase their understanding of helpful methods of literary, historical, and theological exegesis of Scripture in application to Matthew.
3. Students will explore the application of the central emphases of Matthew and its individual stories to concerns in the life of the contemporary church, with particular attention to possibilities for preaching the Gospels.

### Required Texts

1. Craig Keener, *Matthew* (IVP New Testament Commentary Series; InterVarsity)
2. Kurt Aland, ed., *Synopsis of the Four Gospels* or *Synopsis Quattuor Evangeliorum* (United Bible Societies)
3. A recent translation of the Bible (e.g., RSV, NRSV, NASB, ESV, CSB, NIV, NJB, REB). Two excellent tools for study are the Harper Collins Study Bible and the NIV Study Bible, which give the reader quick access to current academic (i.e., mainline Protestant) and evangelical Protestant lines of interpretation, respectively.
4. Strongly recommended: the Nestle-Aland *Novum Testamentum Graece* (28<sup>th</sup> ed.), for consultation of both the Greek text of the Gospel and the full marginal references to parallel passages. An edition of the Nestle-Aland 27<sup>th</sup> edition bound with the Revised Standard Version is available through the American Bible Society; for more information, see Ms. Beyer in the AGST bookstore.

### Course Requirements

1. Prompt attendance at all scheduled meetings of the class, completion of the assigned reading (including the primary reading in Matthew, consideration of the appropriate pericopes in Aland's *Synopsis*, and reading of the relevant section in Keener's *Matthew*), and informed participation in class discussion. The student should note that the reading assignment includes consultation of the Scripture references in the secondary discussion. [10% of final grade for graduate students; 15% for undergraduate students]
2. Each week, *no later than the midnight preceding each class meeting*, each student will email to the instructor ([peterson@austingrad.edu](mailto:peterson@austingrad.edu)) at least *one (1) question or observation arising from the primary reading* (either in Matthew or the *Synopsis*) and at least *one (1) quotation from the secondary reading assignment in Keener*, concerning a *point significant for the interpretation of the week's primary reading assignment in Matthew*. The student may also include comments or questions raised by the week's preparation. [15% of final grade for graduate students, 20% for undergraduate students]
3. Semester writing assignments:
  - a. *All students* will complete a critical review of a book (or a series of articles by a single author) in Matthaean studies, chosen in consultation with the instructor, approximately six (6) pages in length, due on Wednesday, November 14. [20% of final grade for graduate students; 30% for undergraduate students]
  - b. *Graduate students enrolled for exegetically intensive credit* must complete an exegetical paper, eight (8) to ten (10) pages in length, treating a passage selected from Matthew in consultation with the

instructor, who can also supply an outline guide to the writing of an exegesis paper. An essential introduction to the sort of reading required for exegesis is Mortimer Adler and Charles Van Doren, *How to Read a Book*; a good discussion of exegetical method is found in Michael Gorman, *Elements of Biblical Exegesis*; and works that will aid in the preparation of an exegesis are thoroughly discussed in Frederick W. Danker, *Multipurpose Tools for Bible Study*. A draft of the paper is due the week before Thanksgiving (i.e., by Monday, November 26), and the final paper is due during the week of final examinations (by Thursday, December 12). Late papers will not be accepted without prior consultation with the instructor. The student is encouraged to base the paper on a passage for which (s)he serves the class as discussion leader in assignment 2. A late paper will not be accepted without prior consultation with the instructor. Grading of the exegesis paper will be according to the “Exegesis Rubric” available in the “Faculty Resources” section of the AGST web site. *Graduate students enrolled for elective credit* may complete the exegetical paper *or* a paper pursuing a topic in the study of Matthew, defined in consultation with the instructor. [35% of final grade]

- c. *Undergraduate students* will complete a paper of approximately six (6) pages, either (1) treating a brief passage exegetically or (2) pursuing a topic in the study of Matthew, in either case defining the topic in consultation with the instructor. [35% of final grade]

4. *Students enrolled for graduate credit* will prepare an expository sermon series on Matthew, including (1) an *outline* of a ten-week sermon series, indicating for each sermon the *passage* on which it will be based and a *theme statement* (on the model of Fred B. Craddock, *Preaching*, esp. pp. 155–57; see also Gordon D. Fee, *New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors*, esp. pp. 145–164) and (2) manuscripts of **three** of the sermons developing the focus and function proposed on the series outline and including footnotes indicating the resources the student has consulted in the preparation of each sermon. Each graduate student should plan to preach one of these sermons to the class during the last class meeting on Monday, December 3. The series outline and three sermon manuscripts are due in my Inbox ([peterson@augustin.edu](mailto:peter@peterson@augustin.edu)) during the last week of class (i.e., by Friday, December 7). Late work will not be accepted without prior consultation with the instructor. Grading of the individual sermons will be according to the “Message Rubric” available in the “Faculty Resources” section of the AGST web site. [20% of final grade for graduate students]

## SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND CLASS DISCUSSIONS

Monday, August 27

The Study of Matthew's Gospel; Keener, pp. 17–50

Monday, September 3: Labor Day; NO CLASS MEETING

Monday, September 10

Matthew, chaps. 1–3; Keener, ad loc.

Monday, September 17

Matthew, chap. 4–7; Keener, ad loc.

Monday, September 24

Matthew, chaps. 8–10; Keener, ad loc.

Monday, October 1

Matthew, chaps. 11–13; Keener, ad loc.

Monday, October 8

NO CLASS MEETING; all students encouraged to attend the AGST/First Things Lecture: Ephraim Radner, “Ecumenism in a Post-Christian Society,” University Avenue Church of Christ, 1903 University Avenue, 7 PM

Monday, October 15

Matthew, chaps. 14–16; Keener, ad loc.

Monday, October 22

Matthew, chaps. 17–20; Keener, ad loc.

Monday, October 29

Matthew, chaps. 21–23; Keener, ad loc.

Monday, November 5

Matthew, chaps. 24–25; Keener, ad loc.

Monday, November 12

Matthew, chap. 26–27; Keener, ad loc.

Monday, November 19: NO CLASS MEETING; CRITICAL BOOK REVIEW DUE — ALL STUDENTS

Monday, November 26

Matthew, chap. 28; Keener, ad loc.

Monday, December 3

Graduate Student Sermons on Matthew

Friday, December 7

SERMON SERIES OUTLINE AND 3 SERMON MANUSCRIPTS DUE — GRADUATE STUDENTS

Thursday, December 13

SEMESTER PAPER DUE — ALL STUDENTS