

**Jesus and the Gospels**  
(NT 3320) Mondays 7–9:40 PM

Aims of the Course

1. Students will increase their mastery of the content, literary structure, and primary concerns of the New Testament Gospels and of Jesus' life, ministry, teachings, death, and resurrection as presented therein.
2. Students will gain in their appreciation of the Gospels and other ancient writings (especially the Pauline letters) as historical evidence for Jesus' life and teachings.
3. Students will identify the central theological convictions expressed in the Gospels and explore their continuing importance for Christian faith and discipleship.

Required Texts

1. A recent translation of the Bible (e.g., RSV, NASB, NRSV, ESV, NIV, NJB, REB). Two excellent tools for study are the *HarperCollins Study Bible* and the *NIV Study Bible*, which afford the reader quick access to representative mainline Protestant (or "academic" and evangelical lines of interpretation, respectively).
2. Mark Allan Powell, *Fortress Introduction to the Gospels* (Fortress).
3. Richard Bauckham, *Jesus: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford).
4. Michael McClymond, *Familiar Stranger: An Introduction to Jesus of Nazareth* (Eerdmans)

Course Requirements

1. Prompt attendance and participation in class discussion informed by the assigned reading. [10% of course grade]
2. Completion of periodic objective quizzes, principally over the reading, to be taken via the Canvas LMS by 11:59 PM the Sunday before class, beginning the week of Sept. 7. One (1) quiz may be skipped in the course of the semester without penalty. [35% of course grade]
3. Coloring three (3) pericopes (parallel passages arranged in columns) of Kurt Aland's *Synopsis of the Four Gospels* (out of several which will be distributed) according to Mark Goodacre's coloring scheme, which we will discuss early in the course. This assignment will require the use of red, yellow, and blue colored pencils. [20% of course grade]
4. A critical review of Michael McClymond's book, *Familiar Stranger: An Introduction to Jesus of Nazareth*. The review should evaluate McClymond's argument in light of everything you learn about Jesus and the Gospels in the course of the semester. To receive full credit, it must include at least three (3) citations of other works assigned for the class and employ a substantive point from them in the evaluation of one of McClymond's principal theses. The general sort of reading appropriate to a critical review is fully discussed in Mortimer Adler and Charles Van Doren, *How to Read a Book*. Michael Gorman's *Elements of Biblical Exegesis* is a useful guide to interpreting biblical literature specifically. Helpful models for the assignment can be found by consulting the reviews and review essays appearing in the *Journal of Theological Studies*, *Touchstone*, *Pro Ecclesia*, *Interpretation*, *First Things*, and other specialized journals available in the David Worley Library. The review is due in my email inbox by 11:59 PM on Friday, Dec. 11. [35% of course grade]

### Schedule of Readings in Assigned Texts and Discussions

(additional required and recommended readings will be supplied via Canvas in course)

- Aug. 24      *Introduction*  
Powell, “Introduction” and “Appendix”; Bauckham, chap. 1; McClymond, 1–25
- Aug. 31      *The Early Church’s Memory of Jesus and the Composition of the Gospels*  
Luke 1:1–4; Powell, chap. 1; Bauckham, chap. 2; McClymond, 26–43  
[Sept. 2: Labor Day: NO CLASS MEETING]
- Sept. 7      *The Historical Setting of Jesus’ Ministry*: Bauckham, chap. 3; McClymond, 44–61
- Sept. 14      *The Gospel according to Mark (1): Jesus the Exorcising, Healing, and Teaching Son of God*  
Mark, chaps. 1–9; Powell, chap. 2; McClymond, 62–92
- Sept. 21      *The Gospel according to Mark (2): Jesus the Suffering and Rising Son of God*  
Mark, chaps. 9–16
- Sept. 28      *The Gospel according to Matthew (1): Jesus the Messiah of Israel and Ruler of the Nations*  
Matthew, chaps. 1–14; Powell, chap. 3; McClymond, 93–108
- Oct. 5      *The Gospel according to Matthew (2): Jesus the Messiah of Israel and Ruler of the Nations*  
Matthew, chaps. 15–28
- Oct. 12      *The Gospel according to Luke (1): Jesus the Rejected Prophet-Messiah*  
Luke, chaps. 1–Powell, chap. 4; McClymond, 109–119
- Oct. 19      *The Gospel according to Luke (2): Jesus the Rejected Prophet-Messiah*: Luke, chaps. 13–24
- Oct. 26      *The Gospel according to John (1): The Incarnate Word/Son of God Who Came from Heaven*  
John, chaps. 1–12; Powell, chap. 5; McClymond, 120–128
- Nov. 2      *The Gospel according to John (2): The Suffering Lamb/Son of God Who Returned to Heaven*  
John chaps. 13–21
- Nov. 9      Jesus’ Death and Resurrection: Bauckham, chap. 7; McClymond, 129–132
- Nov. 16      Jesus and the Historians: Who Was Jesus?: Bauckham, chap. 6; McClymond,  
133–152  
[Nov. 23      NO CLASS MEETING]
- Nov. 30      Jesus and the Faith of the Church: Who Is Jesus?: Bauckham, chap. 8
- Dec. 11      Critical Review of McClymond Due at 11:59 PM