



# Interpreting New Testament I: THE GOSPELS

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**BL 202 Y: 2 credit hours**  
**Western Seminary – Sacramento**

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Class meets on Wednesdays 9/8, 9/15, 9/22, 9/29, 10/6, and 10/13, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

**\*\*\* Class meets in-person at Bridgeway Christian Church \*\*\***

8150 Industrial Ave, Bldg. A  
Roseville, CA 95678

Pre-recorded video lectures will be made available. Our class time will be devoted to discussing the material and its implications for life and ministry today.



## COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course you will examine the OT background to the NT, become familiar with the historical, social and cultural environment of the Gospels, study the teaching of Jesus and his particular self-understanding, and become familiar with each of the four Gospels.

**Recommended pre- or co-requisite:** *How to Read the Bible.*

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course each student should be able to:

- 1) Discuss the basic background, theological contributions and relevance of the books studied.
- 2) Identify and explain key canonical themes including Son of Man, Kingdom of God, Discipleship, the law and its purpose as well as God's redemptive design.
- 3) Explain the basic message of the books studied and how they advance the great story of the Bible.
- 4) Understand and apply the basic methods of Biblical study and be able to interpret and apply the Scriptures.

**GOSPEL-CENTERED TRANSFORMATION HAPPENING HERE**

## TEXTBOOKS

Carson, D. A., and Douglas J. Moo. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005. ISBN-13: 978-0310238591. \$28.99 on Amazon.

As to a Study Bible, the *ESV Study Bible* is an excellent choice and the preferred selection at Western Seminary. The *NIV Study Bible* is also a solid option.

Martin, Ralph P., and Peter H. Davids (Eds.). *Dictionary of the Later New Testament and Its Developments*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 1997. ISBN-13: 978-0830817795. \$42.49 on Amazon. This book is both excellent and useful. Its purchase is a wise investment.

A copy of the required text(s) are available for on-campus use only in the library. Whenever possible, Western Seminary purchases a copy of the required texts in the form of e-book, which students can access through the [Library Website](#). For any questions concerning texts and/or library services, please refer to the [Help Site](#) and feel free to reach out to the [librarians](#) via email at [library@westernseminary.edu](mailto:library@westernseminary.edu).

## ONLINE CLASSROOM

This class has an online classroom. You may also be asked to use the learning center to download handouts or view videos.

To access the site, go to <https://www.westernseminary.edu/classrooms/>. Click on 'login' (on the right above the calendar), use your student number for your username, and the password you received from the school. For a replacement password, click on 'forgot your password' and follow the directions. If this does not work, please contact [support@westernseminary.edu](mailto:support@westernseminary.edu). The online classroom will go live no later than the first Monday of the semester.

### **Attention Auditors!**

What follows are the assignments for the graduate students. You are free to do them and submit, but there is no guarantee the prof will read them (he usually does, though).

We want you to learn and enjoy this class, but please understand **portions of the lectures may assume knowledge that you are not yet familiar. Remember that this is a graduate-level course & you aren't expected to know everything!**

Questions posed that may be basic to a seminarian are discouraged during the class session, but you are encouraged to ask students or the professor such questions during breaks. If your participation is a bit more than desired by the professor or graduate students, you may be asked to "*curb your enthusiasm.*" Please know that we value your contribution and look forward to seeing how God shapes us all—seminarian or not—during the class.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

### 1. Informal papers

You will write a total of seven informal (no citations necessary) papers of two pages (double-spaced). The topics are: #1 background to the Gospels, #2 the baptism and temptation, #3 Jesus and Kingdom of God, #4 Jesus and Son of Man, #4 Discipleship as Jesus understood it, #5 Jesus and ethics/moral reasoning, #6 the parables, #7 the miracles of Jesus. Each of these is worth 100 points.

More information will be provided in class.

### 2. Term paper

You will write formal paper (8-10 pages, double spaced) on a topic relevant to the Jesus and the Gospels. You must secure the approval of the professor for the topic in question.

### 3. Final Course Evaluation (15 min.)

Before the end of the last Friday of the semester (December 10, 2021), you will receive an email with a link to the final course evaluation. By federal law, we now need to ensure that students participate in classes for the full length of the class. Failure to complete the final course evaluation on time will result in a grade penalty and may impact your financial aid eligibility.

## GRADING

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-
100-95%	94-90%	89-87%	86-83%	82-80%	79-77%	76-73%	72-70%	69-67%	66-63%	62-60%

Required Assignments	Points	Estimated Time to Complete
Online Confirmation	1	0.25 hours
Informal Papers (7 x 100 pts.)	700	25 hours
Reading	98	19 hours
Term Paper	200	15.5 hours
Course Evaluation	1	0.25 hours
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>60 hours</b>

## CLASS/ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Dates	Topic	Assignments Due
9/8 Class #1	Introduction Historical/Cultural Background	<b>Due by 9/10: Online Confirmation</b>
9/15 Class #2	Theological Background Why Four?	
9/22 Class #3	Synoptics	
9/29 Class #4	John	
10/6 Class #5	Gospels as Stories	<b>Informal Paper #1 – Due 10/8</b>
10/13 Class #6	Relationship between Theology and History	<b>Informal Paper #2 – Due 10/15</b>
	<i>All topics subject to change depending on how the class discussion evolves.</i>	<b>Informal Paper #3 – Due 10/22</b> <b>Informal Paper #4 – Due 10/29</b> <b>Informal Paper #5 – Due 11/5</b> <b>Informal Paper #6 – Due 11/12</b> <b>Informal Paper #7 – Due 11/19</b>  <b>Due by 12/10:</b> <b>Term Paper</b> <b>Final Course Evaluation</b>

***Remainder of the syllabus, including Course Policies, can be found online at:***

[www.westernseminary.edu/syllabi](http://www.westernseminary.edu/syllabi)



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