

# Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

## Course Profile - Spring Term 2009

### B-331 JESUS AND THE GOSPELS

Bible-331

Professor Barbara Rossing, [brassing@lstc.edu](mailto:brassing@lstc.edu)

#### Course Goals:

- 1) To identify the distinctive literary and theological themes of each of the four canonical gospels; to enter into each author's story of Jesus;
- 2) To strengthen skills in reading Greek and using exegetical tools (Concordance, Synopsis) for study of the gospels; valuable also for those who know no Greek!
- 3) To become conversant in key historical questions related to the gospels, including first-century life in Palestine; the quest for the historical Jesus; canon formation;
- 4) To relate the gospels to contemporary preaching, theology, ministry, life and debates within the church.

This course also contributes to LSTC's overall curricular goals in biblical studies, to "prepare leaders who are knowledgeable interpreters of the Scriptures and the ecumenical traditions of the church." Upon completion of courses in Bible LSTC M. Div. graduates are expected to "demonstrate an understanding of the Bible that is thorough and comprehensive. They:

- employ a variety of hermeneutical methods;
- understand Lutheran interpretations in the context of Christian tradition;
- interpret the Bible responsibly for a variety of local contexts;
- demonstrate experience, skill, and confidence in biblical content and exegesis;
- articulate their understanding of the Bible;
- relate the Bible to Christian faith, proclamation and witness."

#### Requirements and Criteria for Grade:

- (1) Class attendance (you may miss or come late/leave early only once; more absences trigger mandatory pass/fail grade), thoughtful participation in discussion, based on readings.
- (2) Careful preparation of assigned readings; advance completion of **daily assignments such as canon paper, worksheets, word studies, and short reflections (10% of grade)**.
- (3) For students who read Greek: Translation group on assigned passages (including some word study and text criticism) except week when paper is due; counts in grade (5%).
- (4) Other students: are required to learn the Greek alphabet and use a Greek-English concordance for word studies.
- (5) **One exegesis paper** 5-7 pages, single spaced, on a choice of assigned texts from Mark or Luke, due Oct 28 (45 % of grade):
- (6) **Final Exam Dec 2 (in class, 40% of grade)**
- (7) Recommended (optional): Participation in noon pericope study.

#### Required Bibliography:

Harper Collins Study Bible or another annotated NRSV English Bible

Synopsis of the Gospels (students may choose Greek/English, Greek only, or English)  
David Rhoads and Joanna Dewey, Mark as Story (Fortress; revised ed.)  
Richard Horsley Jesus and Empire (Fortress, 1997)  
Harry Gamble, The New Testament Canon (Fortress, 1985; out of print; reprint by Wipf and Stock)  
Mark Powell, Fortress Introduction to the Gospels  
Cynthia Kittredge, Conversations With Scripture: The Gospel of John (Morehouse)  
Concordance (recommended: Kohlenberger Greek-English Concordance to the New Testament or a good English analytical concordance that permits you to use Greek)  
For M.Div: Greek New Testament or Greek-English New Testament (Nestle Aland side by side)

**Optional Books:**

an anthology of apocryphal gospels (such as The Complete Gospels; Robert Miller, ed.)  
Bruce Metzger, Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament;  
Zerwick and Grosvenor, Grammatical Analysis of the Greek New Testament  
Daniel Patte, ed., Global Bible Commentary (Abingdon Press, 2004)—collection of articles  
David Dungan, Constantine's Bible (Fortress)  
Lexicon: recommend Bauer Danker Arndt Gingrich (University of Chicago)  
Sharon Ringe, ed., Women's Bible Commentary  
Interlinear Greek-English New Testament  
selected commentaries on each gospel (to start building your library for preaching)